

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

BRCOTW 8-2023

Thursday, October 12, 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), Chiocchio, Craitor*, Davies*, Easton*, Foster, Ganann*, Grant, Heit, Huson*, Insinna, Ip, Kaiser, Morocco, Redekop (Committee Chair), Rigby*, Seaborn*, Secord*, Siscoe, Sorrento*, Steele*, Vilella, Whalen (Committee Vice-Chair), Witteveen*, Zalepa*
- Absent/Regrets: Campion, Diodati, Gale, Jordan, Junkin, Ugolini
- Staff: C. Banach, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Regional Housing/Director, Housing Services, D. Barnhart, Chief of Staff, Governance*, R. Bradshaw, Associate Director, Water, Waste-Water Asset Management, M. Breadner, Manager, Asset Management, B. Brens, Associate Director, Budget Planning & Strategy, D. Carnegie, Acting Commissioner, Public Works, R. Ferron, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services*, H. Furtado, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, C. Habermehl, Director, Waste Management Services*, P. Hamilton, Supervisor, Corporate Budgets, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, S. Hendrie, Chief Information Officer, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, Dr. A. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health*, K. Lotimer, Deputy Regional Clerk, B. McMahon, Program Financial Specialist*, F. Meffe, Director, Human Resources*, R. Muzzell, Manager, Program Financial Support*, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, B. Ray, Associate Director, Facilities Projects, Assets and Energy*, D. Szymkow, Senior Budget Analyst, F. Tassone, Director, Transportation Services, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer*, N. Wolfe, Director, Construction, Energy and Facilities Management*
- Others: C. Stout, General Manager, Niagara Transit Commission*

* indicates members who participated electronically, all other members participated in person

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Redekop called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. **DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

3.1 **2024 Capital Budget**

Helen Furtado, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, provided information respecting 2024 Capital Budget. Topics of the presentation included:

- 2024 Key Drivers
- Financing Strategy
- 2024 Capital Budget Outcomes
- Risks and Opportunities
- Considerations
- Next Steps

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide information respecting the average age of the comparator municipalities and their infrastructure that were used to calculate the average Annual Repayment Limit (ARL) within the Financing Strategy. Councillor Siscoe.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

5. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

5.1 **CSD 43-2023**
2024 Capital Budget

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Steele

That Report CSD 43-2023, dated October 12, 2023, respecting 2024 Capital Budget, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the 2024 Capital Budget for Niagara Regional Departments and Agencies, Boards and Commissions and Special Levies of \$279,744,846 **BE APPROVED** to the projects in Appendix 1 of Report CSD 43-2023, pending final By-law approval anticipated to be on December 14, 2023;
2. That the following incremental transfers as utilized in the Capital Budget and forecast **BE CONSIDERED** in the 2024 Operating budgets:
 - a. General Capital Levy – \$11,110,000 or 2.5% of the levy;
 - b. Water & Wastewater Capital Reserves – \$7,296,460 or 5.0% of the net Water & Wastewater requisition;
 - c. Transit – \$2,166,667;
 - d. NRPS - \$300,000;
3. That \$506,000 for the incremental operating costs related to capital projects funded with the General Capital Levy, as per Appendix 2 to Report CSD 43-2023, **BE CONSIDERED** as part of the 2024 Operating Budget to be funded from Assessment Growth;
4. That financing in the amount of \$265,144,846 gross and \$157,545,709 net **BE INITIATED** upon approval of the 2024 Capital Budget and **BE ALLOCATED** to the projects as summarized in Appendix 1 to Report CSD 43-2023; and
5. That the necessary By-laws **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration to coincide with the approval of the operating budget.

Moved by Councillor Insinna
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Clause 2 of the motion **BE AMENDED** as follows:

2. That the following incremental transfers as utilized in the Capital Budget and forecast **BE CONSIDERED** in the 2024 Operating budgets:
 - a. General Capital Levy – ~~\$11,110,000 or 2.5%~~ **1.5%** of the levy ***excluding any transportation projects***

Defeated

The Chair called the vote on the original motion.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (18): Bateman, Bradley, Chiocchio, Easton, Foster, Ganann, Heit, Huson, Ip, Kaiser, Morocco, Redekop, Seaborn, Siscoe, Sorrento, Steele, Witteveen, Zalepa.

No (4): Grant, Insinna, Vilella, Whalen.

Carried

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

There were no consent items for information.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Capital Projects Deferred List

Councillor Heit requested that the list of proposed deferred capital projects discussed during the meeting be provided to Council for review prior to the final budget being approved.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Councillor Redekop
Committee Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Deputy Regional Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk