

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT 1-2006

The Municipal Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara met in Committee of the Whole in the Council Chamber, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, February 9, 2006, commencing at 4:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Council: Regional Chair Partington; Councillors Angelone; Bailey; Baty; Bentley; Bodner; Brock; Burroughs; Casselman; Collins; Eke; Gabriel; Goulbourne; Harry; Hodgson; Leavens; Marshall; Martin; Redekop; Rigby; Salci; Saracino; Smeaton; Timms, Trombetta; Zimmerman.

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Lockyer, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services Department; Cambray, Commissioner of Planning Services; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health and Commissioner of Public Health; Neville, Commissioner, Public Works; Ms. Fontana, Director Corporate Health Services and Employee Relations; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Pilon, Acting Deputy Clerk.

Staff:
(Part-Time): Messrs. Kyne, Director of Legal Services; Bowles, Executive Assistant to the Regional Chair; Roach, Manager, Public Works Financial Services; Brcic, Director, Water & Wastewater Services; Burt, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, NPCA; Friesen, Director, Waste Management; Ms. Murphy, Manager, Current & Capital Budgets; Ms. Staines, Legislative Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

1. Regional Chair Partington called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That this Council do now resolve into Committee of the Whole.

Carried.

2006 CURRENT BUDGET

3. 2006 Current Budget: Rate Programs

Mr. Lockyer provided Committee of the Whole an overview of the 2006 Rate Programs and the responses to requests made at the February 1, 2006 Planning and Public Works Committee meeting respecting the approval processes, the applicability of the reduction scenarios, the issue of rate setting and the unfunded debt.

4. 2006 Operating Budget – Waste Management

Mr. Friesen provided the Committee of the Whole with a brief overview of the 2006 Waste Management Services Division Current Budget noting the department's mission, major goals, inventory of Waste Management facilities and 2005 Program Highlights.

The Committee of the Whole was apprised of the department's challenges for 2006; the program changes and cost drivers; expenditures and revenues with an overall total increase of 5.56% increase and the impact to the Reserve Fund.

Mr. Friesen advised the Committee of the Whole that the 2006 Municipal Requisitions recovers the net waste management costs from the tax base (similar to Water and Wastewater rates); reflects the change of charging per household rather than assessment and reflects the change in the allocation for base waste collection costs for the Region as a whole, rather than per collection area.

Mr. Friesen also reviewed the reasons for changes to the Municipal Requisitions and the comparisons of 2006 versus 2005 cost per households.

The Committee of the Whole was provided with Budget Scenarios and Projections, as well as additional budget considerations, which proposed a tipping fee increase with comparisons of other Regional and private landfill site fees.

5. 2006 Waste Management Services Division Operating Budget
PWA 32-2006

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PWA 32-2006, February 1, 2006, respecting the 2006 Waste Management Services Division, Operating Budget, be received.

That the Waste Management Services Division's 2006 Operating Budget of \$39, 454,066, be approved;

That the landfill tipping fee be increased from \$60 per tonne to \$70 per tonne, effective June 1, 2006.

Carried.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

6. 2006 Operating Budget – Water and Wastewater

Mr. Brcic provided the Committee of the Whole with a brief overview of the 2006 Water and Wastewater Services Division Operating Budget noting the department's strategic values, inventories of the Regional Water and Wastewater Systems, Water and Wastewater Program Objectives and Successes, operating costs, 2006 key cost drivers, program changes; budget scenarios (3% and beyond 3%) with the risks associated; 2006 Capital Program; future budget impacts; expenditure rate impacts and program summaries.

7. 2006 Water and Wastewater Uniform Wholesale Rates
PWA 33-2006

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PWA 33-2006, February 1, 2006, respecting the 2006 Water and Wastewater Uniform Wholesale Rates, be received and the following recommendations be approved;

A) Water System

Water Works expenditures totalling \$37,662,000 be approved for 2006.

The Water Works capital expenditure totalling \$26,150,000 be approved for 2006.

The uniform rate charged to the area municipalities for the production of water be established at \$0.491 per cubic meter, representing an increase of 10%, for the period of March 1, 2006 to February 28, 2007

Regional Development Charges, totalling \$2 million, be used towards financing growth-related capital costs as identified for the 2006 water capital program.

B) Wastewater System

The Wastewater Works expenditure totalling \$54,851,000 be approved for 2006.

The Wastewater Works capital expenditure totalling \$29,090,000 net (\$32,690,000 gross) be approved for 2006.

The uniform rate charged to area municipalities for wastewater treatment for 2006 be established at \$0.608 per cubic meter, representing a 5.0% change, for the period March 1, 2006 to February 28, 2007.

Regional Development Charges, totalling \$1.0 million, be used towards financing growth-related capital costs as identified for the wastewater capital program.

C) Multi-year Plan

The 2007 Wastewater and Water Works financial details be approved in principle as part of the multi year plan.

	2007	
	Wastewater	Water
Total Expenditures	\$57,520,000	\$41,189,000
Capital Expenditures	\$37,685,000	\$33,690,000
Rate (\$ per cubic meter)	\$0.638	\$0.540
Rate Increase	5.00%	10.00%
Development Charge Reserve fund	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000
Debenture Issue to be approved	\$0	\$0
Substitution of Unfunded Debt	\$0	\$0

- D) That the rate setting and rate structure approach be reviewed, by staff of the Region and Area Municipalities, to determine if a possible alternate method could be put in place for the year 2007.
- E) That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws be prepared for presentation to Regional Council.
- F) This report be circulated to the Area Municipal Treasurers and Clerks for information.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

Staff was requested to:

- provide Regional Council with the benefits of recycling. (Refers to Minute Item #5)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee of the Whole adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Peter Partington
Regional Chairman

Janet Pilon
Acting Deputy Clerk

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk