**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**
**BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**
**MINUTES - OPEN SESSION**

**BRCOTW 2-2020**
**Thursday, October 15, 2020**
**Council Chamber / Video Conference**
**Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West**
**1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

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| Committee Members Present in the Council Chamber: | Bradley (Regional Chair), Zalepa (Committee Chair) |
| Committee Members Present via Video Conference: | Butters, Bylsma, Campion, Chiocchio, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Junkin, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen (Committee Vice Chair), Witteveen |
| Absent/Regrets: | Bellows, Darte, Diodati, Gale, Sendzik |
| Staff Present in the Council Chamber: | H. Chamberlain, Director/Deputy Treasurer, Financial Management & Planning, R. Cheung, Senior Budget Analyst, L. Glynn, Information Technology Analyst, T. Harrison, Commissioner / Treasurer, Corporate Services, M. Murphy, Associate Director, Budget Planning & Strategy, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, C. Sportel, Supervisor, Corporate Budgets, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, B. Zvaniga, Interim Commissioner, Public Works |
| Staff Present via Video Conference: | D. Barnhart, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair, T. Cimino, Associate Director, Water Wastewater Engineering, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, R. Mostacci, Commissioner, Planning & Development Services, E. Prpic, Associate Director, Waste Disposal Operations and Engineering, M. Robinson, Director, GO Implementation Office, D. Rurak, Director, Asset Management Office, C. Ryall, Director, Transportation Services, K. Smith, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services, J. Tonellato, Director, Water & Wastewater Services, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, D. Woiceshyn, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Regional Housing, N. Wolfe, Director, Construction, Energy, & Facilities Management |
| Others Present via Video Conference: | L. Martin, Vice President, Pollera Strategic Insights |

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Zalepa called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

## 2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

## 3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Budget Engagement Overview

Peter Criscione, Communications Consultant, Niagara Region, provided information respecting 2021 Budget Public Engagement Result. Topics of the presentation included:

- Why Do Public Engagement on the Budget?
- 2021 Budget Engagement Strategy
- Online Response Demographics by Age and Municipality
- Key Themes / Findings

Lesli Martin, Vice President, Pollara Strategic Insights, provided information respecting Niagara Region Budget Engagement 2020 Qualitative Results. Topics of the presentation included:

- Background and Methodology
- Results in Detail
- Conclusions

**Councillor Information Request(s):**

Committee members requested additional information respecting the 2021 Budget Engagement process including the raw data and/or results from the survey and focus groups; the questionnaire used; and information respecting the criteria used to select focus group attendees.

3.2 2021 Capital Budget Overview

Helen Chamberlain, Director/Deputy Treasurer, Financial Management and Planning, provided information respecting 2021 Capital Budget Overview. Topics of the presentation included:

- Key Themes
- How We Identified Capital Projects
- Capital Financing Strategy
  - Recommended for 2021
  - Funding Strategy Methodology
  - Funding Summary - $502 Million Capital Expenditure Summary
- Multi-year Overview
- 2021 Capital Budget Outcomes
- Next Steps

**Councillor Information Request(s):**

Committee members requested additional information respecting the strategy and rationale behind the budgeting of the South Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

Provide information respecting the inclusion of the South Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Development Charges background study and by-law. Councillor Redekop.

3.3 Corporate Asset Management Resource Allocation

Dean Rurak, Director, Asset Management Office, provided information respecting Overview of Corporate Asset Management Resource Allocation. Topics of the presentation included:

- Corporate Asset Management Resource Allocation (CAMRA)
- Why Do We Need CAMRA?
- What is CAMRA?
- CAMRA is an Aid for Good Decision-making
- CAMRA Measures Risk and Corporate Priority
- Applying CAMRA to the Capital Budget
- Asset Management System 5-year Plan

**Councillor Information Request(s):**

Provide information respecting the capital projects evaluated under the CAMRA model which were not included in the 2021 capital budget. Councillor Heit.

## 5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 CSD 58-2020

2021 Capital Budget

Moved by Councillor Ugulini
Seconded by Councillor Nicholson

That Report CSD 58-2020, dated October 15, 2020, respecting 2021 Capital Budget, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the 2021 Capital Budget for the Niagara Regional Departments and Agencies, Boards and Commissions of $501,505,722 as per Appendix 1 to Report CSD 58-2020, **BE APPROVED** pending final by-law approval anticipated to be brought forward to the Council meeting being held January 21, 2021;
2. That an incremental transfer to the Capital Levy Reserve of $2,046,910, or 1.00% of the departmental share of the levy, **BE REFERRED** to the 2021 Operating budget;
3. That $5,300 for the incremental operating costs of capital projects as per Appendix 7 to Report CSD 58-2020, **BE REFERRED** for consideration as part of the 2021 Operating Budget to be funded from Assessment Growth;
4. That $5,230,000 for the incremental operating costs of capital projects as per Appendix 7 to Report CSD 28-2020, **BE REFERRED** for consideration as part of the 2021 Rate Budget;
5. That financing in the amount of $215,130,104 gross and $182,450,742 net **BE INITIATED** upon approval of the 2021 Capital Budget and **BE ALLOCATED** to the projects as summarized in Appendix 4 to Report CSD 58-2020; and
6. That the necessary by-laws **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration to coincide with the approval of the operating budget.

Moved by Councillor Campion
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That Report CSD 58-2020 **BE DEFERRED** to the Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting being held on November 26, 2020.

**Carried**

## 6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 CSD 68-2020

2021 Budget Public Engagement Exercise

Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Steele

That Report CSD 68-2020, dated October 15, 2020, respecting 2021 Budget Public Engagement Exercise, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of other business.

## 8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 26, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Councillor Zalepa
Committee Chair

Matthew Trennum
Deputy Regional Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk