

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES**

BRCOTW 7-2023

Thursday, July 27, 2023

**Council Chamber - In Person and Electronic Meeting
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee: Bateman, Bradley (Regional Chair), Craitor, Davies, Easton (via Video Conference), Gale (via Video Conference), Ganann (via Video Conference), Grant (via Video Conference), Heit, Insinna, Ip, Kaiser (via Video Conference), Morocco, Redekop (Committee Chair), Rigby, Seaborn (via Video Conference), Secord, Siscoe, Sorrento (via Video Conference), Ugulini, Villella, Whalen (Committee Vice-Chair), Witteveen, Zalepa

Absent/Regrets: Campion, Chiocchio, Diodati, Foster, Huson, Jordan, Junkin, Steele

Staff: D. Barnhart, Chief of Staff, Governance (via Video Conference), R. Bradshaw, Associate Director, Water Wastewater Asset Management (via Video Conference), B. Brens, Associate Director, Budget Planning & Strategy, D. Carnegie, Acting Commissioner, Public Works, T. Cimino, Associate Director, Water Wastewater Engineering (via Video Conference), H. Furtado, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, P. Hamilton, Supervisor, Corporate Budgets, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, Dr. A. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health, S. Lemos, Manager, Water Wastewater Capital Planning Programs (via Video Conference), F. Meffe, Director, Human Resources, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, M. Sergi, Commissioner, Growth Strategy & Economic Development, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development (via Video Conference), J. Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, F. Tassone, Director, Transportation Services, J. Tonellato, Director, Water & Wastewater Services (via Video Conference), R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer, D. Woiceshyn, Director, Housing Services (via Video Conference)

Others Present: B. Fordy, Deputy Chief, Niagara Regional Police Service, C. Stout, General Manager, Niagara Transit Commission

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were not disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

5. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

5.1 **CSD 38-2023**

2024 Budget Planning and Timetable

Helen Furtado, Director, Financial Management and Planning, provided information respecting the 2024 Budget Planning Budget. Topics of the presentation included:

- 2024 Proposed Budget Strategy
- Budget Strategy Relative to Council Priorities, Objectives and Initiatives
- How We Provide Council Engagement and How We Engage the Public
- Budget Planning by-law
- Base Budget and General Levy Base Budget
- Water Wastewater, Waste Management and Transit Base Budget
- Base Budget Prior Year
- Capital Financing
- 2024 Consolidated Capital Budget Update
- COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Costs
- New Programs and Assessment Growth
- Budget Risks and Considerations
- 2024 Budget Timetable and Next Steps
- Budget Discussion Reference Tool

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide information on the effect of tax increases as it relates to provincial legislation related to the ability of landlords to increase rent as a result of a tax increase. Councillor Bateman.

Provide a status update of capital projects that have proceeded through the health equity impact assessment and the outcomes considered.
Councillor Easton.

Moved by Councillor Ugolini
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Report CSD 38-2023, dated July 27, 2023, respecting 2024 Budget Planning and Timetable, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations, **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the 2024 budget timetable, as attached as Appendix 1 to Report CSD 38-2023, **BE APPROVED**; and
2. That this report **BE CIRCULATED** to agencies, boards, and commissions (ABCs) in accordance with By-Law No. 2017-63 "Budget Control".

Carried

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

There were no consent items for information.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Transit Special Levy – City of St. Catharines

Councillor Siscoe requested information respecting the transit special levy and the issue of rural and urban residents paying the same rate and potential mitigation measures.

7.2 Shared Services

Councillor Siscoe requested information on possible options with respect to fees for shared services specific to Bill 23 Planning services as well as Economic Development services provided by the Region and different funding mechanisms that could be put in place for municipalities who do not require these services to have the ability to opt out.

7.2 Police Services Board Budgets

Councillor Kaiser requested information comparing the Niagara Regional Police Service budget to the budgets of similar police services.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Councillor Redekop
Committee Chair

Jenna Spratt
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk