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**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**

**PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

**REPORT 2-2001**

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Minutes of a meeting of the Public Works and Utilities Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, January 23, 2001 commencing at 1:30 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Councillors Badawey, Chair; Regional Chair Zimmerman; Davidson, Eke, Forster, Harry, Hildreth, Mc Mullan, Redekop, Rigby, Thomson, Trombetta.

Staff: Messrs. Neville, Director of Public Works; Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Cousins, Assistant Director, Transportation Division; Payne, Assistant Director, Solid Waste Management Division; Sidawi, Assistant Director, Operational Support Services Division; Brcic, Assistant Director, Water & Wastewater Division; Bousfield, Manager, Property and Facilities Management; Smith, Waste Management Engineer; Roach, Supervisor, Financial Services; Bacchus, Director, Corporate Services Department; Ms. Murphy, Manager, Budgets and Reporting; Ms. Gilroy, Acting Regional Clerk.

**CLOSED SESSION**

38. Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for the purpose of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to legal matters.

Carried.

39. Oral Report – Legal Matter

Moved by Councillor Thomson  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the oral report from Mr. Bousfield, Manager, Property and Facilities Management, on the Reconstruction of Regional Road 98 (Montrose Road), City of Niagara Falls, be received.

That the Region purchase a 10-foot road widening strip across the frontage of 5056, 5070, 5086 and 5096 Montrose Road, together with a single family dwelling located at 5056 Montrose Road from Angelo and Gloria Marino to facilitate proposed improvements to Regional Road No. 98 (Montrose Road) in the City of Niagara Falls, for the total sum reported.

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-law is prepared for submission to Regional Council authorizing the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

Carried.

40. Water and Wastewater Division  
Summary of Maintenance Analysis/Audit  
Report and Update on Divisional  
Restructure Plan

Moved by Councillor Forster  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PWP 8-2001, January 23, 2001, regarding Water and Wastewater Division Summary of Maintenance Analysis/Audit Report and Update on Divisional Restructure Plan, be received for information.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Mc Mullan

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

### **CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION**

41. Journal of Solid Waste Technology and Management

Councillor Badawey, Committee Chair, on behalf of Committee, congratulated David G. Smith, Waste Management Engineer, Solid Waste Management Division, for being awarded the Journal of Solid Waste Technology and Management Roy F. Weston Award, at the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Solid Waste Technology and Management, in recognition of his contributions to the field of solid waste technology and management. Together with Mr. Neville, Director of Public Works, he was presented with a Certificate of his achievement.

42. **PRESENTATION**

Mr. Shafee Bacchus, Director of Corporate Services, provided a recap of the minutes of the Budget Review Committee on January 17, 2001. He explained that staff was asked to review the budget and provide recommendations on how to achieve a 0% increase in the tax levy burden outlining the risks and opportunities. The Corporate Management Committee met on several occasions to develop recommendations in three areas: annualized costs and other adjustments, possible reductions to base budget, and mandatory program changes to base budget. Mr. Bacchus outlined the following three scenarios and the approximate dollar values:

1. additional revenues - by reviewing the surplus position again, as well as benefit calculations (GEAC allocation models allow exact calculations of amount paid to the benefit provider for each union group), and use of a portion of the contingency reserve (\$1.8 million)
2. additions to staffing – savings can be derived from the additions to staffing that will be delayed until the budget is approved, particularly in Community Services: tobacco enforcement and social housing (\$1.4 million)
3. base budget – look at areas where the base budget can be reduced

Mr. Bacchus advised that the third scenario was not recommended because of the consequences, and that the Budget Review Committee agreed that scenario one and two were the most likely to be reduced from the budget. These reductions, combined with potential Community Reinvestment Funding, could result in a tax burden impact of 0.89%. Mr. Bacchus pointed out, however, that this percentage represented the departmental budgets only: the Police Services Budget was not reflected in these calculations. He noted that the Police Services Board is meeting again on January 25 to consider further budget reductions.

Mr. Bacchus reviewed the Revised Budget Timetable, highlighting the following dates:

Budget Review Committee

To review Niagara Regional Police Budget	January 31
Corporate and Financial Services Committee Niagara Regional Police Budget	February 7
Corporate and Financial Services Committee Receives Budget Estimates Current, Capital And Tax Impact	February 21
Special Committee of the Whole To consider budget estimates and tax policy	March 1, 4:00 p.m.
Final budget approval Regional Council	March 1, 7:00 p.m.
Tax Levy By-law	April 5

Mr. Bacchus concluded his presentation by explaining tax ratios, and noted that transition ratios will not be received until late March.

Mr. Neville, Director, Public Works Department, provided a high level overview of the 2001 Current Budget, explaining that a large portion of the increase in the budget is attributable to the increased cost of road maintenance required to correct the accumulated deficiencies attributable to underfunding over the past five to seven years. The remaining increase is due to the inflationary cost of materials, such as fuel and petroleum-based materials, such as asphalt, wage increases, and program changes, particularly in facilities to manage the impact of Provincial downloading.

In response to questions from Committee, Mr. Neville noted that the transfer of some roads to local jurisdiction last year also resulted in a \$2.7 million reduction in the maintenance budget. This year's approach to the road maintenance budget was a reality check to ensure that the budget and supporting programs will, in the short term, meet the intended objective of regaining the upper hand and re-establishing appropriate rating conditions for the Regional Road Network to a managed and sustainable level. Accordingly, staff applied a zero-based budget approach to every road maintenance activity using the levels of service already approved by Council.

**PROGRESS REPORTS**

43. Construction Progress Report  
Solid Waste Management Division Report

Moved by Councillor Hildreth  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PWP 4-2001, January 23, 2001, respecting Construction Progress Report, Solid Waste Management Division Projects be received.

Carried.

44. Public Works Staff Comments on  
Development and Related Proposals

Moved by Councillor Hildreth  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PWP 5-2001, January 23, 2001, respecting Public Works Staff Comments on Development and Related Proposals be received for information.

Carried.

45. Public Works Staff Comments on  
Municipal Servicing Applications

Moved by Councillor Hildreth  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PWP 6-2001, January 23, 2001, respecting Public Works Staff Comments on Municipal Servicing Applications be received for information.

Carried.

46. Campden Sewer Servicing Update

Moved by Councillor Hildreth  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PWP 7-2001, January 23, 2001, respecting Campden Sewer Servicing Update be received for information.

Carried.

47. Proposed 2001 Public Works Current Budget

Moved by Councillor Hildreth

Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PWP 9-2001, January 23, 2001, respecting Proposed 2001 Public Works Current Budget for Transportation Division and Operational Support Services Division be received and accepted, and forwarded to the Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

Carried.

48. Capital Budget and Nine-Year Forecast  
For Water, Wastewater, Roads, Buildings & Equipment  
And Solid Waste Programs

Moved by Councillor Hildreth  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PWP 10-2001, January 23, 2001 respecting 2001 Capital Budget and Nine-year Forecast for Water, Wastewater, Roads, Buildings and Equipment and Solid Waste Programs be received for information and referred to Committee of the Whole.

That the proposed 2001 Roads Capital Program in the total gross amount of \$29,612,410 and net amount of \$24,510,500 as listed in the attached Schedule "A1", be received for information.

That the proposed 2001 Building and Equipment Capital Program in the total gross and net amount of \$1,130,000 as listed in the attached Schedule "B1", be received for information.

That the proposed 2001 Water Capital Program in the total gross and net amount of \$17,380,000 and as listed in the attached Schedule "C1", be received for information.

That the proposed 2001 Wastewater Capital Program in the total gross and net amount of \$18,125,000 and as listed in the attached Schedule "D1", be received for information.

That the proposed 2001 Solid Waste Management Program in the total gross amount of \$5,274,000 and net amount of \$4,989,000 as listed in the attached Schedule "E1", be received for information.

Carried.

49. Municipal Traffic By-laws  
Town of Grimsby  
City of Port Colborne  
**PWA 14-2001**

That the following local traffic by-laws be approved:

By-law No. 00-01            Town of Grimsby            All Way Stop Control  
By-law No. 3989/134/00    City of Port Colborne      Yield Sign Controls  
(Transportation)

50. Singers Corners Municipal Drain  
Recommendation for Payment of  
Region of Niagara Apportioned  
Costs of Drainage Works  
City of Thorold  
**PWA 15-2001**

That the Regional Municipality of Niagara make payment for the improvement works undertaken to the Singer Corners Municipal Drain, in the amount of \$106,506.32. These works were undertaken in accordance with the Engineer's Report, dated December 15, 1997, and revised by the Court of Revision and the Ontario Drainage Tribunal. (Transportation)

51. Request for Proposal  
Landfill Gas Utilization  
Mountain Road Landfill Site  
City of Niagara Falls  
**PWA 16-2001**

That staff be authorized to issue a request for proposal for the utilization of landfill gas from the Mountain Road Landfill site in the City of Niagara Falls. (Solid Waste Management)

52. Proposed Stopping Up and Closing  
Part of Maple Avenue  
City of Welland  
**PWA 17-2001**

That the City of Welland be advised that the Region of Niagara has no objections to the stopping up and closing of part of Maple Avenue on Registered Plan 552, designated as Part 1 on Plan 59R-112334. (Operational Support Services)

53. Agreement – Road Improvements  
Mount Carmel Centre  
Owner: River Realty Developments (1976) Inc.  
Regional Road 98 (Montrose Road)  
City of Niagara Falls  
**PWA 18-2001**

That River Realty Development (1976) Inc., owner of a development known as Mount Carmel Centre, located on Regional Road 98 (Montrose Road), be required to enter into an agreement with the Region.

That this agreement outline responsibilities and secure financial commitments associated with the construction of the required road improvements at this location;

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure the preparation of any agreement satisfactory in form to the Director of Public Works;

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute this agreement; and

That the Director of Public Works be authorized to proceed with the publication of a Notice of Meeting, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal and Environmental Assessment Acts. (Operational Support Services)

54. Vehicle and Equipment Replacement  
Program 2001, Phase 1  
**PWA 19-2001**

That the Public Works Department be authorized to advertise forthwith for equipment recommended for replacement on Schedule "A", attached to report PWA 19-2001. (Transportation)

55. Roads Facilities Capital Budget Program  
Thorold Patrol Yard  
**PWA 20-2001**

That the Operational Support Services Division of the Public Works Department proceed with tendering for improvements to the Thorold Patrol Yard office building at an estimated cost of \$150,000.00

That all project costs be charged against Capital Works Project GD9520.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be directed to ensure that the necessary by-law is presented to Regional Council on February 1, 2001. (Operational Support Services)

56. Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That PWA Summary, January 23, 2001, and the foregoing recommendations of Reports PWA 14-2001 to PWA 20-2001 inclusive, be received and accepted.

Carried.

**QUORUM**

There being a lack of ordinary quorum from this point in the meeting, the Committee Chair determined that the ordinary quorum for the remainder of the meeting be

reduced to 5 members, pursuant to Part 11, Section 11.7 of the Procedural By-law 7174-93.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

57. Communications listed in Report PWC Summary and Addendum, January 23, 2001, were received and dealt with as follows:

PWC 12-2001 – (January 15, 2001) – Ron Davidson, Manager of Operations – Roads, to Joe Cousins, Assistant Director, Transportation Division, providing information on increased sodium chloride (rock salt) costs.

Received.

PWC 13-2001 – TENDER OPENING – Contract RN. 00-20, Concession Road Sanitary Sewer Replacement, Town of Fort Erie, which opens at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2001.

Received.

PWC 14-2001 - Prime Minister's Update – “renewing Canada’s Infrastructure”.

Received.

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That the PWC Summary, January 23, 2001, be received and dealt with as directed by this Committee and as noted in these minutes.

Carried.

#### **MINUTES**

58. Minutes of the Transportation Strategy Steering Committee Meeting, Report 5-2000, held December 19, 2000

Moved by Councillor Trombetta  
Seconded by Councillor Mc Mullan

That the minutes of the Transportation Strategy Steering Committee meeting Report 5-2000, held December 19, 2000, be received.

Carried.

59. Minutes of the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee Meeting held December 14, 2000

Moved by Councillor Hildreth  
Seconded by Councillor Mc Mullan

That the minutes of the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee meeting held December 14, 2000, be received.

Carried.

#### **ACCOUNTS**

60. Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That the following accounts list be approved for payment:

No.	for the period ending December 31, 2000	\$3,744,264.73
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Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3:50 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on February 6, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.

Vance Badawey  
Chair

Pam Gilroy  
Acting Regional Clerk