

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT 16-2007

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning and Public Works Committee held in Council Chambers, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, November 21, 2007 commencing at 1:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

- Committee: Councillors Smeaton, Co-Chair; Rigby, Co-Chair; Augustyn, Badawey, Baty, Burroughs, Casselman, D'Angela, Gabriel, Goulbourne, Henderson, Hodgson, Lepp, McMullan, Timms, Zimmerman
- Staff: Messrs. Farley, Director, Planning Services; Brothers, Commissioner, Public Works; Cousins, Director, Transportation Services; Friesen, Director, Waste Management Services; Baker, Associate Director, Water & Wastewater Engineering; Ms. Staines, Legislative Assistant.
- Others: Messrs. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services, Robson, Director of Community Integration; Pilon, Executive Assistant, Regional Chair

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

476. Street Furniture and Bus Shelters
On the Regional Road System
PWA 169-2007 Revised

Mr. Cousins, Director of Transportation Services, made a presentation clarifying his report. Mr. Cousins noted that staff was requesting authorization to renew one agreement with Olifas Marketing Group (OMG) to supply information bars and recycling bins, and authorization to enter into two new agreements: Pattison Industries for bus shelters and Creative Outdoor Advertising (COA) for benches.

Mr. Cousins noted that following Purchasing guidelines these contracts were being sole-sourced to the suppliers noted due to the significant infrastructure already in place. These vendors have agreements in place with transit authorities and the transit authorities are satisfied with the performance of the vendors. Regional staff will work with local transit authorities to determine the best locations of benches and shelters. Advertising revenue from Pattison and COA agreements will continue to

go to local transit authorities and the Region will have final approval as to design, character, construction, location, quantity and advertising content to address operational, safety and liability issues. There is cost recovery to the Region from the advertising on recycling bins to cover the cost of pick-up from the containers. Councillor Badawey requested Waste Management staff to ensure there is no duplication of pick-up routes with municipal contractors. In view of upcoming legislation, the design of the bus shelters may have to be adjusted to accommodate disabled patrons. Any concerns about revisions to bus shelter locations will be discussed with local municipalities. The vendors will be responsible for maintaining shelters and benches, etc. and there is a clause in the contracts concerning the timeframe for these maintenance and clean-up activities, such as the clean-up of graffiti.

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor McMullan

That Report PWA 169-2007 Revised, November 21, 2007, respecting Street Furniture and Bus Shelters On the Regional Road System be received **as amended**;

That staff be given approval to renew the Service Agreement with Olifas Marketing Group Inc. (OMG) Niagara to allow the placement of information/ recycling boxes, and information bars on Regional Roads;

That staff be given approval to negotiate a Service Agreement with Jim Pattison Industries Ltd. to allow the placement of transit shelters on Regional Roads;

That staff be given approval to negotiate a Service Agreement with Creative Outdoor Advertising (COA) to allow the placement of benches on Regional Roads;

That staff be given approval to terminate the Agreement between the Region of Niagara and the St. Catharines Transit Commission, which allows the placement of transit benches on Regional Roads within the City of St. Catharines;

That the revenue generated by the Agreements with Pattison Industries Ltd. and Creative Outdoor Advertising continue to be directed to the local transit authority, except for nominal fees which are intended to cover the Region's administrative costs;

That the Region harmonize the design of shelters, benches and bins, the revenue sharing agreements with transit authorities, and the timing of these agreements;

That the Region ensure accessibility and liability are covered by the agreements; and

That a copy of this report be submitted to all the local transit authorities for information purposes.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

477. Official Plan Amendment No. 38
Addition of a Site Specific Policy
To Permit Office Uses in the
Marine Commercial Area Designation
Foran's Marina, 15 Lake Street
Town of Grimsby
DPD 128-2007

Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report DPD 128-2007, November 21, 2007, respecting Official Plan Amendment No. 38, Addition of a Site Specific Policy To Permit Office Uses in the Marine Commercial Area Designation, Foran's Marina, 15 Lake Street, Town of Grimsby, be received;

That Amendment No. 38 to the Town of Grimsby Official Plan be approved;

That all parties be notified of Regional Council's decision on this application in accordance with Provincial regulations; and

That staff issue a notice of final decision for the Amendment 20 days after notice of Council's decision has been given provided that no appeals have been lodged against the decision.

Carried.

478. Assumption of Local Roads from the
Cities of Thorold and St. Catharines
PWA 167-2007

It was noted that there are set criteria for the Region assuming municipal roads, but that the circumstances surrounding certain roads can change due to development and traffic patterns altering their status under the criteria. This criteria is consistent throughout the Region. Mr. Cousins noted that jurisdiction over roads is being reviewed under their current study, Transportation Services Sustainability Review which will be complete before summer of next year. It was suggested that the Region wait until this report is complete before considering major concessions in

taking over jurisdiction of municipal roads, but there are exceptions where municipalities have requested immediate changes.

Moved by Councillor D'Angela
Seconded by Councillor McMullan

That Report PWA 167-2007, November 21, 2007, respecting Assumption of Local Roads from the Cities of Thorold and St. Catharines be received;

That, in accordance with Section 52 (1) of the Ontario Municipal Act, the Region assume jurisdiction for the following municipal highway in the City of Thorold:

Collier Road from Regional Road 67 (Beaverdams Road) to St. David's Road

That the Region also assume jurisdiction for the following municipal highway in the City of St. Catharines:

Burleigh Hill from St. David's Road to Regional Road 89 (Glendale Avenue)

That the Regional Clerk be instructed to ensure that the appropriate bylaw is prepared and presented to Regional Council to affect these changes; and

That other local roads in the City of Thorold be reviewed as part of the Transportation Services Sustainability Review to determine if they satisfy any of the Regional Road Criteria.

Carried.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

479. Regional Policy Plan Amendment #7-2007
Proposed Amendment to the Regional Niagara Policy Plan
Regional Road Allowance Policies
Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2007
Public Meeting: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Regional Municipality of Niagara
Council Chambers

Councillors: Lepp, _____, _____

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

480. Moved by Councillor McMullan
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That the following items be received for information:

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| PWP 72-2007 | Automated Solar Drying Bed Pilot
Project SW0523 |
| PWP 73-2007 | Traffic Signal Operation and Lane Assignments
Regional Road 46 (Geneva Street)
At Regional Road 91 (Westchester Avenue)
City of St. Catharines |
| PWP 75-2007 | Project Activity Report
Water & Wastewater Services |
| PWP 76-2007 | Project Activity Report
Transportation Services |

Carried.

481. Minutes of Meetings

Discussion took place concerning the Historical Designation of the Welland Canals Corridor, as noted in the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee minutes, and its relationship to Smart Growth. It was noted that the Designation of the Welland Canal would act as a catalyst for an increase in tourism as well as intensification along the corridor and urban revitalization. The old canals run through the urban cores of St. Catharines, Thorold, Welland and Port Colborne, which developed around the canals. The Designation would be helpful to the intensification and rejuvenation of the urban cores. It was noted that representatives from Parks Canada are in the area touring the old canal sites to determine if there is potential for designating the Corridor. Councillor Timms offered to meet with any municipal councils who would like more information on the Designation. It was cautioned that when looking at development along the Canal corridor, we must ensure that we are not impeding growth.

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That the following minutes of meetings be received for information.

Minutes	Smarter Niagara Steering Committee For Wednesday, October 24, 2007
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Minutes Culture Committee
For Monday, September 10, 2007

Minutes Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee
For Thursday, October 25, 2007

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

482. Executive Summary from the recently released document “The Toronto-Niagara Bike Train Initiative” describing the very successful pilot project and its impact on the Niagara area.
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PD 66-2007

It was noted that the Toronto-Niagara Bike Train Incentive was very successful and it is hoped to expand the service next year to include more stops. Councillor Burroughs thanked Council for supporting the pilot program. The program has the strong support of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce and the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That Correspondence Item PD 66-2007, an Executive Summary from the recently released document “The Toronto-Niagara Bike Train Initiative” describing the very successful pilot project and its impact on the Niagara area, be received for information.

Carried.

483. Letter from City of Port Colborne Re:
Re-assuming Killaly Street West by Region

PWC 45-2007

Moved by Councillor Badawey
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That Correspondence Item PWC 45-2007, Letter from City of Port Colborne Re: Re-assuming Killaly Street West by Region, be received and referred to the Transportation Services Division.

Carried.

484. Letter from The Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships
Re: Conference November 27, 2007
PWC 46-2007

Moved by Councillor McMullan
Seconded by Councillor Zimmerman

That Correspondence Item PWC 45-2007, a letter from the Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships, Re: Conference November 27, 2007, be received for information.

Carried.

485. Letter from the Clerk, City of Niagara Falls,
Re: Levels of Service - Waste Management
PWC 47-2007

Discussion took place on the meaning of the term "full user pay system" as mentioned in the letter from Niagara Falls. There were different interpretations of the term.

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Badawey

That the Letter from the Clerk, City of Niagara Falls, Re: Levels of Service - Waste Management, be received and referred to Waste Management Services.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

OTHER BUSINESS

486. Waste Management Initiatives in Other Municipalities

Recent announcements from the City of Hamilton and City of Toronto respecting new Waste Management initiatives were discussed, including reduced container limits in the City of Hamilton and the new wheeled bins being recommended in Toronto. Discussion related to potential costs and potential impact on the rate of diversion. Mr. Friesen advised that his staff are presently preparing a report addressing these issues and this will be available early in the New Year. Possible pilot programs in Thorold and/or Pelham respecting different options, such as supplying containers, less frequent pick-up of garbage and using clear bags, will be addressed in the report.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

487. Police Services Accommodation Strategy

Questions were raised concerning the four options proposed by the Police Services Board in their Accommodation study, and their relationship to the Smart Growth and Provincial Growth Plan principles, and the Region's Growth Management Strategy. It was proposed that the Planning Department prepare a report relating each option to these strategies, with possible input from NEDCO regarding economic impacts of the different options. Councillor Smeaton agreed to supply Mr. Farley with details of the four options proposed, but assured Committee that their concerns had been considered by the Board and their comments logged. Timing of this request for report was discussed, whether to ask for the Planning report now or wait until after the Board had made its recommendation to Council in December. It was noted that this would be a recommendation by the Board based on the Police Services economic considerations, and that Council did not need to approve this recommendation at this time. In fact this would be the first step in the deliberations by Council, and reports from staff could be requested on different aspects of the recommendation at that time. It was suggested that Planning staff pull together the information needed now so that they will be well prepared when the information is requested.

It was noted that on September 6, 2007, Committee of the Whole approved a staff direction to "investigate a mechanism that provides for a collaborative approach to the implementation of the Niagara Regional Police Service Long-Term Accommodations Strategy and at the same time respecting the authority and responsibilities of the Niagara Regional Police Services Board and the Niagara Region".

It was agreed to ask the CAO to report to the next Council meeting on the collaborative efforts between the Police Services Board and Regional staff between the September 6, 2007 staff direction and the present date. It was agreed to add a Staff Direction to the Planning and NEDCO staff to gather information concerning the planning and economic impacts of the four alternatives proposed by the Police Services Board.

Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Mr. Trojan be asked to report to the next Council meeting quantifying what has been done to move forward the September 2007 staff direction noted above; and

That Planning and NEDCO staff gather information concerning the planning and economic aspects of the four alternatives proposed by the Police Service Board in their Accommodations Strategy.

Carried.

488. Sewage Lagoons, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Councillor Burroughs extended his appreciation to Public Works staff and in particular Water & Wastewater staff for their efforts respecting the Sewage Lagoons in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He noted, however, that in PWP 75-2007 there was no mention of a plan to fix the problem in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

489. Biosolids

Councillor Burroughs noted that the biosolids from the Stanley Street facility are not going to treatment at Walkers but instead are going to landfill.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

490. Noise Barriers

Councillor Zimmerman thanked Mr. Brothers and his staff for their work on the noise barriers in Grimsby.

491. Transportation Services Staff

Councillor Zimmerman noted that the Transportation Strategy Steering Committee (TSSC) very strongly supported the assignment of appropriate staff to transit issues. Councillor Zimmerman requested that appropriate staff be assigned to assist with transit studies requested by the TSSC. Mr. Brothers advised he is working with the Human Resources Commissioner to resolve the issues in the Transportation Services Division.

492. Medians on Regional Road 20

Pelham Council have requested the Region to take a second look at the medians on Regional Road 20 in light of the accident statistics in this area. Councillor Augustyn thanked Regional Transportation staff for their cooperation in reviewing this issue.

CLOSED SESSION

493. Moved by Councillor Lepp
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 property and personnel matters.

Carried.

494. Operations Support Services
Reorganization Implementation Update
PWA 164-2007 (CSD 172-2007) (Confidential)

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Confidential Report PWA 164-2007, (CSD 172-2007) November 21, 2007, respecting Operational Support Services, Reorganization Implementation Update, be received and referred to the Regional Council meeting of November 29, 2007, together with Report CAO 3-2007 and pertinent background information, for consideration at that time.

Carried.

495. Legal Matter – Recycling Operation

Discussion took place regarding a legal matter related to recycling.

496. Moved by Councillor Lepp
Seconded by Councillor McMullan

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

Staff was requested to:

- Provide Councillor Burroughs with information respecting revenue from advertising on recycling containers, benches and shelters (See Minute Item #476)
- Provide a written report on the Canals Corridor Historical Designation including that the Designation will not impede development and economic goals and demonstrating how the Designation will reflect Smart Growth (See Minute Item #481).
- Contact City of Niagara Falls to determine meaning of the phrase “full user pay system” in their letter (See Minute Item #485).
- Provide details of the Hamilton recommendation to reduce bag limit to one garbage bag per week.(See Minute Item #486).
- Provide Councillor Burroughs with report on how the Region is going to fix the capacity crisis in Niagara-on-the-Lake (See Minute Item #488).
- Provide Councillor Burroughs with the costs per tonne of landfilling the biosolids from the Stanley Street facility.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3:10 p.m., to meet again on Wednesday, December 12, 2007 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters.

Bill Smeaton
Co-Chair

Tim Rigby
Co-Chair

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk

Betty Staines
Legislative Assistant