

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
REPORT 3-2010 BUDGET

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Review Committee of the Whole held in Council Chambers, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, October 15, 2009, commencing at 4:20 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

- Committee: Councillors Martin, Chair; Augustyn; Badawey; Baty; Burroughs; Casselman; Cordiner; D'Angela; Gabriel; Garcia; Goulbourne; Greenwood; Henderson; Hodgson; Lepp; Marshall; Rigby; Salci; Smeaton; Timms; Zimmerman.
- Staff: Mr. Trojan, C.A.O.; Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Mr. Brothers, Commissioner, Public Works; Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Mr. Weaver, Director, Community and Corporate Planning; Mr. McQueen, Operating Officer, PH; Mr. Bain, Regional Clerk; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.
- Staff (Others): Corporate Services: Ms. Brens, Tangible Capital Assets Management; Ms. Crowley, Current Budget Analyst; Mr. Diakow, Director, IT Solutions; Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director, Financial Management & Planning; Ms. Murphy, Associate Director, Current & Capital Budgets; Mr. Pilon, Associate Director, Service Quality & Improvement; Mr. Roach, Manager, Public Works Financial Services; Ms. Stranges, Capital Assets Analyst.
Administration: Mr. Weir, Director, Administration.
Public Health: Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services, P.H.; Van Valkenberg, Associate Director, EMS.
Public Works: Mr. Hughes, Associate Director, Transportation Services; Mr. Pollock, Director, Waste Management Services; Mr. Steele, Associate Director, Strategic Business Management.
- Others: Ms. Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing (NRH); Ms. Mino, Financial Program Analyst, NRH; Mr. D'Amario, CEO, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

CALL TO ORDER

14. Councillor Martin, Chair, Budget Review Committee of the Whole, called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING

15. Councillor Martin announced that, in accordance with the Region's Public Notice Policy, a Public Notice was placed on the Region's website on September 29, 2009 and published in the daily newspapers in the Region on September 29, 2009 advising of a public meeting of the Budget Review Committee of the Whole to be held on Thursday, October 15, 2009 at 4 p.m. with respect to the Capital Budget and inviting public input at this Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting.

Councillor Martin asked if there was anyone in the Chambers that would like to speak to the Capital Budget.

Rob DePetris, President of the Board of Directors of the St. Catharines-Thorold Chamber of Commerce requested to speak and he was joined by Kithio Mwanzia, the Chamber's Policy Coordinator and Walter Sendzik, Executive Vice President and General Manager was in the audience.

16. St. Catharines-Thorold Chamber of Commerce Presentation

Mr. DePetris thanked Regional Council for providing an opportunity for stakeholder input on the Niagara Region's 2010 Capital Budget. He noted it was an important step in making the overall Regional budget process more transparent and receiving input from the business community. Mr. DePetris spoke to the 10 year capital affordability strategy and the exploration of public-private partnerships as well as the impacts of One Time Transfers; Development Charges and Uploading decisions.

In closing Mr. DePetris put forward the following questions for consideration:

- (i) With these changes made in the 10 Year Capital Affordability Strategy, what impact will now be had on Operating budgets moving forward, and on the Tax Base?
- (ii) What formal policy decision has the Region taken to include public-private consideration thresholds as part of managing capital costs moving forward?

- (iii) How has the Regional Council Business Plan 2007-2011 been factored into the Capital Budget Forecasts for 2010?
- (iv) When will the public have input on the use of uploading from the provincial government?

(A copy of the St. Catharines-Thorold Chamber of Commerce presentation is attached to the minutes.)

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That the presentation from the St. Catharines-Thorold Chamber of Commerce respecting the 2010 Capital Budget, be received.

Carried.

After this presentation, there were no other members of the Public in attendance who wished to speak with respect to the 2010 Capital Budget.

PRESENTATION

17. 2010 Capital Budget & Business Case Update

Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services, provided the Committee with a presentation on the 2010 Capital Budget and Business Case Update. The presentation included detailed information on budget affordability vs. requests. The following option was presented for the preliminary Capital Budget to commence budget discussions:

	<u>Request</u>	<u>Affordability</u>
Levy (w/o ABCs)	\$ 71.7	\$ 63.1
Rate	\$ 45.6	\$ 45.6
ABCs	\$ 9.2	\$ 9.2
Subtotal	\$126.5	
2010 Affordability		\$117.9
Police (not funded)	\$ 14.4	\$ 14.4 (future)
Budget Approval		\$132.3

A list of projects for the 2010 Preliminary Capital Budget was circulated for information and discussion.

Mr. Bergsma outlined the following schedule as the next steps for consideration of the Capital Budget:

Further CMT review/apply filters	Oct. 20, 22
Committee Discussion	Nov. 3, 4
Seek BRC approval	Nov. 5
Capital Affordability Update	Q1 2010

(A copy of Mr. Bergsma's presentation on the 2010 Capital Budget & Business Case Update and the list of projects for the 2010 Preliminary Capital Budget are attached to the minutes.)

ADJOURNMENT

At this point the Budget Review Committee of the Whole lost quorum and the Committee adjourned at 6:18 p.m. to meet again on November 5, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Doug Martin
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Kevin Bain
Regional Clerk