

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

REPORT 1-2007

The Municipal Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara met in Committee of the Whole, Budget Review Committee in the Council Chamber, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, January 18, 2007, commencing at 4:01 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Cambray, Commissioner, Planning and Development; Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Neville, Commissioner of Public Works; Bergsma, Commissioner of Corporate Services; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Pilon, Deputy Clerk.

Staff

(Part-Time): Messrs. Lockyer, Treasurer; Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Bernard, Manager Court Services; Friesen, Director, Waste Management; Draper, Business Partner, Strategic Communication; Jones, Director, Administrative Services, Public Health; Kaas, Capital Assets Analyst; Cousins, Director, Transportation Services; Roach, Manager, Public Works Financial Services; Oatley, Acting Director, Water & Wastewater Services; Baker, Associate Director, Water & Wastewater Engineering; McQueen, Director, Administration; Pilon, Coordinator, Communications; Ms. Murphy, Associate Director, Current & Capital Budgets; Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services, Community Services; Ms. Crowley, Current Budget Analyst.

Others: Messrs. Gedge, CEO, Niagara Economic Development Corporation; Burt, General Manager, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority; Ms. Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing.

CALL TO ORDER

1. Regional Chair Partington called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2. Moved by Councillor Salci
Seconded by Councillor Smeaton

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

Carried.

**ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF
BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE**

3. Regional Chair Partington called for nominations for Chair of the Budget Review Committee.

Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Councillor Martin be appointed Chair of the Budget Review Committee.

Carried.

Regional Chair Partington called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Chair of the Budget Review Committee.

Moved by Councillor Puttick
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That nominations for the position of Chair of the Budget Review Committee be closed.

Carried.

There being no other nominations, Regional Chair Partington, with the agreement of Councillor Martin, declared him Chair of the Budget Review Committee.

Regional Chair Partington called for nominations for Vice Chair of the Budget Review Committee.

Moved by Councillor Smeaton
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Councillor Rigby be appointed Vice Chair of the Budget Review Committee.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Councillor Zimmerman be appointed Vice Chair of the Budget Review Committee.

Carried.

Regional Chair Partington called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Budget Review Committee.

Moved by Councillor Badawey
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Budget Review Committee be closed.

Carried.

There being no other nominations, Regional Chair Partington, with the agreement of Regional Council, took a vote by show of hands, which resulted in Councillor Rigby, being declared Vice Chair of the Budget Review Committee.

Regional Chair Partington, with the agreement of Councillor Rigby declared him Vice Chair of the Budget Review Committee.

Councillor Martin assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

PRESENTATION

4. 2007 Budget

Regional Council received overviews of the 2007 Departmental Budgets as noted in the Report CSD 24-2007, respecting the 2007 Budget and requested that the following additional information be available for their next meeting or in advance of their next meeting on February 8, 2007:

- The Child Poverty Update report – Mr. Hutchings advised that staff will attempt to have the report prepared for the PHSS meeting on January 30th. Councillor Puttick asked for the number of individuals living in poverty in Niagara and the amount of money required to remedy the situation.
- Actual to Actual figures by February 8th – Mr. Lockyer noted that the two year end reports that are prepared will be available at the next meeting.
- That staff acknowledge new revenue sources and the funds that represent uploading, to ensure that Niagara has a way of doing a tally of what Niagara has received and what Niagara has yet to receive.
- A list the drivers (i.e. regulatory compliance – as with the new water regulations the FTE required to do the paperwork)
- That staff provide information on the inflationary levels and service levels, to illustrate where the province is meeting the needs they have set and where they have not met the needs they have set over the years.
- That staff provide Regional Council with: What the changes are; what is the gross differences and what has Niagara done with these differences.
- Departmental 2007 Budget presentations are to be sent to the Councillors as soon as possible, as they should have been included in the agenda packages.
- Regional Council would like to see a further breakdown that illustrates the affects of the reductions in the budgets.

Budget Review Committee was advised that the 2007 Budget must be approved by March 31, 2007.

RECESS

The Committee of the Whole – Budget Review Committee recessed at 6:00 p.m. for dinner, to reconvene following the Regional Council presentations.

RECONVENE

Committee of the Whole – Budget Review Committee reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

Regional Council continued with the presentations on the 2007 Departmental Budgets and requested that the following additional information be available for their next meeting on February 8, 2007:

- ❑ Regional Council requested that Mr. Patrick Gedge, CEO, Niagara Economic Development Corporation be in attendance at the January 31st Corporate Services Committee meeting, in order to answer the Committee members questions.
- ❑ Regional Council requested that staff take into account the risks of using the Reserves when developing the 2007 Budget.
- ❑ Schedule A and B, Capital Levy – there seems to be an error, staff was asked to review.
- ❑ Regional Council requested a list of those affordable options being discussed at the CAO's meeting Re: Making Government Services More Affordable.
- ❑ Regional Council requested a list of Reserve Funds, detailing how they stand for this year and last year.
- ❑ Regional Council requested more information respecting the water and wastewater and the debt charges.

REPORT

5. **2007 Budget**
CSD 24-2007

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report CSD 24-2007, January 18, 2007, respecting the 2007 Budget, be received and referred to Standing Committees January 30th and 31st, 2007 and Budget Review Committee February 8, 2007.

Carried.

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

6. Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Councillor Smeaton

That this Council do now rise from Committee of the Whole – Budget Review Committee.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee of the Whole - Budget Review Committee adjourned at 9:00 p.m. to meet again on February 8th to receive the balance of the presentation on the 2007 Capital Budget.

Peter Partington
Regional Chair

Janet Pilon
Deputy Clerk

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk