

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**  
**BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**REPORT 6-2010 BUDGET**

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Minutes of a meeting of the Budget Review Committee of the Whole held in Council Chambers, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, November 26, 2009, commencing at 4:23 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Councillors Rigby, Vice-Chair presiding; Augustyn; Badawey; Baty; Bentley; Burroughs; Bylsma; Casselman; Cordiner; D'Angela; Forster; Gabriel; Garcia; Goulbourne; Heit; Henderson; Hodgson; Lepp; Marshall; McMullan; Puttick; Smeaton; Timms; Trombetta; Zimmerman.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Mr. Brothers, Commissioner, Public Works; Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Mr. Robson, Commissioner, Integrated Community Planning; Mr. McQueen, Operating Officer, PH; Mr. Bain, Regional Clerk; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff (Others): Corporate Services: Mr. Armstrong, Manager, Organization & Leadership Development; Mr. Bernard, Associate Director, Court Services; Ms. Brens, Tangible Capital Assets Analyst; Ms. Crowley, Current Budget Analyst; Mr. Diakow, Director, IT Solutions; Ms. Elliott, Director, Human Resources; Mr. Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Ms. Learn, Director, Employment Service Centre; 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. Rose, Court Supervisor; Ms. Stranges, Capital Assets Analyst.

Administration: Mr. Roberts, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair; Mr. Weir, Director, Administration.

Community Services: Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services.

Integrated Community Planning: Mr. Bertleff, Associate Director, Emergency Planning; Ms. Papaiz, Senior Manager, Corporate Communications; Mr. Weaver, Director, Corporate & Community Planning.

Public Health: Mr. Cunnane, Director, E.M.S.; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services, P.H.; Mr. Kaas, Financial Services Manager; Mr. Van Valkenberg, Associate Director, E.M.S.

Public Works: Mr. Baker, Associate Director, Water & Wastewater Engineering; Mr. Colosimo, Director, Development Services; Mr. Cousins, Director, Transportation Services; Ms. Matthews-Malone, Director, Water & Wastewater Services; Mr. Moate, Manager, Infrastructure Asset Planning Management; Mr. Pollock, Director, Waste Management Services; Mr. Steele, Associate Director, Strategic Business Management.

Others: Ms. Mino, Financial Program Analyst, Niagara Regional Housing.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

29. Councillor Rigby, Vice-Chair, Budget Review Committee of the Whole, called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

30. Mr. Andy Petrowski, Resident

Mr. Andy Petrowski, resident, St. Catharines, attended to further express his concerns regarding the Niagara Region's 2010 Operating Budget. The presenter requested that consideration be given to using investment funds to pay for programs thereby reducing proposed increases to the taxpayer to "zero". He asked that the Region prioritize its spending for programs to assist homelessness; domestic abuse; other social welfare issues, as well as ambulance dispatch and health care.

Mr. Petrowski also asked that staff salaries be frozen and that the Region not hire any new employees as proposed in the 2010 Budget. The presenter also commented that he had been made aware of a report prepared several years ago by a consultant regarding staff inefficiencies within the Region and asked that this report be brought forward to the Budget Review Committee of the Whole for review.

Moved by Councillor Zimmerman  
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That the presentation from Mr. Andy Petrowski, Resident, St. Catharines regarding the "Draft" 2010 Operating Budget, be received and referred to the Budget Review Committee of the Whole.

Carried.

Staff was asked to meet with Mr. Petrowski to obtain the name of the consultant and further information on the confidential report Mr. Petrowski referred to related to staff inefficiencies.

Moved by Councillor Puttick  
Seconded by Councillor Badawey

That staff review the report related to staff inefficiencies and report to Council.

Carried.

### **DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

#### 31. Integrated Community Planning 2010 Operating Budget

Mr. Robson, Commissioner, Integrated Community Planning, provided an overview of the proposed 2010 Integrated Community Planning Operating Budget, highlighting the pressures and mitigation measures within the budget. The ICP Budget consists of Administration; Community & Corporate Planning; Corporate Communications; Regional Emergency Planning; Office of the Regional Clerk; and Regional Policy Planning. Mr. Robson provided a budget summary for each Division within the department.

The 2010 Integrated Community Planning Budget proposes net expenditures of \$6,156,413, representing a net increase over 2009 of \$107,909. This increase is attributed to salaries/benefits and inflationary increases and the proposed program change of \$69,961 (to be funded from a combination of One time funding and Mitigation fund).

Moved by Councillor Smeaton  
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That the 2010 Integrated Community Planning Operating Budget be received and referred to the Budget Review Committee of the Whole for consideration with the consolidated budget.

Carried.

(The 2010 Integrated Community Planning Operating Budget is attached to the minutes.)

32. Budget Review Committee of the Whole Agenda, November 26, 2009

A discussion ensued with respect to time restraints and completion of agenda business and the following motion was passed:

Moved by Councillor Trombetta  
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That the Budget Review Committee of the Whole receive the presentation on the Public Works Department 2010 Current Budget and deal with the Niagara Central Airport matter, as requested by Councillor Augustyn, and that the remainder of the business of the November 26<sup>th</sup> Budget Review Committee Agenda be referred to the next Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2009.

Carried.

33. Public Works Department 2010 Current Budget Presentation

Mr. Brothers, Commissioner, Public Works Department, provided an overview of the proposed Public Works 2010 Current Budget. Mr. Brothers provided a breakdown of net expenditures for the Public Works Budget which includes Administration; Development; Transportation; Waste Management; Wastewater and Water. The 2010 Public Works Department Budget proposes net expenditures of \$157,706,334, which represents a 3.2% change over the 2009 net expenditures of \$152,810,809. Mitigation funds were used to achieve the Region's target of 3%.

*Transportation Services*

Mr. Cousins, Director, Transportation Services Division, provided an overview of the Division's programs which include Operations; Engineering; Transportation Systems and Fleet Services, highlighting budget pressures, mitigation measures and program changes for each. Also provided were program details, savings & budget reductions and performance metrics.

The 2010 Budget for Transportation Services proposes net expenditures of \$21,910,635, which represents a net increase of \$898,688 or 4.28% over the 2009 Budget.

*Development Services Division*

Mr. Colosimo, Director, Development Services, provided an overview of the Division's programs which include Development Engineering; Development Initiatives and Development Planning, highlighting budget pressures, mitigation measures and program changes for each. Also provided were program details, savings & budget reductions and performance metrics.

The 2010 Budget for Development Services proposes net expenditures of \$788,411, which represents a net decrease of (3.9%) over the 2009 Budget.

*Waste Management Services Division*

Mr. Pollock, Director, Waste Management Services, provided an overview of the Division's programs which include Waste Disposal Operations; Collection & Diversion; Engineering & Compliance and Policy & Planning, highlighting budget pressures, mitigation measures and program changes for each. Also provided were program details, savings & budget reductions and performance metrics.

The 2010 Budget for Waste Management Services proposes total gross expenditures (after contribution to Reserves for Capital) of \$47,157,005 or 8.3% change over 2009. Total Municipal Requisitions, less total revenues of \$14,034,672, are proposed at \$33,122,333 or 3.3% increase over 2009. It was noted that there was an increase in revenues of 22.3%. An allocation of \$100,000 from the Corporate Mitigation Fund to fund peak season yard waste collection allows the Division to meet the Regional Corporation target of 3%.

*Water & Wastewater Services Division*

Ms. Mathews-Malone, Director, Water & Wastewater Services, provided an overview of the Division's programs which include Water & Wastewater Engineering; Water Operations; Wastewater Operations; and Water & Wastewater Maintenance, highlighting budget pressures, mitigation measures and program changes for each. Also provided were program details, savings & budget reductions and performance metrics.

The 2010 Water Budget proposes net expenditures of \$16,260,961, representing a net increase of \$315,820 or 2.0% over 2009. Following a capital contribution of \$25,575,405, the 2010 net requisition amount is proposed at \$42,018,366 or a net increase of \$1,223,916 or 3.0% over 2009.

The 2010 Wastewater Budget proposes net expenditures of \$32,512,457, representing a net increase of \$1,257,268 or 4.0% over 2009. Following a capital contribution of \$26,878,581, the 2010 net requisition amount is proposed at \$59,391,038 or a net increase of \$1,729,836 or 3.0% over 2009.

Moved by Councillor Gabriel  
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That the 2010 Public Works Department Current Budget be received and referred to the Budget Review Committee of the Whole for consideration with the consolidated budget.

Carried.

(The 2010 Public Works Department Current Budget is attached to the minutes.)

### **NIAGARA CENTRAL AIRPORT REQUEST**

34. Councillor Augustyn requested that the Niagara Central Airport request for funding be dealt with this evening due to time restraints related to a Federal funding application.

Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That the Region provide the Niagara Central Airport (NCA) with capital funding of 1/3 of the \$1.6 million request subject to NCA securing the remaining 2/3; and

That Corporate Services and Niagara Economic Development Corporation (NEDC) assist the Niagara Central Airport in securing funds from other sources.

Moved by Councillor Augustyn  
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That the motion, be **amended**, as follows:

That the Region provide the Niagara Central Airport (NCA) with capital funding of **1/2 of the \$1.6 million request subject to NCA securing the remaining 1/2.**

Upon a recorded vote being requested, the Committee was divided on the **amended** motion as follows:

Voting for the Motion:

Councillor Augustyn  
Councillor Badawey  
Councillor Baty  
Councillor Burroughs  
Councillor Forster  
Councillor Henderson  
Councillor Timms

(7)

Voting against the Motion:

Councillor Bylsma  
Councillor Cordiner  
Councillor Casselman  
Councillor Gabriel  
Councillor Goulbourne  
Councillor Heit  
Councillor Hodgson  
Councillor Lepp  
Councillor Rigby  
Councillor Smeaton  
Councillor Trombetta

(11)

Upon a recorded vote being held, the **amended motion** was defeated.

Upon a recorded vote being requested on the original motion, the Committee was divided on the motion as follows:

Voting for the motion:

Councillor Augustyn  
Councillor Badawey  
Councillor Baty  
Councillor Burroughs  
Councillor Cordiner  
Councillor Forster  
Councillor Goulbourne  
Councillor Henderson  
Councillor Lepp  
Councillor Timms

(10)

Voting against the motion:

Councillor Bylsma  
Councillor Casselman  
Councillor Gabriel  
Councillor Heit  
Councillor Hodgson  
Councillor Rigby  
Councillor Smeaton  
Councillor Trombetta

(8)

Upon a recorded vote being held, the original motion was carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Budget Review Committee of the Whole adjourned at 8:36 p.m. to meet again on December 10, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Tim Rigby  
Vice-Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Kevin Bain  
Regional Clerk