

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 9-2006

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, June 28, 2006, commencing at 9:10 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Martin, Collins Co-Chairs; Bentley, Burroughs, Casselman, Harry, Heit, Hildreth, Leavens, Saracino, Zimmerman and Regional Chair Partington.

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health and Commissioner Public Health; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Ricci, Acting Legislative Assistant.

Others: Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director Financial Management & Planning; Mr. Murphy, Manager of Policy and Development; Ms. Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing; Mr. Bernard, Manager, Court Services; Ms. Speranzini, Manager, Organizational Development; Ms. Elliott, Director Organizational Development & Compensation Services.

Presenters: Dr. John Yardley, Ph.D., Director, Workplace Health Research Laboratory, Brock University

Regrets: Councillors Angelone, Mastroianni.

PRESENTATION

168. 2005 Quality of Work Life Report Summary
HR 19-2006

Mr. Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources introduced Dr. John Yardley, Ph.D., Director, Workplace Health Research Laboratory, Brock University to Committee members.

Mr. Nicol advised that the QWL survey was conducted across the Corporation in October, 2005 and represents a reflection of all important non-financial / human capital indicators which are as important as financial indicators in considering the health and performance of an organization.

Dr. John Yardley presented members with the Regional Municipality of Niagara (RMON) 2005 Employee Survey Results. Dr. Yardley stated that the basic premise of the presentation was that you can not just look at the financial side of the business, H.R. management and healthy workplace business practices are a key to becoming an employer of choice.

Highlights of the presentation were, in part, as follows:

- The New Competitive Reality
- Most Organizations are Very Poor at Managing Talent
- What Employees Look for (EVP)
- Quality of Work Life (AWL) Survey Areas
- Scale Rating System
- Benchmark Comparisons
- Respondent Profile
- Graph of Averages
- Importance Gap Graph
- Benchmarking: EFS Database Average
- Benchmarking: Sector Database Average
- RMON survey result comparisons:2002-2005
- RMON 'training' represents a municipal sector best practice

Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That Report HR 19-2006, June 28, 2006, respecting the 2005 Quality of Work Life Report Summary, be received for information; and

That a copy of Dr. Yardley's presentation entitled, "Regional Municipality of Niagara 2005 Employee Survey Results" be attached with Report HR 19-2006 and

That staff ensure arrangements are made to have Dr. Yardley make this presentation to Council at a mutually decided upon date.

Carried.

OPERATIONS (STATUS REPORTS)

167. Capital Budget Allocation for Capital Project ZGG0603
Direct Debit for Seniors Accommodation Charges
CSD 80-2006

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CSD 80-2006, June 28, 2006, respecting Capital Budget Allocation for Capital Project ZGG0603 Direct Debit for Seniors Accommodation Charges, be received; and

That the Capital budget allocation of \$43,120 gross and net from the approved 2006 Capital Budget be approved and initiated for project ZGG0603 Direct Debit for Seniors Accommodation Charges with financing from the General Capital Reserve (0035-0960); and

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate bylaw(s) are prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

168. Shortage of Judicial Resources and Impact on
2006-2007 POA Court Schedule
CSD 81-2006

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 81, 2006, June 28, 2006, respecting Shortage of Judicial Resources and Impact on 2006-2007 POA Court Schedule, be received; and

That this report be circulated to all area municipal councils for their information.

Carried.

169. 2006 Ontario Tobacco Strategy Budget
CSD 85-2006/ PHD 53-2006

Co-Chair Martin advised Committee members as to the motion that was passed at the Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting held Tuesday, June 27, 2006.

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Report PHD 53-2006/ CSD 85-2006, June 28, 2006, respecting the 2006 Ontario Tobacco Strategy Budget, be referred back to staff; and

That staff allocate the \$161,495 Region share of tobacco enforcement program budget as deemed appropriate.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PHD 53-2006 (CSD 85-2006) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

170. The Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program -
Wave: 1 Housing Delivery Plan
CSD 88-2006/ COM 41-2006/ DPD 67-2006

Ms. Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing presented Committee members with a brief overview with respect to this report.

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report CSD 88-2006/DPD 67-2006/COM 41-2006, June 28, 2006, respect the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program – Wave: 1, Housing Delivery Plan, be received;

That the Housing Delivery Plan (attached as Appendix “A” to the Report) for the delivery of 170 Rent Supplement/ Housing Allowance units; 110 Rental and Supportive Housing units; and, 121 Homeownership units in the Niagara region under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program be approved; and

That the approved Housing Delivery Plan be forwarded to Regional Council and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) for approval.

Carried.

(Please note that Report CSD 88-2006 (DPD 67-2006/COM 41-2006) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

171. 2007 Capital Budget Guidelines and Timetable
CSD 89-2006

Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Saracino

That Report CSD 89-2006, June 28, 2006, respecting the 2007 Capital Budget Guidelines and Timetable, be received; and

That the attached timetable for completing the 2007 Capital Budget estimates be approved; and

That all Departments, Boards and Agencies funded by the Region be instructed to prepare 2007 Capital Budget estimates in accordance with the attached guidelines; and

That the 2007 Capital Budget estimates be submitted for consideration to Committee of the Whole in accordance with the attached Capital Budget Timetable.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

172. Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That CSC 47-2006, June 6, 2006 respecting Model Resolution in Support of Ontario's Position On Federal-Provincial Fiscal Imbalance be received for information; and

That the Region of Niagara supports the Government of Ontario's position and its efforts to address the federal/provincial fiscal imbalance fairly, equitably, without increasing the federal equalization program (and including the creation of a tri-lateral national public commission on fiscal arrangements); and

That Local MP's; the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada; the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Federal Minister of Finance; the Honourable John Gerretsen, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Honourable Marie Bountrogianni, Ontario Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs; and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario be advised that this Council support Ontario's position on the fiscal imbalance.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

173. 2006 Debenture Issue - Update

Co-Chair Martin asked that Mr. John Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services provide Committee members with an update with respect to the 2006 Debenture Issue.

Mr. Bergsma offered a quick update of the results of Niagara's 2006 debenture issue. He mentioned that Niagara had launched a \$91.5 million debenture Tuesday, June 27, 2006 at near-historically low interest rates to fund a host of capital projects for the Region and five local municipalities.

Given the tone of the market over the past week an opportunity arose which saw a shift in tone which gave syndicate members a solid platform to enter the market. The issue was launched at 2:00 (later than normal due to being pre-empted in the morning by another issuer). After the 20 minute period for the exempt listed investors (larger institutional investor who normally invest in the fixed income markets) to place orders, \$4 million of the \$66.5 million serial component was left for the retail market. This remaining \$4 sold quickly with orders of over \$10 million being requested. The overall cost of borrowing for the serial component of the issue was 5.095%. Although somewhat higher than that achieved in last year's record low 4.00% cost of borrowing (a historical low for Niagara), the spreads with Bank of Canada were lower than last year. The \$25 million amortizer component was also well received with one investor purchasing the entire amount with an all-in cost of borrowing being set at 5.449%. Comparing to other Niagara issues which had such a component (2003 -5.87%, 2004-5.89%) this is the best rate achieved by Niagara for an amortizing debenture.

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That the oral report respecting, the 2006 Debenture Issue, be received for information.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

174. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purpose of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to personnel and legal matters.

Carried.

175. Recruitment – Associate Medical Officer of Health
HR 20-2006 (MOH 02-2006) CONFIDENTIAL

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the Confidential Report HR 20-2006/ MOH 02-2006, June 28, 2006, respecting the Recruitment – Associate Medical Officer of Health, be received; and

That the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

176. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 10:55 a.m. to meet again on Wednesday, June 28, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Doug Martin
Co-Chair

Lisa Ricci
Acting Legislative Assistant

Mike Collins
Co-Chair

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk