

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 14-2008

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, October 29, 2008, commencing at 9:05 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Martin and Collins, Co-Chairs; Partington, Regional Chair; Augustyn; Badawey; Burroughs; Bylsma; Casselman; D'Angela; Greenwood; Henderson; Puttick; Saracino.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Others: Corporate Services: Mr. Bendell, Financial Analyst; Mr. Bernard, Associate Director, Court Services; Mr. Inman, Associate Director, Energy Management; Mr. Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director, Financial Management & Planning; Ms. Maleszyk, Purchasing Manager; Mr. Moffat, Manager, Property Management; Mr. J. Murphy, Manager, Policy and Development; Mr. Pilon, Associate Director, Service Quality & Improvement; Ms. Rae, Legal Counsel; Mr. Roach, Manager, Public Works Financial Services.

Human Resources: Ms. Elliott, Acting Human Resources Lead.

Administration: Mr. Weaver, Manager, Special Initiatives.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

235. Investigation of Reduction in Business Education Tax (Industrial Portion)
CSD 139-2008

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report CSD 139-2008, October 29, 2008, respecting Investigation of Reduction Business Education Tax (Industrial Portion), be received **as amended**; and

That the information in the report outlining the potential reductions in the industrial portion of the Business Education Tax (BET) be received; and

That Council authorize staff to work with the office of the Regional Chair to actively pursue these reductions through discussions with the provinces; and

That the Chair organize a delegation to meet with the Minister of Finance and Minister of Municipal Affairs to discuss the acceleration of the reduction in the industrial portion of the Business Education Tax for the Niagara Region.

Carried.

(Councillors Burroughs and Martin advised they would like to be part of the above delegation.)

236. Municipal Eco Challenge Funding (MECF) Award
Environmental Centre Energy Retrofit Project
CSD 140-2008 (PWA 114-2008)

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That Report CSD 140-2008 (PWA 114-2008), respecting Municipal Eco Challenge Funding (MECF) Award, Environmental Centre Energy Retrofit Project, be received for information.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute a Contribution Agreement with the Province of Ontario to receive \$100,000 in grant funding.

Carried.

(Please note that Report CSD 140-2008 (PWA 114-2008) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

237. Transfer of Funds – Contract RN 05-45
Port Dalhousie Wastewater Treatment Plant
Upgrades – Phase 3, City of St. Catharines
CSD 141-2008 (PWA 115-2008) Revised

Moved by Councillor Augustyn
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report CSD 141-2008 (PWA 115-2008) Revised, October 29, 2008, respecting Transfer of Funds – Contract RN 05-45 Port Dalhousie Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades – Phase 3, City of St. Catharines, be received.

That previously approved Wastewater Reserve Fund financing in the amount of \$240,000 be transferred from Project ZSW0209/SW0209, Gravity Sewer on Rice Road and Quaker Road to Project ZSW9816/SW0422 Port Dalhousie WWTP Upgrades – Phase 3.

That payment in the amount of \$200,000 be approved to Graham Construction and Engineering Inc. for construction services and that payment in the amount of \$88,014 be approved to R.V. Anderson Associates Limited for engineering services for the Port Dalhousie Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 3 Upgrade, Contract RN 05-45, in the City of St. Catharines.

That these costs be charged against Project ZSW9816/SW0422.

Carried.

(Please note that Report CSD 141-2008 (PWA 115-2008) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

238. Summary of Quotations, Tenders and Authorizations
Second Quarter 2008 According to Purchasing Policy C3.PO2
CSD 132-2008

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That Report CSD 132-2008, October 29, 2008, respecting Summary of Quotations, Tenders and Authorizations Second Quarter 2008 According to Purchasing Policy C3.P02, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

239. Outstanding Financing Lease Obligations
As of December 31, 2007
CSD 133-2008

Moved by Councillor Badawey
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report CSD 133-2008, October 29, 2008, respecting Outstanding Financing Lease Obligations as of December 31, 2007, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

CORRESPONDENCE

Conflict of Interest

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

240. Moved by Councillor Badawey
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Communication CSC 56-2008 from Deb Morton, Executive Director, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (October 3, 2008) regarding NRPS Variance Report to August 31, 2008, 234.2008, be received.

Carried.

241. Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Communication CSC 57-2008 from Larry A. Iggulden, Board Chair, Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board (October 3, 2008) regarding Niagara Police Services Board – Member Remuneration, be received and referred to staff for a report to Committee.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

MINUTES

242. 4-2008 (JBM)

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That Report 4-2008 being the minutes of the Joint Board of Management Niagara Region Courts meeting of Thursday, September 25, 2008, be received and approved, except minute 28 regarding the POA Administration 2009 Operating Budget, which is referred to the Budget Review Committee of the Whole.

Carried.

243. 6-2008 (JAC)

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Collins

That Report 6-2008 being the minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee Wainfleet Water & Wastewater Servicing Project meeting of Monday, September 22, 2008, be received.

Carried.

(Please note that Report 6-2008, minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee Wainfleet Water & Wastewater Servicing Project meeting, can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab.)

OTHER BUSINESS

244. Revised Timetable for Passing
New Development Charges By-law

A revised timetable for passing the new Development Charges By-law was circulated to Committee. Following review of the timetable, concerns were expressed regarding the proposed date of December 18, 2008 for Council's approval of the recommended policy changes for incorporation into the proposed new by-law. Committee concurred that this matter would require public consultation with a fulsome discussion and presentations (from Community stakeholders) at the Council meeting and that there would not be enough time at the December 18th meeting to deal with this matter.

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Badawey

That the date set for Council's approval of the recommended policy changes for incorporation into proposed new Development Charges By-law be changed from December 18, 2008 to January 22, 2009 and the timetable amended accordingly.

Carried.

245. Property Taxes – Community Living Organization

Councillor Badawey inquired as to whether the Region paid property taxes on its facilities for which Mr. Bergsma advised that the Region does not pay taxes on its owned facilities but does pay taxes on its leased facilities. Councillor Badawey expressed the concerns of Port Colborne's Community Living Organization, a non-profit organization, which must pay property taxes even though it is funded by the Province. Councillor Badawey advised that they would like to bring this matter to the Minister of Social Services to request they revisit this issue and asked for staff's assistance in preparing a comprehensive report for discussion and consideration by the Province. Mr. Bergsma commented that staff would meet with Councillor Badawey and Port Colborne staff to exchange information on this matter.

246. Joint Reports

Councillor Casselman referred to Planning Report DPD 47-2008 and commented that future reports of this type should be joint reports to the Corporate Services Committee as they require financing approval.

247. Blackberries

Councillor Puttick inquired as to who determines what model of blackberry is provided to Councillors. Mr. Bergsma advised that the Information Technology group who handle telephone requirements would make recommendations on what models would be appropriate. Some committee members expressed their concerns regarding differential treatment for Councillors regarding the distribution of technology. Councillor Collins commented that this matter is being dealt with through the Council Organization Review Committee (CORC) and further information on this matter will be brought forward to Council soon.

248. Presentations – Taxpayer Affordability – Current & Capital Budgets

Mr. Bergsma advised that he made a presentation to the St. Catharines-Thorold Chamber of Commerce regarding “Taxpayer Affordability” and shared information regarding Council’s guidelines with respect to the Niagara Region’s Current and Capital Budgets. The Commissioner advised that there have been requests to provide these presentations to area municipalities and requested Committee’s input regarding this. Some members commented that they did not feel that this was necessary as the municipalities do not share their budget strategies with the Region. However, if an area municipality requests this information, the Region should be receptive.

CLOSED SESSION

249. Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Collins

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to the Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality, Reconstruction of Regional Road No. 20, City of Thorold and Town of Pelham; a Matter of Labour Relations – Recruitment of Commissioner of Integrated Community Planning and an oral report from the CAO regarding another matter of labour relations.

Carried.

250. Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality
Reconstruction of Regional Road No. 20
City of Thorold and Town of Pelham
CSD 134-2008 (PWA 110-2008) Confidential

Moved by Councillor Augustyn
Seconded by Councillor D'Angela

That Confidential Report CSD 134-2008 (PWA 110-2008), October 29, 2008, respecting Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality Reconstruction of Regional Road No. 20, City of Thorold and Town of Pelham, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

251. A Matter of Labour Relations - Recruitment of
Commissioner of Integrated Community Planning
CAO 10-2008 Confidential

Moved by Councillor Burroughs
Seconded by Councillor Badawey

That Confidential Report CAO 10-2008, respecting A Matter of Labour Relations – Recruitment of Commissioner of Integrated Community Planning, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

252. Oral Report – M. Trojan
Re: A Matter of Labour Relations

Moved by Councillor Badawey
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That the oral report on a matter of labour relations provided by Mike Trojan, CAO, be received.

Carried.

253. Moved by Councillor Badawey
Seconded by Councillor Bylsma

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

That staff:

- (i) Provide a list of incomplete or expired projects and related disposition of funds. (G. Burroughs/D. Augustyn) Refer to minute 237.
- (ii) Provide more information regarding item 43 (what is it for) and items 32 and 35 (who pays) with respect to "Purchases by Bid Solicitations" summary attached to Report CSD 132-2008. (Augustyn) Refer to minute 238.
- (iii) Provide background information on Regional Facilities Leases/Rentals for the amount of \$8,999,472, historical lease information, as well as note regarding reductions in leases due to purchase of facility. (Committee members) Refer to minute 239.
- (iv) Prepare a report regarding the Police Board Remuneration matter including a comparison of remuneration for other boards/agencies and further information on what other Police Services Boards pay their board members. (Partington/Badawey) Refer to minute 241.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 11:15 a.m. to meet again on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Doug Martin
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Michael Collins
Co-Chair

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk