

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

**BRCOTW 7-2021
Thursday, December 9, 2021
Council Chamber/Video Conference
Niagara Regional 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, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gale, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Junkin, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen (Committee Vice Chair), Witteveen

Absent/Regrets: Diodati

Staff Present in the Council Chamber: H. Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, M. Elia, Technology Support Analyst, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, M. Murphy, Associate Director, Budget Planning & Strategy, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, C. Ryall, Director, Transportation Services, M. Sergi, Commissioner, Planning & Development Services, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer, B. Zvaniga, Interim Commissioner, Public Works

Staff Present via Video Conference: E. Amirault, Associate Director, Financial Operations & Systems, D. Barnhart, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair, N. Early, Director, Corporate Strategy & Innovation, R. Ferron, Deputy Chief/Associate Director, Emergency Medical Services, S. Hendrie, Chief Information Officer, Dr. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, K. Lutz, Deputy Chief/Associate Director, Emergency Medical Services, F. Meffe, Director, Human Resources, M. Robinson, Director, GO Implementation Office, K. Smith, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, D. Woiceshyn, Director, Niagara Housing/Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Regional Housing

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Zalepa called the meeting to order at 6:53 p.m.

Committee Chair Zalepa recessed the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:10 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 CSD 74-2021

2022 Levy Operating Budget

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

- 2022 Departmental Levy Budget - Key Themes
- Recap of Strategy and Total Levy
- Departmental Budget Highlights
 - Base Services
 - Department Staffing
 - Capital Financing
 - New Programs
 - Assessment Growth
 - COVID-19 Impacts
 - Taxpayer Relief Reserve
- Consolidated Levy Budget
 - Council Priorities
 - Tax Impact on Average Household
- Risks and Opportunities
- Next Steps

Moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Report CSD 74-2021, dated December 9, 2021, respecting 2022 Levy Operating Budget, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the 2022 net levy budget relating to the Niagara Regional Departments of \$239,899,186 as consolidated in Appendix 1 of Report CSD 74-2021, for an increase of \$5,004,785 or 2.15% (2.00% net of the rental revenue funding from Niagara Regional Housing) over the departmental operating budget **BE APPROVED** to support operations;
2. That an increase of \$3,428,589 or 0.85%, over the 2021 consolidated levy budget, being 1% or \$4,053,006 less the incremental capital funding included in the Agencies, Boards and Commissions budgets of \$624,417 **BE APPROVED** to support pay-as-you-go capital financing;
3. That an increase of \$1,935,000 or 0.48% over the 2021 consolidated levy budget **BE APPROVED** to support Council priorities as detailed in Appendix 5 of Report CSD 74, 2021;
4. That a contribution of \$25,871,749 from the Taxpayer Relief Reserve, **BE APPROVED** to fund the net pressures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, \$25,122,922 for Regional Departments, and \$748,827 for the Agencies, Boards and Commissions COVID-19 pressures, as detailed in Appendix 2 of Report CSD 74-2021, for a net taxpayer impact of \$0;
5. That 1.32% or \$5,365,318 of assessment growth **BE APPROVED** to fund costs, as detailed in Appendix 3 of Report CSD 74-2021, in alignment with section 4.7 of By-law 2019-79 Budget Planning By-law;
6. That the 2022 net levy operating budget including the Niagara Regional Departments of \$250,628,093 (inclusive of growth, capital financing and council priorities) and Agencies, Boards and Commissions of \$177,672,621 for a total general levy of \$428,300,714 or 4.35% increase **BE APPROVED**; and
7. That the necessary by-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration.

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That the motion **BE AMENDED** as follows:

5. That 1.32% or \$5,365,318 of assessment growth **BE APPROVED** to fund costs, as detailed in Appendix 3 of Report CSD 74-2021, in alignment with section 4.7 of By-law 2019-79 Budget Planning By-law;
 - a. ***That \$6 million from the taxpayer relief reserve BE APPROVED to fund the 2022 general levy budget; and***
6. That the 2022 net levy operating budget including the Niagara Regional Departments of ~~\$250,628,093~~ **\$244,628,093** (inclusive of growth, capital financing and council priorities) and Agencies, Boards and Commissions of \$177,672,621 for a total general levy of ~~\$428,300,714~~ **\$422,300,714** or ~~4.35%~~ **2.87%** increase **BE APPROVED**.

Moved by Councillor Gale
Seconded by Councillor Darte

That the motion **BE FURTHER AMENDED** as follows:

5. That 1.32% or \$5,365,318 of assessment growth **BE APPROVED** to fund costs, as detailed in Appendix 3 of Report CSD 74-2021, in alignment with section 4.7 of By-law 2019-79 Budget Planning By-law;
 - a. ***That ~~\$6 million~~ \$9.5 million from the taxpayer relief reserve BE APPROVED to fund the 2022 general levy budget; and***
6. That the 2022 net levy operating budget including the Niagara Regional Departments of ~~\$250,628,093~~ ~~\$244,628,093~~ **\$241,128,093** (inclusive of growth, capital financing and council priorities) and Agencies, Boards and Commissions of \$177,672,621 for a total general levy of ~~\$428,300,714~~ ~~\$422,300,714~~ **\$418,800,714** or ~~4.35%~~ ~~2.87%~~ **2%** increase **BE APPROVED**.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (10): Bylsma, Campion, Chiocchio, Darte, Fertich, Gale, Gibson, Junkin, Villella, Whalen.

No (20): Bradley, Butters, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Foster, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Witteveen, Zalepa.

Defeated

Moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by Councillor Edgar

That the question **BE CALLED**.

Carried

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

5. That 1.32% or \$5,365,318 of assessment growth **BE APPROVED** to fund costs, as detailed in Appendix 3 of Report CSD 74-2021, in alignment with section 4.7 of By-law 2019-79 Budget Planning By-law;
 - a. *That \$6 million from the taxpayer relief reserve be approved to fund the 2022 general levy budget; and*
6. That the 2022 net levy operating budget including the Niagara Regional Departments of ~~\$250,628,093~~ **\$244,628,093** (inclusive of growth, capital financing and council priorities) and Agencies, Boards and Commissions of \$177,672,621 for a total general levy of ~~\$428,300,714~~ **\$422,300,714** or 4.35% **2.87%** increase **BE APPROVED**.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (20): Bradley, Bylsma, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Foster, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Nicholson, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Whalen, Witteveen.

No (10): Butters, Campion, Chiocchio, Darte, Fertich, Gale, Junkin, Redekop, Villella, Zalepa.

Carried

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

That Report CSD 74-2021, dated December 9, 2021, respecting 2022 Levy Operating Budget, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

- 1) That the 2022 net levy budget relating to the Niagara Regional Departments of \$239,899,186 as consolidated in Appendix 1 of Report CSD 74-2021, for an increase of \$5,004,785 or 2.15% (2.00% net of the rental revenue funding from Niagara Regional Housing) over the departmental operating budget **BE APPROVED** to support operations;

- 2) That an increase of \$3,428,589 or 0.85%, over the 2021 consolidated levy budget, being 1% or \$4,053,006 less the incremental capital funding included in the Agencies, Boards and Commissions budgets of \$624,417 **BE APPROVED** to support pay-as-you-go capital financing;
- 3) That an increase of \$1,935,000 or 0.48% over the 2021 consolidated levy budget **BE APPROVED** to support Council priorities as detailed in Appendix 5 of Report CSD 74, 2021;
- 4) That a contribution of \$25,871,749 from the Taxpayer Relief Reserve, **BE APPROVED** to fund the net pressures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, \$25,122,922 for Regional Departments, and \$748,827 for the Agencies, Boards and Commissions COVID-19 pressures, as detailed in Appendix 2 of Report CSD 74-2021, for a net taxpayer impact of \$0;
- 5) That 1.32% or \$5,365,318 of assessment growth **BE APPROVED** to fund costs, as detailed in Appendix 3 of Report CSD 74-2021, in alignment with section 4.7 of By-law 2019-79 Budget Planning By-law;
 - a) That \$6 million from the taxpayer relief reserve **BE APPROVED** to fund the 2022 general levy budget;
- 6) That the 2022 net levy operating budget including the Niagara Regional Departments of \$244,628,093 (inclusive of growth, capital financing and council priorities) and Agencies, Boards and Commissions of \$177,672,621 for a total general levy of \$422,300,714 or 2.87% increase **BE APPROVED**; and
- 7) That the necessary by-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (23): Bradley, Butters, Bylsma, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Foster, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Junkin, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Whalen, Witteveen.

No (7): Champion, Chiocchio, Dart, Fertich, Gale, Villella, Zalepa.

Carried

5.2 CSD 76-2021

2022 Fees and Charges By-law

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Steele

That Report CSD 76-2021, dated December 9, 2021, respecting 2022 Schedule of Fees and Charges, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Draft 2022 Schedule of Fees and Charges, Appendix 1 of Report CSD 76-2021, **BE APPROVED** with an effective date of January 1, 2022; and
2. That the necessary by-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration.

Carried

6. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Moved by Councillor Ugolini
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

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

CAO 21-2021
Climate Change Action Program Update

CSD 80-2021
2022 Operating Budget Reconciliation and Financial Disclosure under Ontario Regulation 284/09

Carried

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of other business.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 23, 2022.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

Councillor Zalepa
Committee Chair

Matthew Trennum
Deputy Regional Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk