

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

REPORT 2-2007

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Review Committee held in Council Chambers, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, March 1, 2007, commencing at 3:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Martin, Chair; Rigby, Vice-Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Augustyn; Badawey; Baty; Bentley; Burroughs; Bylsma; Casselman; Collins; Cordiner; D'Angela; Forster; Gabriel; Goulbourne; Greenwood; Heit; Henderson; Hodgson; Lepp; Marshall; McMullan; Salci; Saracino; Smeaton; Timms; Zimmerman.

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Mr. Cambray, Commissioner, Planning and Development; Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner, Public Health; Mr. Neville, Commissioner, Public Works; Mr. Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Others: Corporate Services: Mr. Bernard, Manager, Court Administration; Ms. Crowley, Current Budget Analyst; Mr. Diakow, Director, Information Services; Mr. Kaas, Capital Analyst; Mr. Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director, Financial Management & Planning; Ms. Murphy, Associate Director, Budgets & Reporting.

Community Services: Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services.

Public Health: Mr. Fuentes, Associate Director, EMS; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Mr. Van Valkenburg, Acting Training Supervisor, E.M.S.

Public Works: Mr. Baker, Acting Associate Director, Water & Wastewater; Mr. Cousins, Director, Transportation Services; Mr. Friesen, Director, Waste Management Services; Mr. Oatley, Manager, Laboratory and Environmental Enforcement; Mr. Roach, Manager, Financial Services.

Others: Police: Chief of Police Southall; Deputy Chief Beaulieu; Mr. Woodhouse, Police Services Board Member; Ms. DiDonato-DeChellis, Acting Finance Manager; Ms. George, Acting Director of Business Services; Mr. Iggulden, Chair, Police Services Board; Ms. Morton, Executive Director, Police Services Board; Supt. Parrent, Field Services; Supt. Deagnais, Patrol Services; Supt. Kane, Emergency Investigative Services; Inspector Skaftfeld, Executive Officer to the Chief of Police; Inspector Matthews, Professional Standards; Dr. Divers, Corporate Support Analyst; Mr. Fisher, Facilities Manager; Constable Basilone, Public Affairs; Sgt. Maggiolo, Executive Director to the Deputy Chief of Police; Sgt. DiSimoni, President, Niagara Region Police Association.
NEDCO: Mr. Gedge, Chief Executive Officer; Mr. Kroeker, Chair
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority: Mr. Burt, General Manager.

PRESENTATIONS

Conflicts of Interest:

Councillor Collins declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Police matters, as a family member is employed by the Police and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

Councillor Forster declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters related to the Ontario Nurses Association as she is employed by ONA and she therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

Councillor Goulbourne declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters related to Niagara College as he is employed by Niagara College and he therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

7. Overview 2007 Budget

Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services, provided an overview of the 2007 Budget, noting that the budget now reflects further information with respect to the impact of water and wastewater rate changes on the taxpayer and the actual assessment growth of 1.4%. Two further reductions were incorporated into the budget; Special Capital Levy contribution of \$1.1 million and a reduction to the Write-off Budget of \$0.7 million for a total reduction of \$1.8 million.

In summary, the levy is proposed at \$299.3 million, representing a \$10.1 million or 3.5% change over 2006. The Water and Wastewater is proposed at \$93.7 million, representing a change of \$1.2 million or 1.3% over 2006. After taking into consideration actual assessment growth of 1.4%, the net impact on the tax levy amounts to 2.1%.

Councillor Martin, Committee Chair, vacated the Chair during deliberations of the Niagara Regional Police Services Capital Budget and Councillor Rigby, Vice-Chair, assumed the Chair.

8. Niagara Regional Police Services
Long Term Accommodations Strategy

Deputy Chief of Police Gary Beaulieu attended to provide information and support for the 2007 NRPS Capital Budget. Deputy Chief Beaulieu provided background information on previous reports and studies related to the on-going issues and challenges facing the Police with regards to police facilities, as well as the recent work of the facilities group.

Chief of Police Wendy Southall provided an overview of the Niagara Regional Police Services Long Term Accommodations Strategy. Chief Southall outlined the police facilities issues as they relate to space; communications and Occupational and Health Safety. The Facilities Plan, she commented, is challenged with finding efficiencies, providing adequate and effective services to the public and ensuring the Health and Safety of its members. The focus of Facilities Plan (Phase 1) is on Central Booking (cells) and property and evidence management. Chief Southall also provided background information on the Quartek and Pepper Reports. The projected budget to date for the NRPS Long Term Accommodations Strategy was presented at \$49,800,000.

Following discussion and questions by Committee members, a brief recess was called at 6:35 p.m.

Committee reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Smeaton
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That the 2007 Capital Budget for the Niagara Regional Police Services Board, as presented and listed below, be approved in principle:

Gross Expenditures:	\$28,150,000
Financing Sources:	
Reserves	2,555,000
Long-term Financing	<u>25,595,000</u>
Total	\$28,150,000

On condition that the \$22,445,000 of the above amount that is attributed to the Long Term Accommodations --Phase I is approved subject to:

- i) Completion of the Niagara Regional Police Board's Long Term Accommodations Plan;
- ii) Regional Council's receipt and approval of this Plan; and
- iii) Regional Council's approval of the spending of this \$22,445,000 on a facility by facility basis.

Carried.

(Refer to staff directions.)

Councillor Rigby, Vice-Chair, vacated the Chair and Councillor Martin, Chair, assumed the Chair to continue deliberations on the Region's operating and capital budgets.

CLOSED SESSION

9. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

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

Carried.

10. Corporate Labour Relations Strategy

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Forster declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to matters relating to Corporate Labour Relations as she is employed by the Ontario Nurses Association and she therefore vacated the Council Chambers and took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Badaway

That this Committee do now rise without report.

Carried.

11. 2007 Current Budget

Following further discussion and questions on the 2007 budget, it was:

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Regional Council approve the 2007 Current Budget estimates and associated by-law relating to the Regional Departments Boards and Agencies:

Net Expenditure	\$293,814, 649.
Net Revenue	<u>(23,838,838.)</u>
Net Tax Levy	\$269,975,811.
Net Tax Levy Change 2006/07	\$ 9,347,911.
Waste Management Requisitions	\$ 29,327,259.
Waste Management Requisitions Change 2006/07	\$ 773,449.
Wastewater Requisitions	\$ 55,573,680.
Wastewater Requisitions Change 2006/07	\$ 722,680.
Water Requisitions	\$ 38,155,750.
Water Requisitions Change 2006/07	\$ 493,750.

Carried.

(Refer to staff directions.)

12. 2007 Capital Budget

Mr. Bergsma, provided a brief overview of the 2007 Capital Budget.

Moved by Councillor Heit
Seconded by Councillor McMullan

That \$1.5 million for the Greater Niagara Circle Route Trails System be removed from the Capital Budget.

Defeated.

13. Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Smeaton

That the 2007 Capital Budget for Regional Departments and Agencies, Boards and Commissions, excluding the Niagara Regional Police Service, as presented and listed below, be approved in principle and that staff be directed to review the forecast in 2007 with the objective of complying with the Capital Management Policy:

Gross Expenditures:

Corporate & Technology	\$2,850,000
Building & Equipment	4,697,630
Roads	28,032,000
Planning	1,500,000
Community Services	700,000
Public Health	1,320,000
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Auth.	2,948,240
Niagara Regional Housing	<u>2,938,900</u>
Total Levy	\$44,986,770

Wastewater	19,525,000
Water	10,700,000
Waste Management	<u>2,625,000</u>
Total Rate	\$32,850,000

Total Capital \$77,836,770

Financing Sources:

Reserves	\$46,109,817
Long-term Financing	20,239,298
External contributions	<u>11,487,655</u>
Total	\$77,836,770

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate bylaw(s) are prepared for presentation to Regional Council on March 1, 2007.

Carried.

14. Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor D'Angela

That Amended Report CSD 24-2007, March 1, 2007, respecting 2007 Budget, be received.

Carried.

15. Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor D'Angela

That Report CSD 29-2007, February 8, 2007, respecting Year End Forecast and Preliminary Report on Required Transfers for the Year Ended December 31, 2006 – Current Operations, be received.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Investigate and provide further clarification on the obligations of the Region to provide Police with safe and adequate facilities.
- (II) Provide a reconciliation of initiated and outstanding Capital Works Projects.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 8:35 p.m. to meet again at the Call of the Chair.

Doug Martin
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Tim Rigby
Vice-Chair

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk