

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT 11-2006

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning and Public Works Committee held in Council Chambers, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, July 19, 2006 commencing at 1:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

- Committee:** Councillors Smeaton, Co-Chair; Angelone, Baty, Bodner, Brock, Burroughs, Casselman, Eke, Gabriel, Harry, Hildreth, Leavens, Marshall, Mastroianni, Timms, Trombetta.
- Staff:** Messrs. Neville, Commissioner, Public Works Department; Cambray, Commissioner, Planning & Development Department; Brcic, Director, Water & Wastewater; Cousins, Director, Transportation Services; Friesen, Director, Waste Management Services; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Staines, Legislative Assistant.
- Staff (Part Time):** Messrs. Flora, Acting Associate Director, Transportation Systems; Hunter, Manager Safe Water & Health Hazards; Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director, Financial Management & Planning; Ms. Manzer, Council Support Assistant; Messrs. McQueen, Director of Administration; Nicholson, Senior Policy Coordination Planner; Pilon, Transit Manager; Ms. Slee, Administrative Assistant – Council Support; Mr. Steele, Project Manager/ Coordinator; Water & Wastewater Services
- Guests:** Ms. Konc, Wainfleet Water/Sewer Committee; Mr. Papp, Chair, Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit Advisory Committee, Mr. Taylor, Compost Management Inc.; Mr. Pettit, former Mayor of the Township of Wainfleet

INTRODUCTION

366. Councillor Smeaton advised the Committee on the status of Report DPD 64-2006/PWA 126-2006/PHD 37-2006/CSD 86-2006, Update on Actions Regarding the Wainfleet Servicing Class Environmental Assessment (EA) In the Township of Wainfleet. This report was presented to the Public Health & Social Services Committee July 18th and the Corporate Services Committee of July 19th.

At the Public Health & Social Services Committee, the following recommendation was moved **and lost**:

That Regional Council approve the first three paragraphs and the last paragraph of the original report recommendation, but that the fourth paragraph be amended to read as follows:

That Regional Council request the Township of Wainfleet to not approve additional development and that any applications for conversions or additions in the area affected by the drinking water advisory be allowed only if it complies with the Ontario Building Code, and

That the applicant for said conversion or addition sign an acknowledgement of any future costs of services and sign off on any future liability claims against the Region of Niagara and Public Health Department.

The entire staff recommendation **was approved** as follows:

That Regional Council:

Authorize staff in the Public Works, Public Health and Planning Departments to provide assistance, as requested, to the Township of Wainfleet in preparing a further submission for COMRIF funding;

Authorize staff in the Corporate Services, Public Works and Planning Departments to further investigate other potential sources of alternative funding for the extension of municipal water and sewer services to the lakeshore communities of the Township of Wainfleet to assist in financing of future stages;

Authorize Public Works staff to develop a detailed work plan for the Wainfleet servicing project and initiate pre-design work to commence after confirmation of EA Approval by MOE. This should include a detailed staging program showing how construction would proceed over an 8 – 10 year period, refined project costs, and a calculation of benefiting property owner costs;

Request the Township of Wainfleet to not approve additional development, conversions or additions in the area affected by the drinking water advisory until such time as these have been satisfactorily addressed; and

Authorize staff to support the Township of Wainfleet with respect to appeals before the Ontario Municipal Board of any applications for additional development along the lakeshore and/or initiate such appeals on behalf of Regional Niagara.

At the Corporate Services Committee the following recommendation was moved and approved:

That the first three paragraphs be approved, and that the fourth and fifth paragraphs be removed. The Recommendation would therefore read as follows:

That Regional Council:

Authorize staff in the Public Works, Public Health and Planning Departments to provide assistance, as requested, to the Township of Wainfleet in preparing a further submission for COMRIF funding;

Authorize staff in the Corporate Services, Public Works and Planning Departments to further investigate other potential sources of alternative funding for the extension of municipal water and sewer services to the lakeshore communities of the Township of Wainfleet to assist in financing of future stages; and

Authorize Public Works staff to develop a detailed work plan for the Wainfleet servicing project and initiate pre-design work to commence after confirmation of EA Approval by MOE. This should include a detailed staging program showing how construction would proceed over an 8 – 10 year period, refined project costs, and a calculation of benefiting property owner costs.

Councillor Harry advised that his reason for removing the last two paragraphs was that the actions described were redundant due to requirements under the Building Code. Approval for septic systems for conversions or additions to a house are controlled by the Ontario Building Code with comments received from Regional Public Health. Councillor Harry commented that if there are estate lots and if they qualify as far as testing and engineering drawings, they should be allowed to build.

Further discussion on the report was deferred until after the presentation by Ms. Konc.

Councillor Smeaton welcomed former Mayor and Regional Councillor Stan Pettit to the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

367. Wainfleet Servicing

Betty Konc advised that the purpose of the Wainfleet Water & Sewer Committee (WW&SC) presentation was to address concerns and inconsistencies in the Region's new proposal for phasing in a pipeline in Wainfleet, to show omissions in the Region's 25 year Life Cycle Cost Comparisons, and to reiterate their stance "No pipe period - fix, replace, repair". Ms. Konc stated that the Region's dwelling count for phases 1 and 2 is inaccurate, there are inaccuracies in the Region's 25 year "Life Cycle Cost", the Region did not consider the cost of future maintenance of the "pipeline" and there is concern for Long Beach's phases 3 and 4. Ms. Konc distributed copies of her presentation to Councillors, which included tables of cost comparisons and explanations for the rationale behind the Wainfleet Water & Sewer Committee figures. Ms. Konc noted that the private water provider for the Long Beach residents has indicated that once phase 3 is implemented, the provider will be shutting down this operation (or before that time) which will leave phase 4 residents without a water source. If this service is withdrawn before the availability of water through the later phases of this project, there would need to be alternative sources and these residents would incur more costs. Ms. Konc also distributed information about sewage removal fees (Terreberry Septic Service Ltd.) for pumping holding tanks and the prices for standard septic tanks and holding tanks.

Ms. Konc was advised to review Report PWP 55-2006 for more information on holding tanks. Ms. Konc noted that she already had this information.

Mr. Brcic responded with respect to the differences in numbers of dwellings that the Region's count included potential lots related to infilling which may not have been included in the WW&SC figures. Respecting the reference made to interest costs not being included in Niagara Region's calculations, Mr. Brcic responded that these costs were included according to standard practice by the Corporate Services Department and the consultants. With respect to on-site needs, it is not known until the final design what each house needs or is warranted. These figures were not included, which is the same practice as for past projects. Mr. Brcic noted that there are also costs related to not building the pipeline which would need to be included in the WW&SC figures. Mr. Brcic stated that he stood behind the numbers provided by the experts. It was noted that if the lots identified as potential residences in Niagara Region's count are not developed, this would affect the costs to the municipalities.

Regarding the water service provider, Mr. Brcic noted that this contractor has already discontinued service to another area, and could stop service to residents at any time and Niagara Region has no control over this. Mr. Brcic responded to the question of whether Niagara Region had factored a possible change of government into their forecasts that some funding would still be expected from the senior government levels based on past practices in similar projects.

Councillor Harry noted that the service provider pulled out of the other area due to financial reasons, and that the residents affected arranged for cisterns to be installed.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That the information provided by Mr. Brcic responding to the presentation by the Wainfleet Water & Sewer Committee be given in writing to Councillors, and that this information be provided to Betty Konc for distribution to the WW&SC.

Carried.

OPERATIONS **(STATUS REPORTS)**

368. Update on Actions Regarding the Wainfleet Servicing
Class Environmental Assessment (EA)
In the Township of Wainfleet
DPD 64-2006 (PWA 126-2006/PHD 37-2006/CSD 86-2006)

Staff was previously requested to provide comparisons of Niagara Region's contribution to costs to other similar projects in other municipalities. Mr. Brcic noted that this information is provided in his correspondence (Item #PWC 31-2006), page 2. It was noted that a portion of the Region's contribution to the Wainfleet project is included in this year's budget with the balance remaining in the forecasts for future capital spending. It was emphasized that there is a need to analyze the differences in costs between the Region's numbers and the numbers from the WW&SC in a further report once the details of the WW&SC figures can be reviewed. The costs for carrying the financial burden for the "potential" lots was also requested. Mr. Brcic introduced Peter McGlone, a consultant from AMEC Earth & Environmental Ltd., who reported on the question of interest rates and present values. Mr. McGlone noted that the interest rate used in Niagara Region's calculations was six per cent (6%) for twenty-five years. The cost estimates provided for holding tanks reflected the present costs and the pumping costs per year for twenty-five years. Mr. McGlone noted that he believed Ms. Konc included a twenty year period. Mr. McGlone noted that the figures shown by Ms. Konc from Terreberry Septic Service Ltd. are very close to those used by Mr. McGlone. Mr. McGlone commented that the litres per day water usage affects the litres of sewage, and the 1,000 litres per day figure is very low, as a three-bedroom house is designed for 1,600 litres per day.

It was reiterated that there is a need for a further report comparing the figures.

The figures shown in PWC 31-2006 were re-visited and it was noted that because of the type of infrastructure, etc., in some cases funding is not required from the

Region reflecting Niagara Region's jurisdiction. Pumping stations, forcemains, etc. are under Niagara Regional jurisdiction. It was also noted that the Niagara Parks Commission provided a portion of funding for the Queenston project.

A question was raised concerning why the water system could not be dealt with separately from the sewer improvements. It would appear that water could be obtained from other sources immediately, but that sewage improvements could not be put in place quickly. It was noted by staff that building the two systems separately is much more costly.

It was also suggested that without a moratorium on development it will be perceived that Niagara Region is not seriously dealing with the "boil water" problem. It was also noted that if residents are provided with easily accessible water they will consume more, which will in turn increase use of sewage systems.

Other options for treating wastewater need to be evaluated. It was suggested that the high cost of a "pipeline" for so few residents is not a viable option, especially if COMRIF funding is denied. It was suggested that the province is treating the Wainfleet area differently than other areas, for example Muskoka, where the province requires individuals to have adequate sewage treatment or they are not allowed to use their residence. It was suggested that the Niagara Region is being asked to "bail out" Wainfleet property owners who have inadequate sewage treatment systems, which has affected the water table. The Ontario Building Code requires sufficient sewage treatment for individual lots, but this is not being enforced in this area as it is in others. Staff advised that holding tanks are the last resort for individual homes because of high policing costs. It was noted that in Muskoka, the costs of policing are charged back to the property owners. Staff was requested to provide information regarding the estimated cost of policing the usage of holding tanks in this area. Staff advised that this cost would be approximately \$180,000 per year. The cost of financing the debenture in the amount of \$31 million was estimated by staff to be in the range of \$3.5 million per year. It was requested that this information also be included in the additional report to Council. Councillors expressed concern that they need to see information in a clear and concise format that is easily comparable to the numbers submitted by the WW&SC. It was also requested that the number of wells affected in each phase of the project be provided in this additional report.

Clarification was requested as to what is actually being approved with this report. It was suggested that this report seeks a commitment to support the Township of Wainfleet in its application for COMRIF funding, and secondly to continue a review of alternative financing to fund the servicing project. Staff advised that this problem has been thoroughly examined over the last three years and significant funds have already been spent. Additional spending is a subject for further discussion.

Concern was expressed that by supporting the application for COMRIF funding, Niagara Region is perceived to be supporting the entire project, and this decision has not been made by Council.

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That Report DPD 64-2006 (PWA 126-2006, PHD 37-2006, CSD 86-2006), July 19, 2006, respecting Update on Actions Regarding the Wainfleet Servicing Class Environmental Assessment (EA) in the Township of Wainfleet, be received **as amended by excluding paragraphs four (4) and five (5)**;

That Regional Council:

Authorize staff in the Public Works, Public Health and Planning Departments to provide assistance, as requested, to the Township of Wainfleet in preparing a further submission for COMRIF funding;

Authorize staff in the Corporate Services, Public Works and Planning Departments to further investigate other potential sources of alternative funding for the extension of municipal water and sewer services to the lakeshore communities of the Township of Wainfleet to assist in financing of future stages; and

Authorize Public Works staff to develop a detailed work plan for the Wainfleet servicing project and initiate pre-design work to commence after confirmation of EA Approval by MOE. This should include a detailed staging program showing how construction would proceed over an 8 – 10 year period, refined project costs, and a calculation of benefiting property owner costs;

Carried.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

(Please note that Report DPD 64-2006 (PWA 126-2006, PHD 37-2006, CSD 86-2006) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the next Council Business Planning Session deal solely with the issue of Wainfleet Servicing.

Carried.

369. Service Provider for the New Regional
Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit Service
PWA 130-2006

Moved by Councillor Bodner
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That Report PWA 130-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting the Service Provider for the New Regional Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit Service, be received, **as amended**;

That the service contract for the provision for the new Regional Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit Service be awarded to the Red Cross Niagara;

That the service contract be for a two (2) year period with an option for a two (2) year renewal at the end of the second year;

That the maintenance and servicing of the vehicles be done by the Region of Niagara, Public Works Department, Transportation Services Division;

That once the servicing has been implemented, the quality control and level of service be monitored on a regular basis; and

That the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk, in collaboration with Mr. Eric Pilon, Transit Manager, be authorized to prepare and execute the necessary documents to enter into a Service Provider Agreement with Red Cross Niagara forthwith.

Carried.

370. Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit
Trips into the City of Hamilton for Medical Purposes
PWA 129-2006

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report PWA 129-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting Inter-Municipal Specialized Transit Trips into the City of Hamilton for Medical Purposes, be received;

That the letter from Mayor Di Ianni of the City of Hamilton authorizing vehicles from the Region of Niagara to travel with Niagara residents into Hamilton for medical appointments at the various Hamilton medical facilities be received; and

That once the contract with the service provider is approved by Regional Council, staff report back with a recommended full cost-recovery fare structure and that the proposed fare structure be based on a full cost recovery strategy.

Carried.

371. Tender Award for Contract RN 05-51
Port Weller Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 2 Upgrades
City of St. Catharines, Project ID SW0528
PWA 133-2006 (CSD 92-2006)

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PWA 133-2006 (CSD 92-2006), July 19, 2006, respecting the Tender Award for Contract RN 05-51, Port Weller Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 2 Upgrades, City of St. Catharines, Project ID SW0528, be received;

That Contract RN 05-51, Port Weller Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 2 Upgrades, in the City of St. Catharines, be awarded to Graham Construction & Engineering Inc. at their bid price of \$7,799,000.00;

That a contingency amount of \$800,000.00 be provided for this project;

That previously approved Wastewater Reserve Fund financing in the amount of \$1,500,000 be transferred from Project ZSW0005/SW0005, Seaway WWTP Upgrade Phase 3 to Project ZSW0007/SW0526, Port Weller WWTP Upgrade Phase 2;

That previously approved Long Term financing in the amount of \$1,500,000 be transferred from Project ZSW0006/SW0006, Baker Road WWTP Upgrade Phase 3 to Project ZSW0007/SW0526, Port Weller WWTP Upgrade Phase 2;

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws are prepared for submission to Regional Council authorizing the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk to execute the contract on behalf of the Regional Municipality of Niagara; and

That the costs associated with this project be charged against Project ZSW0007/SW0526.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PWA 133-2006 (CSD 92-2006) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

372. Tender Award for Contract RN 05-58
For Bulk Liquid Polymer Storage Tanks
Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant and
Garner Road Biosolids Storage Facility
In the City of Niagara Falls
Project: ZSW0302/SW0618
PWA 134-2006

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report PWA 134-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting the Tender Award for Contract RN 05-58, For Bulk Liquid Polymer Storage Tanks, Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant and Garner Road Biosolids Storage Facility In the City of Niagara Falls, Project: ZSW0302/SW0618, be received;

That Contract RN 05-58, For Bulk Liquid Polymer Storage Tanks, Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant and Garner Road Biosolids Storage Facility In the City of Niagara Falls, be awarded to Detra Builders, Inc., at their bid price of \$578,000.00;

That a contingency amount of \$58,000.00 be provided for this project;

That Hydromantis, Inc., be appointed for additional engineering services for an amount of \$14,360.00;

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws are prepared for submission to Regional Council authorizing the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk to execute the contract on behalf of the Regional Municipality of Niagara; and

That the cost associated with this project be charged against Project ZSW0302/SW0618.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

373. Moved by Councillor Mastroianni
Seconded by Councillor Timms

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

Carried.

374. Solicitor-Client Advice
PWC 32-2006

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Correspondence Item PWC 32-2006, July 19, 2006, from Mr. Kyne, Director, Legal Services, be received;

That Correspondence Item PWC 33-2006, July 6, 2006, from Mr. Taylor, Compost Management, be received; and

That Mr. Taylor be advised that his request to speak in Closed Session is denied; and

That Mr. Taylor be allowed to speak during the public session of this meeting if he so desires.

Carried.

375. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

376. Request to Speak In Camera at Meeting of
Planning and Public Works Committee Meeting
PWC 33-2006

Mr. Taylor was advised by Councillor Smeaton of the Committee's decision to deny his request to speak In Camera, and Mr. Taylor was asked if he wished to speak during this public meeting. Mr. Taylor declined the opportunity to speak in public.

377. Tender Award for Contract RN 06-15
Concrete Culvert Replacement
On Regional Road 50 (Merrittville Highway)
1.42 km North of Regional Road 20
In the City of Thorold
Project ZRC 0632
PWA 135-2006 (CSD 93-2006)

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That Report PWA 135-2006 (CSD 93-2006), July 19, 2006, respecting the Tender Award for Contract RN 06-15, Concrete Culvert Replacement, On Regional Road 50 (Merrittville Highway), 1.42 km North of Regional Road 20, In the City of Thorold, Project ZRC0632, be received;

That approval be given to initiate Capital Levy Financing in the amount of \$175,000 gross and net for Project ZRC 0632 Culvert Replacement On Regional Road 50 (Merrittville Highway) In the City of Thorold;

That Contract RN 06-15, Concrete Culvert Replacement On Regional Road 50 (Merrittville Highway), 1.42 km North of Regional Road 20 In the City of Thorold be awarded to the low tenderer, Rankin Construction Inc., at its bid price in the amount of \$124,842.50;

That a contingency allowance in the amount of \$13,000.00 be provided for this contract;

That the Engineering Agreement with the consulting firm of V & S Engineering Group Ltd. be extended to include contract administration and inspection services, with the engineering fees being calculated on a time plus disbursements basis, estimated at \$17,200.00;

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the necessary by-laws, including the by-law authorizing the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk to execute the contract on behalf of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, are presented to Regional Council on July 27, 2006; and

That all project costs be charged against Capital Works Parent Project ZRC0632.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PWA 135-2006 (CSD 93-2006) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

378. Proposed Parking Prohibition
Regional Road 116 (Sodom Road)
City of Niagara Falls
PWA 136-2006

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Leavens

That Report PWA 136-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting the Proposed Parking Prohibition, Regional Road 116 (Sodom Road), City of Niagara Falls, be received;

That parking be prohibited at any time on both sides of Regional Road 116 (Sodom Road) from the QEW to Bossert Road; and

That the Regional Clerk be requested to ensure that the necessary by-law amendment is submitted to Council on July 27, 2006.

Carried.

379. Speed Limit Reduction
Regional Road 40 (South Service Road)
Town of Grimsby
PWA 137-2006

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report PWA 137-206, July 19, 2006, respecting the Speed Limit Reduction Regional Road 40 (South Service Road) in the Town of Grimsby, be received;

That the existing speed limit on Regional Road 40 (South Service Road) from Regional Road 10 (Casablanca Boulevard) to 250 metres west of Roberts Road be reduced from 80 km/h to 60 km/h; and

That the Regional Clerk be requested to ensure that the necessary by-law amendment is presented to Council on July 27, 2006.

Carried.

380. QEW Widening Project – City of St. Catharines
Seventh Street Louth to Garden City Skyway Bridge
Cost-Sharing of Martindale Road and Geneva Street Structures
Region of Niagara and Ministry of Transportation, Ontario
PWA 140-2006

Concern was expressed about the potential back-up of traffic if the work being done on the project required the QEW to be reduced to one lane. Staff advised that Niagara Region has received assurances from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) that they will endeavour to keep two lanes open through the duration of the contract in an effort to ease traffic congestion, particularly in the summer months. Mr. Cousins noted that access to the QEW will be restricted for extended periods during ramp construction and alternate routes will be required. When the workplan and timelines for construction are finalized by the MTO, these will be presented to Council.

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PWA 140-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting the QEW Widening Project – City of St. Catharines, Seventh Street Louth to Garden City Skyway Bridge, Cost-Sharing of Martindale Road and Geneva Street Structures, Region of Niagara and Ministry of Transportation, Ontario, be received;

That Regional Council agree-in-principle to cost-sharing with the Ministry of Transportation, Ontario, for all costs associated with the design and construction of additional traffic lanes and bikeway facilities on the Martindale Road and Geneva Street structures, including the costs of construction administration, the costs of any unforeseen work required in respect to the traffic lanes and bikeway facilities, the costs for overall administration and Goods and Services Taxes; and

That the Regional Clerk's Department forward a copy of this report to the Ministry of Transportation, Ontario for their information.

Carried.

381. Tender Award Contract RN 06-19
Road and Municipal Service Improvements on
Regional Road 69 (Pelham Road)
From First Street to Louth Street
In the City of St. Catharines
Project ZRC0628/RC0628
PWA 141-2006 (CSD 104-2006)

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report PWA 141-2006 (CSD 104-2006), July 19, 2006, respecting the Tender Award for Contract RN 06-19, Road and Municipal Service Improvements on Regional Road 69 (Pelham Road) From First Street to Louth Street In the City of St. Catharines, Project ZRC0628/RC0628, be received;

That subject to the confirmation of cost-sharing by the City of St. Catharines, Contract RN 06-19, Road and Municipal Service Improvements on Regional Road 69 (Pelham Road), from First Street to Louth Street, in the City of St. Catharines, be awarded to the low tenderer Rankin Construction Incorporated, at the bid price of \$4,146,567.00;

That approval be given to increase the gross budget for Project ZRC0628/RC0628 Reconstruction of Regional Road 69 (Pelham Road) from Rotary Park to First Street Louth in the City of St. Catharines in the amount of \$ 2,125,570.00 to reflect the cost sharing with the City of St. Catharines;

That approval be given to transfer the amount of \$1,025,570 (Move Ontario Funds) from Project ZRC0628/RC0628 Reconstruction of Regional Road 69 (Pelham Road) from Rotary Park to First Street Louth in the City of St. Catharines to Project ZRC0601 Roads Rehabilitation Program.

That a contingency amount of \$500,000.00 be provided for this project;

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the necessary by-laws, including the by-law authorizing the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk to execute the contract on behalf of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, are presented to Regional Council on July 27,2006;

And further, that all project costs be charged against Capital Works Project ZRC0628/RC0628, Reconstruction of Regional Road 69 (Pelham Road), from Rotary Park to First Street Louth, in the City of St. Catharines.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PWA 141-2006 (CSD 104-2006) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

382. Committee Minutes

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That the minutes of the following meetings be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved:

Transportation Strategy Steering Committee meeting of June 27, 2006;

Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee meeting of May 18, 2006; and

Arts Culture and Heritage Committee meeting of May 1, 2006.

Carried.

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES
(STRATEGIC PLANNING/POLICY)

383. Growing the Industry:
Farm Economic Viability for the Long-Term
Report of the Agricultural Task Force
DPD 71-2006

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That Report DPD 71-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting Growing the Industry: Farm Economic Viability for the Long-Term Report of the Agricultural Task Force, be referred for deliberation to the Council meeting July 27 in order to give Councillors an opportunity to review the Report.

Carried.

384. *Places to Grow* Growth Plan for the
Greater Golden Horseshoe
Highlights and Effects
DPD 72-2006

Mr. Cambray presented an overview of the report, particularly noting information contained on Page 2 related to the Recognition of Niagara in the Growth Plan. The province heard and delivered on many of the requests founded on the Regional Strategy for Development and Conservation that is located in the Regional Policy Plan.

Mr. Cambray noted that the Regional Policy Plan and local Official Plans will need to be amended to ensure conformity within three years of the release of the Growth Plan. A supplementary report is being prepared to deal with applications already in the process of being considered for approval.

Concern was expressed over the responsibility for designating intensification corridors. It was noted that the Regional Municipality with its partners would determine this designation through the long-term plan for the whole Region. Consultation will take place when the process gets underway in early 2007.

It was noted that the lobbying efforts with the province through Niagara Week, etc. helped to bring about these changes. Staff advised that population projections were not changed in the Growth Plan. However there is a provision in the policies that projections will be reviewed and revised within five years.

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report DPD 72-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting the Places to Grow Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Highlights and Effects, be received and circulated to the local municipalities for information.

Carried.

385. Final Recommendations Report
Changes to the Agricultural, Rural and Mineral Resource Policies
Regional Policy Plan Amendment 6-2005
Conformity with the Provincial Policy Statement and the Greenbelt Plan
DPD 73-2006

Mr. Cambray noted that the Region may be differing somewhat with the Province in their approach to the Fonthill Kame and the rehabilitation of pits as noted on page 3 under Item 4 in the Report. It is the Region's recommendation that the same rehabilitation requirements for new pits also apply to expansions to existing pits on the Fonthill Kame.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Report DPD 73-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting the Final Recommendations Report, Changes to the Agricultural, Rural and Mineral Resource Policies, Regional Policy Plan Amendment 6-2005, Conformity with the Provincial Policy Statement and the Greenbelt Plan, be received;

That Regional Policy Plan Amendment 6-2005 to bring the Region's Agricultural, Rural Areas and Mineral Resource Policies into conformity with the Provincial Policy Statement and the Greenbelt Plan as set out in Appendix 1 be approved;

That a decision on Policy 6.A.9.1 (b) with respect to farm severances in Good General Agricultural Areas be “Deferred” to permit additional consideration by the agricultural Sub-committee and the Federations of Agriculture; and

That notice of Council’s decision be given in accordance with Planning Act requirements.

Carried.

386. Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee
June 22, 2006

Moved by Councillor Trombetta
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the Minutes of the Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held June 22, 2006, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

There being a loss of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Chair determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to ten members, pursuant to Part 15, Section 15.8.2 of the Procedural By-law 120-2005.

INFORMATION

387. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the following items be received for information:

Report PWP 49-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting Project Activity Report, Water and Wastewater Services;

Report PWP 50-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting Public Works Staff Comments on Municipal Servicing Applications;

Report PWP 51-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting Public Works Staff Comments on Development and Related Proposals;

Report PWP 52-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting Projects/Studies Activity Report, Waste Management Services Division;

Report PWP 53-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting Update of Map of Railway Lines in the Niagara Region;

Report PWP 54-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting Region of Niagara – Inter Municipal Specialized Transit Service, Origin/Destination Survey;

Report DPD 75-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting Consent Summary From June 8, 2006 to June 30, 2006;

Report DPD 76-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting Regional Comments on Development Proposals, From June 8, 2006 to June 30, 2006;

Report DPD 77-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting N.E.C. Development Permit Decisions, From April 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006; and

Minutes of the Agricultural Sub Committee meeting held June 20, 2006.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

388. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That the following items be received for information:

Correspondence item PWC 31-2006, a memo from Chado Brcic, Director, Water & Wastewater Services, dated July 6, being a response to questions raised regarding Wainfleet Servicing; and

Correspondence item PD 32-2006, a letter to the Ministry of the Environment providing comments on the Ministry's review of the Walker EA on a proposed landfill expansion in the City of Niagara Falls.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

389. Gypsy Moth Infestation

Councillor Trombetta requested assistance from Regional Planning staff under the new Tree and Forest Conservation By-law, which covers preserving woodlots and promoting good forestry practices. The Township of West Lincoln has passed a resolution to hold a public meeting on the gypsy moth infestation in their area, and Councillor Trombetta requested support from the Region to attend the meeting and advise what the Region would be willing to do to address the infestation. It was suggested that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority could assist with providing information. A date for the meeting was not established. A letter respecting this issue will be forwarded to staff by Councillor Trombetta.

390. Wind and Energy Generation Systems

Councillor Eke advised that a public meeting is scheduled for July 20 in Niagara-on-the-Lake to discuss the erection of a windmill for hydro generation. Commissioner Cambray advised that the Area Planners are developing a policy related to this subject. An amendment of the Official Plan to allow erection of windmills for hydro generation is required and this will be reviewed along with provincial regulations.

391. Railway Map

Councillor Timms requested that the Railway Map provided with PWP 53-2006 include rail lines still under railway company ownership, whether or not they are decommissioned. It would also be helpful if the map indicated whether or not track is still in place.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

CLOSED SESSION

392. Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

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

Carried.

393. Fuel Adjustments
PWA 131-2006 – CONFIDENTIAL

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Confidential Report PWA 131-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting a Fuel Adjustment, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

394. Property Purchase in the City of St. Catharines
PWA 132-2006 - CONFIDENTIAL

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Confidential Report PWA 132-2006, July 19, 2006, respecting a Property Purchase in the City of St. Catharines, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

Staff was requested to:

- Provide an additional report including further information as requested (Refers to Minute Item #368)
- provide a map similar to that provided in PWP 53-2006 but including railway lines still owned by railway companies whether or not they are decommissioned and noting whether they still have track in place (Refers to Minute Item # 391)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 4:10 p.m., to meet again in Council Chambers, August 9, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.

Bill Smeaton
Co-Chair

Betty Staines
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk