

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

**BRCOTW 05-2019
Thursday, February 28, 2019
Council Chamber
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee: Bellows, 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, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen (Committee Vice Chair), Witteveen, Zalepa (Committee Chair)

Staff: H. Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, R. Cheung, Senior Budget Analyst, D. Giles, Director, Community and Long Range Planning, C. Habermehl, Acting Commissioner, Public Works, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Enterprise Resource Management Services, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, V. Kuhns, Acting Director, Economic Development, M. Murphy, Associate Director, Budget Planning & Strategy, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, T. Potts, Senior Budget Analyst, C. Ryall, Director, Transportation Services, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Zalepa called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations

4. **DELEGATIONS**

4.1 2019 Levy Operating Budget (Agenda Item 5.1)

Sal Sorrento, Resident, City of St. Catharines, appeared before Committee in support of the proposed program enhancements to Community Services, as presented in Appendix 2-REVISED to Report CSD 22.2019, and the addition of full time permanent front-line staff for Seniors Services, Long-Term Care Homes.

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide information respecting staffing levels and ratios of staff to residents in Long-Term Care Homes. Councillor Villella.

5. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

5.1 CSD 22-2019

2019 Levy Operating Budget - **REVISED**

Helen Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management and Planning/Deputy Treasurer, provided information respecting 2019 Levy Operating Budget. Topics of the presentation included:

- 2019 Consolidated Levy Budget
- Revised 2019 Levy Operating Budget
- Departmental Budget at 1.6%
- Total Budget increase of 4.6%
- Household Impacts
- Historical Tax Levy Increases
- Next Steps

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Ugolini

That Report CSD 22-2019 - REVISED, dated February 28, 2019, respecting 2019 Levy Budget Operating Budget REVISED, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the 2019 net levy budget relating to the Niagara Regional Departments with a total of \$177,903,908 as consolidated in Appendix 1 **BE APPROVED** including the following:

- a. That an increase of \$2,647,125 or 1.5% over the 2018 departmental operating budget **BE APPROVED** in accordance with Council approved guidance;
 - b. That an increase of an additional \$687,757 or 0.4% over the 2018 departmental operating budget, as detailed in Appendix 2, **BE APPROVED** in accordance with Council approved additional guidance;
2. That the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority differential reserve refund of \$1,284,237 **BE APPROVED** to fund one time initiatives as detailed in Appendix 2;
3. That an additional increase of \$7,975,215 or 2.3% over the 2018 consolidated levy **BE APPROVED** to fund service enhancements to the Niagara Regional Transit (NRT) program;
4. That an additional increase of \$900,000 or 0.3% over the 2018 consolidated levy **BE DEFERRED** to 2020 to provide sustainable funding for the continuation of the Waterfront Investment Program (WIP);
5. That an additional increase of \$250,000 or 0.1% over the 2018 consolidated levy **BE APPROVED** to provide sustainable funding for the continuation of the Niagara Investment in Culture (NIC) grant program;
6. That an additional 1.65% or \$5,705,155 of assessment growth **BE APPROVED** to fund an increase in Niagara Region Development Charge grants of \$3,525,308 and the Niagara Regional Police Services operating budget of \$2,179,847;
7. That the 2019 net departmental tax levy of \$189,654,431 in addition to the ABCs of \$179,382,735 for a total tax levy of \$369,037,166 **BE APPROVED**; and
8. That the necessary by-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration.

Moved by Councillor Sendzik
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That clause 3 **BE AMENDED** to read as follows:

3. That an additional increase of \$4,975,215 or 1.4% over the 2018 consolidated levy **BE APPROVED** to fund service enhancements to the Niagara Regional Transit (NRT) program of \$7.9 million funded with \$3 million from the taxpayer relief reserve.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (24): Bellows, Bylsma, Campion, Chiocchio, Darte, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Fertich, Gale, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Jordan, Junkin, Nicholson, Redekop, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen.

No (8): Bradley, Butters, Edgar, Foster, Ip, Rigby, Witteveen, Zalepa.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Sendzik
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That \$198,000 in adjustments to Councillor remuneration **BE INCLUDED** in this budget.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (21): Bellows, Campion, Darte, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Foster, Gale, Gibson, Heit, Insinna, Jordan, Junkin, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Whalen.

No (11): Bradley, Butters, Bylsma, Chiocchio, Fertich, Greenwood, Huson, Ip, Villella, Witteveen, Zalepa.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Campion
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That \$3,525,308 in Development Charge exemptions **BE FUNDED** from the taxpayer relief reserve.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (5): Campion, Chiocchio, Diodati, Disero, Gale.

No (24): Bradley, Butters, Darte, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Junkin, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa.

Defeated

Moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That the question **BE CALLED**.

Carried

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

That Report CSD 22-2019 - REVISED, dated February 28, 2019, respecting 2019 Levy Budget Operating Budget REVISED, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the 2019 net levy budget relating to the Niagara Regional Departments with a total of \$177,592,380 as consolidated in Appendix 1 **BE APPROVED** including the following:
 - a. That an increase of \$2,137,597 or 1.2% over the 2018 departmental operating budget **BE APPROVED** in accordance with Council approved guidance;
 - b. That an increase of an additional \$885,757 or 0.5% over the 2018 departmental operating budget, as detailed in Appendix 2, **BE APPROVED** in accordance with Council approved additional guidance;
2. That the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority differential reserve refund of \$1,284,237 **BE APPROVED** to fund one time initiatives as detailed in Appendix 2;
3. That an additional increase of \$4,975,215 or 1.4% over the 2018 consolidated levy **BE APPROVED** to fund service enhancements to the Niagara Regional Transit (NRT) program of \$7.9 million funded with \$3 million from the taxpayer relief reserve;
4. That an additional increase of \$900,000 or 0.3% over the 2018 consolidated levy **BE DEFERRED to 2020** to provide sustainable funding for the continuation of the Waterfront Investment Program (WIP);
5. That an additional increase of \$250,000 or 0.1% over the 2018 consolidated levy **BE APPROVED** to provide sustainable funding for the continuation of the Niagara Investment in Culture (NIC) grant program;

6. That an additional 1.65% or \$5,705,155 of assessment growth **BE APPROVED** to fund an increase in Niagara Region Development Charge grants of \$3,525,308 and the Niagara Regional Police Services operating budget of \$2,179,847;
7. That the 2019 net departmental tax levy of \$186,342,903 in addition to the ABCs of \$179,382,734 for a total tax levy of \$365,725,637 **BE APPROVED**; and
8. That the necessary by-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (26): Bradley, Butters, Bylsma, Chiocchio, Darté, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gibson, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Jordan, Junkin, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen, Zalepa.

No (6): Bellows, Champion, Gale, Greenwood, Ip, Witteveen.

Carried

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 BRC-C 07-2019

Special Consideration of Regional Municipality of Niagara (RMON)
Request - 2019 Niagara Regional Police Service and Police Services
Board Approved Operating Budget

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Ip

That Correspondence Item BRC-C 07-2019, being a letter from D. Reid, Executive Director, Niagara Regional Police Services Board, dated February 21, 2019, respecting Special Consideration of RMON Request - 2019 Niagara Regional Police Service and Police Services Board Approved Operating Budget, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

6.2 CSC-C 07-2019

City of Welland Motion re: Forks Road Bridge

Moved by Councillor Villella

Seconded by Councillor Campion

That Correspondence Item CSC-C 07-2019, being a memorandum from T. Harrison, Commissioner, Enterprise Resource Management Services/Treasurer, dated February 20, 2019, respecting City of Welland Motion re: Forks Road Bridge, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Moved by Councillor Campion

Seconded by Councillor Chiocchio

That the motion **BE AMENDED** to add clause 2 as follows:

2. That \$4,000,000 **BE ALLOCATED** from the taxpayer relief reserve for demolition, pier testing and detailed design of Forks Road Bridge.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (7): Campion, Chiocchio, Diodati, Gale, Ip, Steele, Villella.

No (23): Bellows, Bradley, Butters, Bylsma, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Jordan, Junkin, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Ugulini, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa.

Defeated

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

That Correspondence Item CSC-C 07-2019, being a memorandum from T. Harrison, Commissioner, Enterprise Resource Management Services / Treasurer, dated February 20, 2019, respecting City of Welland Motion re: Forks Road Bridge, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

6.3 BRC-C 08-2019

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Response to Request for Information (CSD 22-2019)

Moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Correspondence Item BRC-C 08-2019, being a letter from G. Furtney, Interim Senior Director, Corporate Resources, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, dated February 28, 2019, respecting Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Response to Request for Information (CSD 22-2019), **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of other business.

8. **CLOSED SESSION**

There were no closed session items.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Committee Chair.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Councillor Zalepa
Committee Chair

Matthew Trennum
Deputy Regional Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk