

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT 3-2006

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, April 13, 2006, commencing at 4:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services Department; Cambray, Commissioner of Planning Services; Friesen, Acting Commissioner, Public Works; Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Pilon, Deputy Clerk.

Staff:
(Part-Time): Messrs. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director, Financial Management and Planning; Bowles, Executive Assistant to the Regional Chair; Murphy, Manager Policy Development; Bendell, Financial Analyst; Steele, Project Manager; Shah, Project Manager Buildings; Gedge, Chief Executive Officer, NEDC; Teichroeb, Manager Business Development, NEDC; Ms. Williams, Senior Financial Analyst; Ms. Staines, Legislative Assistant; Ms. Manzer, Council Support Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

19. Regional Chair Partington called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

20. Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

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

Carried.

2006 TAX POLICY & TAX RATES

21. St. Catharines Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Walter Sendzik, Executive Vice President and General Manager of the St. Catharines Chamber of Commerce apprised the Committee of the Whole of the measures the St. Catharines Chamber of Commerce have taken to address the inequity in capping legislation and current value assessment.

The Committee of the Whole was advised that this issue is one of the items of discussion for Niagara Week.

22. Community Advisory Committee on
Property Assessment and Taxation Reform

Mr. Stan Harrington, Chair of the Community Advisory Committee of Property Assessment and Taxation Reform (CACPATR) apprised the Committee of the Whole that the CACPATR is in agreement with Option One, however the impact on the commercial class should be taken into consideration in future years. The CACPATR chose Option One taking into consideration the concerns raised by the Property Assessment and Taxation Reform Committee (PATR) and the Area Treasurers.

23. 2006 Tax Policy, Tax Ratios and
Capping Measures "It's a Balancing Act"

Mr. Gord Lockyer, Treasurer/Director, Financial Management Planning provided the Committee of the Whole with a presentation on the 2006 Tax Policy, Tax Ratios and Capping Measures, entitled "It's a Balancing Act".

The Committee of the Whole discussed in length the various options, noting the slight differences between the recommended option and the preferred Area Treasurer option. Option One, the recommended option, reduces the industrial class to 2.80; the multi-residential ratio is reduced to 2.0600 and the tax ratio is raised to revenue neutral with the commercial rate at 1.7586 and pipeline at 1.6334.

The Committee of the Whole was advised that the \$1.4 Million Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund is sustainable.

The Committee of the Whole was provided with a memorandum from Mayor Salci, City of Niagara Falls (C6768) expressing his comments on the 2006 Tax Policy and Tax Rates.

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Zimmerman

That the recommendations contained in Report CSD 61-2006, April 5, 2006, 2006 Tax Policy and Tax Rates – Additional Scenarios, be approved with Option One being adopted for the year 2006.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Zimmerman

That each of the new capping options be approved to their maximum.

That an 80% minimum percentage be approved for Current Value Assessment tax responsibility for new construction/new to class properties.

That the “in class recovery method” be approved.

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-law is prepared for presentation to Regional Council on April 13, 2006.

Carried.

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE BUILDING ADDITION

24. Headquarters Office Building Addition

Mr. Bob Steele, Project Manager, provided the Committee of the Whole with a brief presentation on the Headquarters Office Building Addition, noting the change orders for the interior redesign, functional modifications and modular partition walls that will optimize future flexibility of the facility interior and the costs associated with the recommended modifications.

The Committee of the Whole adjourned at 6:30 p.m. to reconvene as Regional Council at 7:00 p.m. to hear the presentations and then proceed with the remainder of the Committee of the Whole agenda.

The Committee of the Whole reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

25. Regional Chair Partington called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

26. Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

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

Carried.

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE BUILDING ADDITION (Continued)

27. Headquarters Office Building Addition
PWA 70-2006/CSD 58-2006

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Zimmerman

That the additional funds required for the recommended change orders be funded from the Capital Levy Reserve.

Lost.

Moved by Councillor Leavens
Seconded by Councillor Collins

That Report CSD 58-2006/PWA 70-2006, April 13, 2006, respecting the Headquarters Office Building Addition, be received.

That staff be authorized to proceed with change orders for interior redesign, functional modifications and modular partition walls for the Headquarters Office Building Addition to optimize future flexibility of the facility interior, at an additional cost of \$1,406,508.

That approval be given to transfer the budget approval and financing in the amount of \$1,406,508 from Project ZCW9622 Water Supply Improvements to Shoalts Drive Reservoir to Project ZGD0209 Central Accommodation Addition.

That Long Term Financing in the amount of \$1,406,508 for Project ZCW9622 Water Supply Improvements to Shoalts Drive Reservoir be substituted with financing from the Capital Levy reserve.

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

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Regional Council authorize the Regional Chair and Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the Terms of Reference and Tender documents for an independent audit/review of the Headquarters Office Building Addition project for consideration at the May 4, 2006 Regional Council meeting.

Lost.

CLOSED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

28. Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Bodner

That this Committee of the Whole do now move into Closed Committee of the Whole for the purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to legal and property matters.

Carried.

29. Lease Extensions
PWA 65-2006 and PWA 67-2006

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Bodner

That Confidential Reports PWA 65-2006 and PWA 67-2006, April 13, 2006, respecting Lease Extensions, be received and the recommendations therein be approved.

Carried.

30. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That this Committee of the Whole do now rise with report.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

31. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Communications C6764A, respecting a report to the Accommodation Steering Committee, April 7, 2006, respecting Headquarters Office Building Addition, be received.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee of the Whole adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Peter Partington
Regional Chairman

Janet Pilon
Deputy Clerk

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk