

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 2-2009

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, February 4, 2009, commencing at 9:08 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Staff

Others: Corporate Services: Mr. Diakow, Director, IT Solutions; Mr. Inman, Associate Director, Energy Management; Mr. Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director, Financial Management & Reporting; Ms. Maleszyk, Purchasing Manager; Ms. Murphy, Associate Director, Current & Capital Budgets; Mr. Pilon, Associate Director, Service Quality & Improvement; Mr. Roach, Manager, Public Works Financial Services; Ms. Stranges, Capital Analyst; Ms. Williams, Senior Financial Analyst.

Administration: Mr. McQueen, Director, Administrative Services; Mr. Roberts, Executive Officer to Regional Chair.

Integrated Community Planning: Mr. Robson, Commissioner, ICP.

PRESENTATION

26. St. Catharines-Thorold Chamber of Commerce
Green Procurement Report

Walter Sendzik, Executive Vice President and General Manager and Kithio Mwanzia, Policy Coordinator, attended Committee to speak to the Chamber's Green Procurement report.

The Green Procurement report recommends public institutions and businesses include environmental measurements in their cost-based analysis of procured goods and services. The Chamber has explored ways in which business and government can work together to reduce carbon footprints and simultaneously

strengthen the local economy. As an advocate for economic development the Chamber is working proactively through the policy to provide sustainable new opportunities for Niagara's business community.

Mr. Sendzik advised that the Green Procurement report provides a list of recommendations that the Chamber hopes will act as a catalyst for adopting green procurement strategies within local government, academic institutions, school boards and businesses.

Mr. Sendzik highlighted the following components which the Chamber recommended the Region's Environmental Purchasing Guide include:

- That the guide be developed in collaboration with all municipalities and other public institutions in Niagara so as to have one set of best practices to guide those seeking procurement opportunities at Niagara's public institutions. This, the chamber believes can be achieved through the Niagara Public Procurers Committee. This was the manner in which Richmond, B.C. went about developing their Environmental Purchasing Guide – which has been recognized internationally for its depth and scope.
- Proximity to product clauses to reduce transportation impacts.
- A buy local food component where applicable.
- Standards that include a measurement system that balances quality, price and environmental impacts with input from the Niagara business community, to ensure local compliance and facilitate greater access to green procurement opportunities for the local business community.

The Chamber recommends that, in order to better manage procurement opportunities in Niagara, that a region-wide procurement portal be developed to centralize public procurement opportunities in Niagara.

Mr. Sendzik commented that savings can be achieved through environmental sustainable conversion and procurement and asked the Region to explore ways in which to better leverage these savings, noting that this could be an opportunity to leverage the savings achieved into incentives to attract green technology firms and green businesses.

Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor D'Angela

That the presentation from the St. Catharines-Thorold Chamber of Commerce regarding the Chamber's Green Procurement Report, be received.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

27. Initiation of Public Health Capital Project ZGR0901
- Ambulance and Related Equipment
CSD 24-2009 (PHD 05-2009)

Moved by Councillor Bylsma
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report CSD 24-2009, February 4, 2009 (PHD 05-2009, February 3, 2009) respecting Initiation of Public Health Capital Project ZGR0901 – Ambulance and Related Equipment, be received.

That financing in the amount of \$910,000 gross and net be initiated and approved from the Public Health Capital Program and be allocated to ZGR0901 – Ambulance and Related Equipment;

That approval be given to fund ZGR0901 – Ambulance and Related Equipment with financing consisting of \$910,000 from the Ambulance Replacement Reserve Fund; and

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws be prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

(Please note that Report CSD 24-2009 (PHD 05-2009) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

28. Initiation of Projects in the 2009 Information
Technology Capital Program
CSD 25-2009

Moved by Councillor Partington
Seconded by Councillor Bylsma

That Report CSD 25-2009, February 4, 2009, respecting Initiation of Projects in the 2009 Information Technology Capital Program, be received.

That financing in the amount of \$3,100,000 gross and \$2,600,000 net be initiated and approved from the Technology Capital Program and allocated to the individual projects as summarized in Appendix A.

That approval be given to fund the Technology projects with financing consisting of \$305,377 Capital Levy Reserve; \$2,294,623 Long Term Financing (1-5 years) and \$500,000 Other Revenue.

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-law(s) are prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

29. Initiation of 2009 Niagara Peninsula
Conservation Authority Capital Budget
CSD 26-2009

Moved by Councillor D'Angela
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report CSD 26-2009, February 4, 2009, respecting Initiation of 2009 Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Capital Budget, be received.

That financing of \$2,353,999 gross and net be approved and initiated for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority 2009 Capital Program and allocated to the projects summarized in Appendix A.

That the financing consists of \$2,353,999 debenture financing (1-10 years).

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-law(s) are prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

30. Initiation of 2009 Niagara Regional Housing Capital Program
CSD 27-2009

Moved by Councillor Augustyn
Seconded by Councillor D'Angela

That Report CSD 27-2009, February 4, 2009, respecting Initiation of 2009 Niagara Regional Housing Capital Program, be received.

That financing be approved for the 2009 Niagara Regional Housing Capital Program for \$3,460,450 gross and \$2,426,773 net as detailed in Appendix 1.

That the financing for the projects include long-term financing (1-20 years) of \$2,062,757, \$364,016 NRH Owned Units Reserve Fund and \$1,033,677 Federal funding.

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate bylaw(s) are prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

31. Closure of Capital Projects
CSD 28-2009

Moved by Councillor Augustyn
Seconded by Councillor Bylsma

That Report CSD 28-2009, February 4, 2009, respecting Closure of Capital Projects, be received.

That total net transfers of \$225,547 from projects that are complete and in a net surplus position be transferred to the Capital Levy Reserve (0035-0960). Projects are identified in Appendix 1.

That total net transfers of \$5,005 from the NRH owned units Reserve Fund (0030-0967) be approved to accommodate the closure of capital projects as detailed in Appendix 2.

That total net transfers of \$149,434 to the Sewage Operations Capital Reserve Fund (0030-0961) be approved to accommodate the closure of capital projects as shown in Appendix 3.

That total net transfers of \$2,081,005 to the Water Operations Capital Reserve Fund (0030-0962) be approved to accommodate the closure of capital projects as shown in Appendix 3.

That total net transfers of \$9,488 from the Waste Management Reserve Fund (0030-0970) be approved to accommodate the closure of Waste Management capital projects as shown in Appendix 3.

That project closures be completed as indicated in Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

That a copy of this report be circulated to the Integrated Community Planning & Public Works, and Public Health and Social Services standing committees for information purposes.

Carried.

32. Niagara Specialized Transit - Municipal Funding Calculation
and Cost Sharing for 2009 Budget
CSD 29-2009 (PWA 11-2009)

Moved by Councillor Saracino
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That Report CSD 29-2009 (PWA 11-2009), February 4, 2009, respecting Niagara Specialized Transit – Municipal Funding Calculation and Cost Sharing for 2009 Budget, be referred to the Transportation Strategy Steering Committee for further information and report to Committees.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

33. 2009 Interim Levy Dates and Amounts
CSD 30-2009

Moved by Councillor Bylsma
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report CSD 30-2009, February 4, 2009, respecting 2009 Interim Levy Dates and Amounts, be received for information.

That the interim due dates for the Regional Levy be approved in the amounts and on the dates as shown on Schedule A attached to this report.

That the Regional Clerk ensure that the appropriate by-law is prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

That this report be circulated to the Councils of the Area Municipalities for information.

Carried.

MINUTES

34. 1-2009 (AC)

Moved by Councillor D'Angela
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That Report -2009 being the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of January 14, 2009, be approved.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

35. Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That the following communications be received:

CSC 7-2009 Dean Iorfida, City Clerk, City of Niagara Falls (November 6, 2008) respecting its Council's resolution that the Province Dismantle the Niagara Health System (NHS) and Appoint a Provincial Supervisor.

CSC 8-2009 Peter Senese, Director of Community & Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk, City of Port Colborne, (December 22, 2008) regarding City of Niagara Falls Resolution Re: Dismantle the Niagara Health System and Appoint a Provincial Supervisor.

CSC 9-2009 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Announcement regarding Improved Energy Efficiency Standards for New Homes.

CSC 10-2009 Niagara Specialized Transit Ridership Breakdown by Trip Purpose for the Period November 2007 to October 2008.

Carried.

36. Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor D'Angela

That CSC 11-2009 being a memorandum from John Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services (February 4, 2009) regarding 2009 Federal Budget, be received.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

37. Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to Matters of Potential Litigation and Solicitor/Client Advice and Matters of Security of the Property of the Municipality and Litigation regarding Casino Property Tax Reassessment Appeals by OLG.

Carried.

38. Matters of Solicitor-Client Privilege and Litigation
CSD 31-2009 (PWA 12-2009) (Confidential)

Moved by Councillor Bylsma
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That Confidential Report CSD 31-2009 (PWA 12-2009), February 4, 2009, respecting Matters of Solicitor-Client Privilege and Litigation, be received and the recommendations contained therein approved.

Carried.

39. Oral Report - Casino

John Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services, provided an oral report on the Casino Property Tax Reassessment Appeals by OLG.

Moved by Councillor Bylsma
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That the oral report by John Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services, regarding the Casino Property Tax Reassessment Appeals by OLG, be received.

Carried.

40. Moved by Councillor Augustyn
Seconded by Councillor Bylsma

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

That staff:

- i) Provide clarification on what “Grounds” refer to as contained in Report CSD 27-2009 under “Financial Implications”. (Partington) (Refer to minute 30.)
- ii) Provide information on how the average residential assessment by municipality would be calculated. When charging persons using specialized transit for dialysis treatments – are costs calculated on the number of trips or on how many people? Will municipal funding calculation and cost sharing issues go back to area municipalities for consideration under “triple majority” rule? What is timeline for Specialized Transit and how can it be moved forward? (Committee members) (Refer to minute 32.)
- iii) Provide information on how Federal funding is calculated for allocation. Is it shared equitably? How does Niagara fare compared to rest of Province? How does Ontario fare compared to rest of Canada? (Casselman) (Refer to minute 36).

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 10:45 a.m. to meet again on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Doug Martin
Co-Chair

Dave Augustyn
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk