

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

**BRCOTW 3-2021  
Thursday, June 17, 2021  
Council Chamber/Video Conference  
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West  
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold**

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, Insinna, Ip, Nicholson, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Villella, Whalen (Committee Vice Chair)

Absent/Regrets: Bellows, Jordan, Junkin, Redekop, Ugulini, Witteveen

Staff Present in the Council Chamber: H. Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, S. Guglielmi, Technology Support 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

Staff Present via Video Conference: J. Gates, Strategic Projects Coordinator, D. Giles, Acting Commissioner, Planning and Development Services, K. Harold, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, Dr. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, D. Rurak, Director, Asset Management, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, D. Woiceshyn, Director, Niagara Housing/Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Regional Housing, 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 Gale declared an indirect pecuniary interest resecting Report CSD 36-2021, concerning Hospital Financing Strategy (Agenda Item 5.2), as his son is employed by Niagara Health.

Councillor Sendzik declared an indirect pecuniary interest respecting Report CSD 36-2021, concerning Hospital Financing Strategy (Agenda Item 5.2), as a member of his family is employed by Niagara Health.

Councillor Steele declared an indirect pecuniary interest respecting Report CSD 36-2021, concerning Hospital Financing Strategy (Agenda Item 5.2), as his wife is employed by Niagara Health.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

**4. DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

**5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**5.1 CSD 40-2021**

**2022 Budget Planning and Timetable**

Helen Chamberlain, Deputy Treasurer/Director, Financial Management and Planning, provided information respecting 2022 Budget Planning and Timetable. Topics of the presentation included:

- Niagara Region Budget Engagement
- Budget Planning By-law
- 2022 Budget Strategy Themes
- 2021 Gross Budget of \$1.56 Billion
- Base Services
  - Impact of 2022 Inflation
  - Impact of 2021 Base Services Funding Decisions
  - 2022 Budget Strategy
- Capital Financing Strategy
  - Use of Reserve and Debt Funded From Operating Budgets
  - 2022 Budget Strategy
- Growth Programs
  - Assessment Growth Consideration
  - 2022 Budget Strategy
- COVID-19 Implications
- 2022 Budget Strategy in Alignment with Policy
- Budget Timetable
- Next Steps

Moved by Councillor Steele  
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Report CSD 40-2021, dated June 17, 2021, respecting 2022 Budget Planning and Timetable, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the 2022 budget timetable, Appendix 1 to Report CSD 40-2021, **BE APPROVED**; and
2. That Report CSD 40-2021 **BE CIRCULATED** to the agencies, boards and commissions (ABCs) in accordance with By-law No. 2017-63 (Budget Control).

**Carried**

**Councillor Information Request(s):**

Provide information respecting the portion of the 2022 levy budget allocated for affordable housing and homelessness. Councillor Insinna.

5.2 CSD 36-2021

Hospital Financing Strategy

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Report CSD 36-2021, dated June 17, 2021, respecting Hospital Financing Strategy, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the hospital financing strategy **BE APPROVED**; and
2. That the operating budget requirement for the hospital financing strategy **BE CONSIDERED** as part of the 2022 budget process.

**Carried**

**6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Moved by Councillor Easton  
Seconded by Councillor Huson

That the following items **BE RECEIVED** for information:

BRC-C 7-2021  
Update on Budget Engagement

BRC-C 8-2021  
Health Equity-Informed Planning Project

**Carried**

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of other business.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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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