

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

**BRCOTW 1-2021  
Thursday, January 14, 2021  
Council Chamber / Video Conference  
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West  
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee Members Present in the Council Chamber: Bradley (Regional Chair), Zalepa (Committee Chair)

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

Absent/Regrets: Bellows, Insinna

Staff Present in the Council Chamber: H. Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, T. Harrison, Commissioner / Treasurer, Corporate Services, S. Guglielmi, Technology Support Analyst, M. Murphy, Associate Director, Budget Planning & Strategy, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, T. Potts, Senior Budget Analyst, C. Sportel, Supervisor, Corporate Budgets, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Staff Present via Video Conference: E. Amirault, Associate Director, Financial Operations & Systems, A. Apfelbaum, Manager, Business Licensing, D. Barnhart, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair, D. Giles, Acting Commissioner, Planning and Development Services, S. Hendrie, Chief Information Officer, Dr. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, K. Lutz, Deputy Chief/Associate Director, Emergency Medical Services, F. Meffe, Director, Human Resources, K. Smith, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development, M. Steele, Associate Director, Reporting and Analysis, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, B. Zvaniga, Interim Commissioner, Public Works

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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**

Councillor Sendzik declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Report CSD 13-2021 (Agenda Item 5.3), and Correspondence Item BRC-C 1-2021 (Agenda Item 6.3), respecting Hospital Funding Contribution Policy, as they both deal with Regional contributions to hospital projects, & a member of his family is employed by Niagara Health.

Councillor Steele declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Report CSD 13-2021 (Agenda Item 5.3), and Correspondence Item BRC-C 1-2021 (Agenda Item 6.3), respecting Hospital Funding Contribution Policy, as they both deal with Regional contributions to hospital projects, & his wife is employed by Niagara Health.

Councillor Gale declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Report CSD 13-2021 (Agenda Item 5.3), and Correspondence Item BRC-C 1-2021 (Agenda Item 6.3), respecting Hospital Funding Contribution Policy, as they both deal with Regional contributions to hospital projects, & his daughter is a member of the hospital board, and his son is employed by Niagara Health.

See Minute Item 5.3.

## **3. PRESENTATIONS**

There being no objections, the presentation respecting 2021 Consolidated Levy Budget (Agenda Item 5.1) was provided at this time.

Helen Chamberlain, Deputy Treasurer/Director, Financial Management & Planning, provided information respecting 2021 Consolidated Levy Budget. Topics of the presentation included:

- Key Themes
- 2021 Budget Process & Strategy
- Departmental Levy Budget
  - Highlights
  - 2021 Base Budget
  - Capital Financing
  - COVID-19 Pressures
  - Assessment Growth Revenue & Uses
  - Department Staffing Complement
- Consolidated Levy Budget Departments and Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABCs)Tax Impact on Average Household
  - Departments and Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABCs)
  - Tax Impact on Average Household
- Risks and Opportunities
- Next Steps

**Councillor Information Request(s):**

Provide information respecting the impact on the 2021 Levy Budget of the 2020 approval of 40 Uniform Constables for the Niagara Regional Police Service.

Provide information respecting the proposed levy tax increase in comparison to other regional municipalities for 2021.

**4. DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

There being no objections, Report CSD 5-2021, respecting 2021 Levy Operating Budget (Agenda Item 5.1) was moved to be considered following the Consent Items for Information (Agenda Item 6.0).

**5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**5.2 CSD 7-2021**

2021 Fees and Charges By-law

Moved by Councillor Whalen

Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report CSD 7-2021, dated January 14, 2021, respecting 2021 Fees and Charges By-law, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the 2021 Fees and Charges schedule, Appendix 1 of Report CSD 7-2021, **BE APPROVED**, with an effective date of February 1, 2021; and
2. That the necessary by-law, Appendix 2 of Report CSD 7-2021, **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration.

**Carried**

**Councillor Information Request(s):**

Provide information respecting the fee and cost-recovery analysis for all new or revised fees proposed in the 2021 Fees and Charges schedule.

### 5.3 CSD 13-2021

#### Hospital Funding Contribution Policy

Erin O'Hoski, Founder and Principle Consultant, Boulevard Strategy Group, provided information respecting Hospital Funding Contribution Policy and Scoring Matrix. Topics of the presentation included:

- Corporate Services Committee, Report CSD 72-2020
- Approved Guiding Principles
- Council's Preferred Approach "Hybrid Model"
- Niagara Region's Maximum Funding Threshold
- Methodology
- Operational Policy
- Proposed Scoring Matrix and West Lincoln Memorial Hospital Evaluation & Outcome
- Recommendation: Final Funding Contribution

Councillor Redekop declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Report CSD 13-2021, and Correspondence Item BRC-C 1-2021 (Agenda Item 6.3), respecting Hospital Funding Contribution Policy, as they both deal with Regional contributions to hospital projects, & his daughter undertakes contract work for Niagara Health.

Moved by Councillor Huson  
Seconded by Councillor Bylsma

That Report CSD 13-2021, dated January 14, 2021, respecting Hospital Funding Contribution Policy, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Council **APPROVE** the Hospital Funding Contribution Policy and Scoring Matrix;
2. That Council **APPROVE** a funding commitment of \$9.072M toward the required local contribution for the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital (WLMH) project pending the completion of a formal contribution agreement; and
3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to develop a comprehensive financing strategy for Regional contributions to hospital projects and be completed as part of the 2022 Budget process.

Moved by Councillor Jordan  
Seconded by Councillor Junkin

That clause two of the motion **BE AMENDED** as follows:

2. That Council **APPROVE** a funding commitment of ~~\$9.072M~~ **\$12.6M** toward the required local contribution for the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital (WLMH) project pending the completion of a formal contribution agreement.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (16): Bylsma, Campion, Chiocchio, Darte, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Fertich, Foster, Gibson, Jordan, Junkin, Nicholson, Ugulini, Whalen, Witteveen.

No (9): Butters, Edgar, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Ip, Rigby, Villella, Zalepa.

**Carried**

Moved by Councillor Huson  
Seconded by Councillor Gibson

That clauses 1 and 2 the motion **BE AMENDED** as follows:

1. That Council **APPROVE** a funding commitment of \$12.6M toward the required local contribution for the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital (WLMH) project pending the completion of a formal contribution agreement;
2. That Council **APPROVE in principle and further define** the Hospital Funding Contribution Policy and Scoring.

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Committee Chair, and the mover and seconder of the amendment:

2. That Council **APPROVE** in principle and further ~~define~~ **refine** the Hospital Funding Contribution Policy and Scoring.

The Committee Chair called the vote on the amendment, as amended, as follows:

That clauses 1 and 2 the motion **BE AMENDED** as follows:

1. That Council **APPROVE** a funding commitment of \$12.6M toward the required local contribution for the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital (WLMH) project pending the completion of a formal contribution agreement;
2. That Council **APPROVE *in principle and further refine*** the Hospital Funding Contribution Policy and Scoring

Yes (12): Bradley, Butters, Disero, Edgar, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Ip, Rigby, Villella, Whalen.

No (14): Bylsma, Campion, Chiocchio, Darte, Diodati, Easton, Fertich, Foster, Jordan, Junkin, Nicholson, Ugulini, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa.

**Defeated**

Moved by Councillor Nicholson

Seconded by Councillor Darte

That clause 1 **BE AMENDED** to read as follows:

1. That Council **APPROVE *a Regional funding contribution policy of 21% of the total local contribution.***

The following friendly ***amendment*** was accepted by the Committee Chair, and the mover and seconder of the amendment:

1. That Council **APPROVE** a Regional funding contribution policy ***to a maximum*** of 21% of the total local contribution.

The Committee Chair called the vote on the amendment, as amended.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (17): Bradley, Bylsma, Campion, Chiocchio, Darte, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Fertich, Foster, Gibson, Huson, Jordan, Junkin, Nicholson, Ugulini, Witteveen.

No (9): Butters, Edgar, Greenwood, Heit, Ip, Rigby, Villella, Whalen, Zalepa.

**Carried**

The Committee Chair called the vote on the motion, as amended, as follows:

That Report CSD 13-2021, dated January 14, 2021, respecting Hospital Funding Contribution Policy, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Council **APPROVE** a regional funding contribution policy to a maximum of 21% of the total local contribution;
2. That Council **APPROVE** a funding commitment of \$12.6M toward the required local contribution for the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital (WLMH) project pending the completion of a formal contribution agreement; and
3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to develop a comprehensive financing strategy for Regional contributions to hospital projects and be completed as part of the 2022 Budget process.

Clause 1 of the motion was considered separately as follows:

1. That Council **APPROVE** a regional funding contribution policy to a maximum of 21% of the total local contribution.

**Carried**

Clause 2 of the motion was considered separately as follows:

2. That Council **APPROVE** a funding commitment of \$12.6M toward the required local contribution for the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital (WLMH) project pending the completion of a formal contribution agreement.

**Carried**

Clause 3 of the motion was considered separately as follows:

3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to develop a comprehensive financing strategy for Regional contributions to hospital projects and be completed as part of the 2022 Budget process.

**Carried**

**6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

There being no objection, Correspondence Item BRC-C 1-2021, respecting Hospital Funding Contribution Policy (Agenda Item 6.3), was considered at this time.

**6.3 BRC-C 1-2021**

Hospital Funding Contribution Policy

Moved by Councillor Bylsma

Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Correspondence Item BRC-C 1-2021, being a memorandum from T. Harrison, Treasurer/Commissioner, Corporate Services, dated January 14, 2021, respecting Hospital Funding Contribution Policy, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

**6.1 CSD 6-2021**

Financial Disclosure Requirements – Ontario Regulations 284/09

Moved by Councillor Ugolini

Seconded by Councillor Diodati

That Report CSD 6-2021, dated January 14, 2021, respecting Financial Disclosure Requirements – Ontario Regulations 284/09, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

**6.2 BRC-C 2-2021**

Associate Medical Officer of Health Recruitment - Financial Implications

Moved by Councillor Butters

Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Correspondence Item BRC-C 2-2021, being a memorandum from M. Steele, Associate Director, Reporting & Analysis, dated January 14, 2021, respecting Associate Medical Officer of Health Recruitment – Financial Implications, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**



6.4 BRC-C 3-2021

Homelessness Capital Project - Provincial Social Services Relief Funding

Moved by Councillor Sendzik

Seconded by Councillor Chiocchio

That Correspondence Item BRC-C 3-2021, being a memorandum from Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, dated January 14, 2021, respecting Homelessness Capital Project - Provincial Social Services Relief Funding, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Moved by Councillor Chiocchio

Seconded by Councillor Sendzik

That the motion **BE AMENDED** to include the following:

***That staff BE DIRECTED to proceed with Option 1 for permanent supportive housing funded from the Taxpayer Relief Reserve as outlined in Correspondence BRC-C 3-2021.***

Moved by Councillor Rigby

Seconded by Councillor Foster

That the motion **BE REFERRED** to the Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting being held Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

**Defeated**

The Committee Chair called the vote on the amendment, as follows:

That the motion **BE AMENDED** to include the following:

***That staff BE DIRECTED to proceed with Option 1 for permanent supportive housing funded from the Taxpayer Relief Reserve as outlined in Correspondence BRC-C 3-2021.***

Recorded Vote:

Yes (28): Bradley, Butters, Bylsma, Campion, Chiocchio, Darte, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Ip, Jordan, Junkin, Nicholson, Redekop, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa.

No (0).

**Carried**

The Committee Chair called the vote on the motion, as amended, as follows:

That Correspondence Item BRC-C 3-2021, being a memorandum from Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, dated January 14, 2021, respecting Homelessness Capital Project - Provincial Social Services Relief Funding, **BE RECEIVED** for information; and

That staff **BE DIRECTED** to proceed with Option 1 for permanent supportive housing funded from the Taxpayer Relief Reserve as outlined in Correspondence BRC-C 3-2021.

**Carried**

6.5 BRC-C 4-2021

Levy Workshop Discussion Items from January 7, 2021

Moved by Councillor Fertich  
Seconded by Councillor Ugulini

That Correspondence Item BRC-C 4-2021, being a memorandum from T. Harrison, Treasurer/Commissioner, Corporate Services, dated January 14, 2021, respecting Levy Workshop Discussion Items from January 7, 2021, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

Moved by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That this meeting **BE ADJOURNED**; and

That a Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting **BE CALLED** for Thursday, January 21, 2021 for the consideration of any remaining business.

**Carried**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:11 a.m. on Friday, January 15, 2021.

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Councillor Zalepa  
Committee Chair

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Matthew Trennum  
Deputy Regional Clerk

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk