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## THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

### PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

#### REPORT 1-2002

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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 15, 2002 commencing at 1:40 p.m.

#### ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Badawey, Chair; Zimmerman, Regional Chair; Burroughs, Davidson, Eke, Harry, McMullan, Redekop, Rigby, Trombetta.

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Neville, Commissioner of Public Works; Cousins, Director, Transportation Services Division; Payne, Director, Waste Management Services Division; Brcic, Director, Water & Wastewater Services Division; Sidawi, Director, Operation Support Services Division; Ms. Pilon, Legislative Assistant.

Staff (Part-time): Messrs. Bousfield, Manager Property and Facility Management; Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Roach, Manager, Public Works Financial Services; Kaas, Acting Manager of Budgets & Reporting.

Other: Councillors Martin.

#### CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

1. Procedure to Select Committee Chair and  
Vice-Chair of Each of the Standing Committees  
**CLK 2-2002**

Regional Chair Zimmerman called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Public Works and Utilities Committee.

Moved by Councillor Redekop  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Councillor Badawey be appointed Chair of the Public Works and Utilities Committee for a one-year term.

Moved by Councillor Redekop  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

There being no further nominations, Regional Chair Zimmerman declared nominations closed.

Carried.

Councillor Badawey was appointed as Chair of the Public Works and Utilities Committee for a one-year term, by acclamation.

Councillor Badawey assumed the Chair for the balance of the meeting and called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Public Works and Utilities Committee.

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That Councillor Redekop be appointed Vice-Chair of the Public Works and Utilities Committee for a one-year term.

Moved by Councillor McMullan  
Seconded by Regional Chair Zimmerman

There being no further nominations, Councillor Badawey declared nominations closed.

Carried.

Councillor Redekop was appointed as Vice-Chair of the Public Works and Utilities Committee for a one-year term, by acclamation.

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That the report of Regional Clerk, being Report CLK 2-2002, January 14, 2002, respecting the Procedure to Select the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair for Each of the Standing Committees, be received and attached to the Community and Health Services Committee Minutes.

Carried.

2. Day and Time of Regular  
Meetings for Standing Committees  
**CLK 3-2002**

Moved by Councillor Redekop  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report CLK 3-2002, January 14, 2002, respecting the Day and Time of Regular Meetings for Standing Committees, be received and attached to the Community and Health Services Committee Minutes.

That regular meetings of the Public Works and Utilities Committee be held on Tuesdays, at 1:30 p.m. in accordance with a schedule approved, from time to time, by Regional Council.

That special meetings be held at such times and such places as may be appropriate, pursuant to the provisions of the procedural by-law.

Carried.

**CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

3. 2002 Current Budget Update  
**CSD 7-2002**

Mr. Trojan, C.A.O., provided an update on the status of the 2002 current budget, following an extensive review by staff, Budget Review and standing committees. He advised that prior to its meeting of January 9, 2002, the Budget Review Committee and Standing Committees had approved approximately \$5.3 million in reductions to the proposed departmental budgets. Regional Council requested a further review be undertaken to determine whether a zero tax levy burden was feasible. Mr. Trojan advised that total reductions to date, since the process began, amount to \$6,456,533 resulting in a net tax levy impact, after assessment growth, of 2.18% for Council controlled expenditures. The 2002 proposed budget, including the Police, now amounts to an increase of \$5.6 million or 2.84% after assessment growth. This results in a tax levy increase of approximately \$28.00 per household.

Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner of Corporate Services, provided background information on the budget process to date. He advised that 2002 net expenditures were proposed at \$147 million, excluding Police. This resulted in a 5.14% change over the 2001 budget. Revenues were estimated at approximately 10.5 million. Reductions in revenues are mainly attributable to the tax rate stabilization reserve, OMERS Reserve and Investment Income. This resulted in a net tax levy burden, after assessment growth, of 7.30%.

Mr. Bacchus advised that as of December 10, 2001, the 2002 Current Budget increase was estimated at \$5,279,500 or 3.88%, excluding Police. The Budget Review Committee, at its meeting of January 9, 2002, approved reductions (considered available with minimal risks) in the amount of \$236,000. Also approved by the Committee, were reductions (considered available but not recommended) in the amount of \$940,380. This resulted in a budget increase of 2.95% for Council controlled expenditures, and 5.94% including Police.

Mr. Bacchus also advised that an adjustment to the 2001 base budget has been made (this information was not available at the Budget Review Committee meeting) of a one time expenditure of \$524,000 for the prior years police deficits.

The revised tax levy impact now represents, after assessment growth, an increase of \$3,741,828 or 1.12% for Region controlled expenditures and an increase of \$4,286,481 or 1.72% for Police. This results in an overall net tax levy impact of 2.84%.

Moved by Councillor Redekop  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report CSD 7-2002, January 14, 2002, be received for information and attached to the Community and Health Services Committee Minutes.

Carried.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

**DEFERRED REPORTS**

4. Proposed 2002 Public Works Current Budget  
**PWP 115-2001 REVISED**

Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report PWP 115-2001 REVISED, January 15, 2002, respecting the Proposed 2002 Public Works Current Budget for Administration, Transportation Services and Operational Support Services Divisions be received and accepted, and forwarded to the Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

Carried.

5. 2002 Capital Budget and Nine-Year Forecast for  
Roads and Buildings and Equipment Programs  
**PWP 116-2001**

A discussion ensued regarding the \$1,000,000 budgeted for the Regional Accommodation Studies Implementation. Mr. Neville advised the Committee that the Accommodations Review Committee has been meeting on a bi-weekly schedule since November 2001. The Accommodations Review Committee was formed to review the current office space situation and the projected 5 and 10-year office space requirements of all of the Regional departments including the Niagara Regional Police Services. The budgeted funds are being allocated to cover costs associated with the direction of Council pending receipt of the Accommodations Review Committee's report in April/May 2002. These costs may include further detailed studies on cost benefit, i.e. build/leaseback versus lease, preliminary design(s) associated with one or more of the options that may be forthcoming in the April/May report.

Following the discussion, it was:

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That staff examine the potential for reducing the Total Project Cost of the Regional Accommodation Studies Implementation cost of \$1,000,000.00, pending the review of the approved leasing arrangements for the Niagara Regional Police Services facilities.

Carried.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

Councillor Redekop advised the Committee that Point Abino Road is in very bad condition and should therefore, be reconsidered for reconstruction in the 2002 Budget, not in the 2004 Budget as currently listed.

Mr. Cousins advised the Committee that the design work has been completed and the reconstruction of Point Abino Road will cost approximately \$1,100,000.00.

Moved by Councillor Redekop  
Seconded by Councillor McMullan

That staff of the Public Works Department reconsider the reconstruction of Point Abino Road in the Town of Fort Erie, in the 2002 Capital Budget.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Redekop  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PWP 116-2001, December 11, 2001, respecting the 2002 Capital Budget and Nine-Year Forecast for Roads and Buildings and Equipment Programs, be received for information and forwarded to the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of:

The proposed 2002 Roads Capital Program in the total gross amount of \$33,685,138 and net amount of \$31,845,138 as listed in Schedule "A"; and

The proposed 2002 Buildings and Equipment Capital Program in the total gross and net amount of \$5,489,010 as listed in Schedule "B".

Carried.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

6. Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the Public Works and Utilities Committee add Councillor Burroughs to the Committee's membership, effective immediately.

Carried.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

7. Alteration of Regional Road 77 (Fourth Avenue)  
by Completion of Centre Median and Closure of  
Existing Centre Median Cut Between  
Vansickle Road and Louth Street  
City of St. Catharines

The Commissioner of Public Works introduced the above matter for public hearing and advised the Committee that the notice of the proposed by-law was published in the St. Catharines Standard on four occasions, namely: December 22 and 26, 2001 and January 5 and 9, 2002.

Mr. Cousins, Director, Transportation Services Division, provided the Committee with an overview of the alteration of Regional Road 77 (Fourth Avenue) by completion of centre median and closure of existing centre median cut between Vansickle Road and Louth Street in the City of St. Catharines

The Chair asked whether any person present would like to be heard with respect to the alteration of Regional Road 77 (Fourth Avenue).

Mr. John Riediger, the Tim Horton's franchisee, advised the Committee that signage was to be installed on Louth Street and at the main entrance to the Wal-Mart plaza prior to the closure of the current access. He also noted that the delay in snow removal on the access road should be addressed.

Mr. Cousins advised the Committee that during the negotiations the developer (First Professional) was to provide the signage and that the current access will not be closed until the signage has been installed by the developer. He also noted that City of St. Catharines staff and the developer have been advised that the access road is a fire route and should be cleared accordingly.

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Burroughs

That in accordance with the Public Notice dated December 18, 2001, and after due consideration of the submissions brought forward by those members of the public present at the meeting and duly recorded in these minutes, this Committee authorizes the alteration of Regional Road 77 (Fourth Avenue) by completion of a centre median and closure of the existing centre median cut between Vansickle Road and Louth Street in the City of St. Catharines as

recommended in the said notice, and further, recommends that the construction bylaw be submitted to Regional Council for that purpose.

Carried.

**ADMINISTRATION** (Continued)

Staff Recommendations  
For Committee Consideration

The Committee considered the following staff recommendations contained in PWA Summary, January 15, 2002:

8. Draft Transportation Strategy for Niagara

**PWA 4-2002 (DPD 9-2002)**

That Report PWA 4-2002, January 15, 2002 (DPD 9-2002, January 16, 2002), respecting A Draft Transportation Strategy for Niagara, be received and circulated to the local municipalities and other interested parties within Niagara with a request that they provide comments by the end of February 2002;

That the Region issue a news release stating Regional Council's intent to formally adopt the transportation strategy and requesting interested parties to provide comments and feedback on the strategy prior to February 28, 2002;

That copies of the transportation strategy be made available for public viewing and distribution at the headquarters of the Region, municipal city halls, local libraries and other appropriate sites; and

That the transportation strategy be posted on the Region's web sites and copies be circulated to those persons and agencies who have provided input or feedback during the preparation of the strategy. (Transportation)

***It was noted that Report PWA 4-2002/DPD 9-2002 will be revised so that the key initiatives on page 8 and their objectives on pages 9 and 10, are consistent with Chart 2 on page 7, and are listed as, the construction of a Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor; the planned Expansion of the QEW; the expansion Highway 406; the arterial road system, etc.***

9. Municipal Traffic By-laws

**PWA 5-2002**

That Report PWA 5, 2002, January 15, 2002, respecting Municipal Traffic By-laws, be received.

That the following local traffic by-laws be approved:

No. 2001-390	City of St. Catharines	Stop Sign Controls
No. 236-2001	Town of Fort Erie	All Way Stop Controls
No. 2001-170	City of Welland	Stop Sign Controls
No. 102-2001	City of Thorold	Stop Sign Control

(Transportation)

10. Authorization to Commence Expropriation Procedures

Widening of Regional Road 57 (Thorold Stone Road)

between Davis Road and Kalar Road

City of Niagara Falls

**PWA 6-2002**

That Report PWA 6-2002, January 15, 2002, respecting the Authorization to Commence Expropriation Procedures, Widening of Regional Road 57 (Thorold Stone Road) between Davis Road and Kalar Road in the City of Niagara Falls, be received.

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 Clerk to execute the necessary documents to authorize staff to commence expropriation procedures on lands owned by Roy Brady described as Part of Lot 82 in the Geographic Township of Stamford, now in the City of Niagara Falls, for the widening of Regional Road 57 (Thorold Stone Road).  
(Operational Support)

11. Moved by Councillor Rigby

Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That PWA Summary, January 15, 2002, and the foregoing recommendations of Reports PWA 4-2002 to PWA 6-2002 inclusive, be received and accepted.

Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

12. Communications listed in Report PWC Summary, January 15, 2002, were received and dealt with as follows:

PWC 1-2002 – (December 4, 2001) – **Joe Cousins**, Director of Transportation Services Division, to Luigi De Lisio, Barrister, being a response to a request regarding the closure of the centre median on Fourth Avenue, between Vansickle Road and Louth Street, St. Catharines.

-- Received and referred to the Public Notice.

PWC 2-2002 – (January 3, 2002) – **Ron Davidson**, Associate Director, Transportation Operations, to Jerry Boc, Superintendent, Works Department, City of Welland, regarding a proposal for a partnership arrangement with Niagara in the implementation of an Advanced Road Weather Information System and other aspects of the Road Salt Management Study.

-- Received.

PWC 3-2002- (November 28, 2001) – **Deb Morton**, Police Services Board Administrator, to Regional Clerk Rod Hollick, on the Board's approval to purchase Fleet & Quartermaster Stores Management Software from Paradigm Business Systems.

-- Received.

PWC 4-2002 – **Article from the Toronto Star of December 28, 2001** – “City Using Road ‘Pucks’ to Improve Icing Calls”.

-- Received.

PWC 5-2002 – **Article from the Toronto Star of December 21, 2001** - “Brampton Cuts Road Salt”.

-- Received.

13. Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That the PWC Summary, January 15, 2002, be received and dealt with as directed by this Committee and as noted in these minutes.

Carried.

#### PROGRESS REPORTS

14. Security – Regional Headquarters

Moved by Councillor Trombetta  
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That the Report PWP 1-2002, January 15, 2002, respecting Security – Regional Headquarters, be received for information.

Carried.

15. Construction Progress Report  
Waste Management Services Projects

Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PWP 2-2002, January 15, 2002, respecting the Construction Progress Report, Waste Management Services Projects, be received for information.

Carried.

#### MINUTES

16. Minutes of the Regional Waste Management Advisory Committee (WMAC)  
Meeting of Wednesday, November 21, 2001

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the minutes of the Regional Waste Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) meeting held Wednesday, November 21, 2001, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

17. Minutes of the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee Meeting of Thursday, November 8, 2001

Moved by Councillor McMullan  
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That the minutes of the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee meeting held Thursday, November 8, 2001, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

18. Minutes of the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee Meeting of Thursday, December 13, 2001

Moved by Councillor Trombetta  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the minutes of the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee meeting held Thursday, December 13, 2001, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

19. Minutes of the Waste Disposal Planning Steering Committee Meeting of Thursday, December 20, 2001

Moved by Councillor Burroughs  
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That the minutes of the Waste Disposal Planning Steering Committee meeting held Tuesday, December 20, 2001, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

#### ACCOUNTS

20. Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the following accounts list be approved for payment:

for the period ending December 31, 2001

\$4,298,726.17

Carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

21. Notes of Appreciation

Councillor Redekop thanked the Region for their assistance, for the allocation of two snow plows to the Town of Fort Erie and their efficient snow removal operation during the Town of Fort Erie's most recent snow storm.

Councillor Rigby extended the City of St. Catharines' assistance in the event of another snowstorm.

Councillor Harry also thanked the Region for extending their assistance to the Township of Wainfleet.

22. Snow Removal -  
Central Avenue Bridge

Councillor Redekop requested that the Central Avenue Bridge be cleared of snow during the off hours (after dark) instead of during the morning rush hour.

Mr. Cousins will ensure that Councillor Redekop's request is made on the Region's snow removal route.

**CLOSED SESSION**

23. Moved by Councillor Redekop  
Seconded by Councillor McMullan

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

Carried.

24. Proposed Lease of Office Space  
City of St. Catharines  
**PWA 2-2002 (COM 2-2002) CONFIDENTIAL**

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PWA 2-2002, January 15, 2002, (COM 2-2002, January 14, 2002), respecting the Proposed Lease of Office Space in the City of St. Catharines, be received and the recommendations therein approved.

Carried.

25. Property Acquisition – Buttrey Street  
Proposed High Rate Treatment Facility and Pumping Station  
City of Niagara Falls  

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**PWA 3-2002 CONFIDENTIAL**

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report PWA 3-2002, January 15, 2002, respecting the Property Acquisition – Buttrey Street, Proposed High Rate Treatment Facility and Pumping Station in the City of Niagara Falls, be received and the recommendations therein approved.

Carried.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

26. Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

#### **STAFF DIRECTIONS**

Staff was requested to:

- Prepare a report for the Committee of the Whole detailing the rationale for the increases in the staff complement since 2000. (Refers to Minute Item # 3)
- Prepare a report for the Committee of the Whole with detailed information on the 2002 staff complement by department, program, service and the associated annualized costs. (Refers to Minute Item # 3)
- Provide Regional Council with the minutes of the Accommodations Review Committee meetings. (Refers to Minute Item # 5)
- Provide Regional Council with appraisal information. (Refers to Minute Item # 25)

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3:20 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on January 29, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.

Vance Badawey  
Chair

Janet Pilon  
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick  
Regional Clerk