

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

**BRCOTW 4-2020
Thursday, December 10, 2020
Council Chamber / Video Conference
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee Members Present in the Council Chamber: Sendzik, Steele, Zalepa (Committee Chair)

Committee Members Present via Video Conference: Bradley (Regional Chair), Butters, Bylsma, Campion, Chiocchio, Darte, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gale, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Junkin, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen (Committee Vice Chair), Witteveen

Absent/Regrets: Bellows

Staff Present in the Council Chamber: H. Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, D. D'Amboise, Program Financial Specialist, M. Elia, Technology Support Analyst, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, M. Vink, Manager, Court Services, D. Woiceshyn, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Regional Housing

Staff Present via Video Conference: C. Banach, Manager, Housing Operations, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, J. Shickluna, Manager, Housing Programs, J. Tonellato, Director, Water & Wastewater Services, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, B. Zvaniga, Interim Commissioner, Public Works

Others Present: L. Gagnon, Director, Corporate Services, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, B. Johnson, Chair, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, (Video Conference), B. MacCulloch, Chief, Niagara Regional Police Service, L. Rullo, Finance Manager, Niagara Regional Police Service, C. Sharma, Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Zalepa called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. **DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

5. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

5.1 **BRC-C 3-2020**

Niagara Regional Housing 2021 Operating Budget

Walter Sendzik, Chair, Niagara Regional Housing Board of Directors, provided introductory remarks related to the Niagara Regional Housing 2021 Operating Budget and introduced Donna Woiceshyn, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Regional Housing.

Donna Woiceshyn, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Regional Housing, provided information respecting Niagara Regional Housing 2021 Operating Budget. Topics of the presentation included:

- What Does Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) Do?
- NRH Programs & Services
- 2021 Budget Strategy and Recommendation
- 2021 Operating Budget
- 2021 Budget Drivers
- 2021 Operating Budget Analysis
 - COVID-19 Impacts
- Budget Summary & Master Plan - Key Highlights

Moved by Councillor Steele

Seconded by Councillor Ugulini

That Correspondence Item BRC-C 3-2020, being a letter from W. Sendzik, Chair, Niagara Regional Housing Board of Directors, dated October 23, 2020, respecting Niagara Regional Housing 2021 Operating Budget, **BE RECEIVED**; and

That the Niagara Regional Housing 2021 Operating Budget **BE APPROVED** in principle subject to consideration of the total tax levy for Niagara Region on January 14, 2021.

Carried

5.2 CSD 80-2020

Court Services - 2021 Budget Report

Miranda Vink, Manager, Court Services, provided information respecting Court Services - 2021 Budget Report. Topics of the presentation included:

- Program/Service Definition
- Provincial Offences Act (POA) Organizational Chart
- Joint Board of Management
- 2021 Organizational Overview
- Annual Charging Volumes (2020 Q3)
- 2020 Charges by Enforcement Agency
- New Delinquent Fines Volumes (2020 Q3)
- 2021 Operational Budget
 - Base Budget Changes
 - One-Time Capital Reserve Transfer
 - Budget Mitigations
 - COVID-19 Budget Changes
 - Capital Financing
- Risks and Opportunities

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Report CSD 80-2020, dated December 10, 2020, respecting Court Services - 2021 Budget Report, **BE RECEIVED**; and

That the 2021 Court Services Operating Budget **BE APPROVED** in principle subject to consideration of the total tax levy for Niagara Region on January 14, 2021.

Carried

5.3 BRC-C 4-2020

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority respecting the 2021 Municipal Levy Apportionment

Brenda Johnson, Chair, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA), provided introductory remarks related to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority 2021 Municipal Levy Apportionment and introduced Chandra Sharma, Chief Administrative Office/Secretary-Treasurer and Lise Gagnon, Director, Corporate Services, NPCA.

Chandra Sharma, Chief Administrative Office/Secretary-Treasurer, and Lise Gagnon, Director, Corporate Services, provided information respecting Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets. Topics of the presentation included:

- Shared Jurisdiction
 - Benchmarking NPCA
 - Progress
- Serving Niagara Residents Program Outcomes and 2021 Priorities
 - Conservation Areas in Niagara Region
 - Integrated Watershed Management & Science
 - Hazard Management Floodplain Mapping
 - Flood Forecasting & Warning
 - Water Quality Monitoring
 - Planning & Permitting
 - Watershed Restoration
 - Community Engagement, Education and Volunteers
- Leveraging Your Funding
- On the Horizon
- 2021 Financials
 - 2021 Draft Budgets and Levy Apportionment
 - Board Directed Future Priorities

Moved by Councillor Ugolini
Seconded by Councillor Gibson

That Correspondence Item BRC-C 4-2020, being a letter from B. Johnson, Chair, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, dated December 4, 2020, respecting Proposed 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets, **BE RECEIVED**; and

That the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority 2021 Municipal Levy Apportionment to Niagara Region **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Committee requested information respecting shoreline protection, specifically concerning local area municipalities and other organizations working on this issue, the history of shoreline protection funding, and the funding of shoreline protection on private property.

5.4 BRC-C 5-2020

2021 Proposed Operating Budget, Niagara Regional Police Service and Police Services Board

Bill Steele, Chair, Niagara Regional Police Services Board, provided introductory remarks related to the 2021 Proposed Operating Budget and introduced Chief Bryan MacCulloch, Niagara Regional Police Service.

Chief Bryan MacCulloch, Niagara Regional Police Service, provided information respecting 2021 Proposed Operating Budget. Topics of the presentation included:

- Our Mandate
- 2019-2021 Strategic Plan & Budget Priorities
- 2020 Year in Review
- 2021 Main Cost Drivers
- 2021 Investments
- 2021 Net Expenditure Budget Before Indirect Allocations
- Where the Money Goes and Comes From
- Budget Assumptions
- Commitment to Excellence

Moved by Councillor Insinna
Seconded by Councillor Ugolini

That Correspondence Item BRC-C 5-2020, being a letter from D. Reid, Executive Director, Police Services Board, Niagara Regional Police Service, dated November 26, 2020, respecting 2021 Proposed Operating Budget, Niagara Regional Police Service and Police Services Board, **BE RECEIVED**; and

That the Niagara Regional Police Service 2021 Operating Budget **BE APPROVED** in principle subject to consideration of the total tax levy for Niagara Region on January 14, 2021.

Carried

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 BRC-C 2-2020

2021 Capital Budget Reduction to Reinstate Combined Sewer Overflow Program

Moved by Councillor Edgar
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Correspondence Item BRC-C 2-2020, being a memorandum from T. Harrison, Treasurer/Commissioner, Corporate Services, dated December 10, 2020, respecting 2021 Capital Budget Reduction to Reinstate Combined Sewer Overflow Program, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Standardized Budget Reporting

Councillor Huson requested future budget submissions from Niagara Region's agencies, boards and commissions be standardized to allow for greater consistency. Helen Chamberlain, Deputy Treasurer/ Director, Financial Management and Planning, advised that reporting requirements can be found in Niagara Region's Budget Planning By-law (By-law 2019-29). Reporting may differ with each financial system, however the Region recommends the inclusion of specific information in budget submissions.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Councillor Zalepa
Committee Chair

Matthew Trennum
Deputy Regional Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk