

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**  
**BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**REPORT 2-2008 BUDGET**

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The Municipal Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara met in Budget Review Committee of the Whole in the Council Chamber, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, September 27, 2007, commencing at 4:10 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

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

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Farley, Acting Commissioner, Planning & Development; Friesen, Director, Waste Management Services; Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

(Part-Time): Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services, CSD; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services, P.H.; Mr. Kaas, Capital Analyst; Mr. Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Ms. Matthews-Malone, Director, Water and Wastewater Services; Mr. McQueen, Director, Administration; Mr. Murphy, Manager Policy & Development, Corporate Services; Ms. Murphy, Associate Director, Budgets & Reporting; Mr. Pilon, Executive Assistant to the Regional Chair; Mr. Roach, Manager, Public Works Financial Services.

**CALL TO ORDER**

5. Councillor Martin, Chair, Budget Review Committee of the Whole, called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### 6. 2008 Current and Capital Budget Update

Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services, provided a presentation on the status of the Current Budget preparation, highlighting the allocation methodology (Up to 3.4% overall to be allocated); EMS Challenges (Funding cap at 50% of 2006); and Benefits of Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Uploading. The 3.4% allocation includes: debt charges; hospital commitment; funds for Council new initiatives and pool for priority programs. This represents a net \$ target for departments and agencies (excluding Police) of 2.1%. The allocation set for the Police is 3.4%.

The ODSP Uploading was highlighted and Committee was advised that this would provide a significant positive revenue shift that would need to be managed effectively and could be used to help resolve the Region's infrastructure deficit or help with the affordability challenge. The impact on the budget for ODSP Uploading was presented as \$6.6 million for 2008.

The Commissioner advised that the principles for ODSP Uploading could be applied as follows:

- Use to offset continuing downloading
- Return to taxpayers
- Support Infrastructure
- Limit use for operations.

Following a discussion on the revenues with respect to ODSP Uploading, it was:

Moved by Councillor Badawey

Seconded by Councillor Hodgson

That \$6.6 million be allocated to the 2008 budget to reduce the net \$ target for departments and agencies below 2.1%.

Defeated.

For the next update on the budget process, staff was asked to provide further information on the benefits of ODSP uploading as well as the impact of downloading costs in other areas of the budget.

The Commissioner outlined the principles of the Capital Budget process in order to meet infrastructure needs; manage financing in a way that's affordable; split debt limit into "levy" and "rate"; stabilize levy; and match rate financing to asset life.

Moved by Councillor Burroughs  
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That the presentation from Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services, on the 2008 Current and Capital Budget, be received.

Carried.

### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

7. Moved by Councillor McMullan  
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That the responses to the Questions from the Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting of July 26, 2007 be received.

Carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

8. Moved by Councillor McMullan  
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Communication BRCOTW 1-2008, letter from Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (July 30, 2007) respecting Niagara Police Services Board – 2008 NRPS Budget-Timetable, Preparation Approach 140.2007, be received.

Carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Budget Review Committee of the Whole adjourned at 5:55 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Doug Martin  
Chair

Pam Gilroy  
Regional Clerk

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant