

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

**BRCOTW 1-2024**

**Thursday, July 25, 2024**

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

Committee: Bateman\*, Bradley (Regional Chair), Campion\*, Chiocchio, Craitor\*, Davies, Easton, Foster\*, Gale\*, Ganann\*, Grant, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Kaiser, Morocco, Redekop (Committee Chair), Rigby, Seaborn, Secord\*, Siscoe\*, Sorrento, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen (Committee Vice-Chair), Witteveen, Zalepa\*

Absent/Regrets: Diodati, Jordan, Junkin

Staff: B. Brens, Associate Director, Budget Planning & Strategy, D. Carnegie, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services, D. D'Amboise, Manager, Program Financial Support, C. Habermehl, Director, Waste Management Services\*, P. Hamilton, Supervisor, Corporate Budgets, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, Dr. A. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health, P. Lambert, Acting Director, Waster Wastewater Services, K. Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, F. Meffe, Director, Human Resources, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, T. Ricketts, Commissioner, Public Works, M. Sergi, Commissioner, Growth Strategy & Economic Development, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development, J. Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, M. Steele, Associate Director, Reporting & Analysis, F. Tassone, Director, Transportation Services, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer

\* indicates participants who attended the meeting electronically, all others participated in person

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Redekop called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Councillor Ip read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. **DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

4.1 **2025 Budget Strategy**

Beth Brens, Associate Director, Budget Planning & Strategy, provided information respecting 2025 Budget Strategy. Topics of the presentation included:

- 2025 Proposed Budget
- Budget Planning By-law
- Historical Inflation
- General Tax Levy Based Services
- Agency, Boards, and Commissions Cost Pressures
- General Tax Levy - 2022 Tax Deferral
- General Tax Levy - Development Charges
- General Tax Levy Capital Financing
- 2025 Consolidated Capital Budget Update
- 10 Year Capital Reserve Comparison
- Assessment Growth
- 2025 Budget Timetable

Moved by Councillor Huson  
Seconded by Councillor Davies

That Report CSD 29-2024 (Agenda Item 7.1), respecting 2025 Budget Strategy, **BE DEALT WITH** at this time.

**Carried**

7. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

7.1 **CSD 29-2024**  
**2025 Budget Strategy**

Moved by Councillor Huson  
Seconded by Councillor Davies

That Report CSD 29-2024, dated July 25, 2024, respecting 2025 Budget Strategy, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to agencies, boards, and commissions (ABCs) in accordance with By-Law No. 2017-63 "Budget Control".

**Carried**

**Councillor Information Request(s):**

Provide information respecting the risk of not contributing to landfill liability. Councillor Insinna.

Provide a ten-year overview of the Taxpayer Relief Reserve and annual surplus/losses. Councillor Huson.

Provide information respecting whether the Ontario Lottery and Gaming (OLG) transfer payments are sufficient to cover the additional policing costs associated with hosting the casinos. Councillor Huson.

Provide information respecting FTEs by department for the period of 2019 to 2024 and provide information related to unfilled positions. Councillor Redekop.

**5. DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

**6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**6.1 CSD 38-2024**

Investing in Ontario Fund Update

Moved by Councillor Steele

Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Report CSD 38-2024, dated July 25, 2024, respecting Investing in Ontario Fund Update, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the provincial funding provided under the Investing in Ontario Fund of \$10,616,951 **BE APPROVED**, to be allocated to the East Side Employment Lands Water and Wastewater Servicing Projects as part of the 2025 capital budget to be presented to Council.

**Carried**

**7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Moved by Councillor Sorrento  
Seconded by Councillor Campion

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

CSD 30-2024

Levy Impact of Mandated Services Provided Under Provincial and Federal Agreements

CSD 34-2024

Health Equity Informed Planning Update

CSD 37-2024

Debt Strategy Update

**Carried**

**Councillor Information Request(s):**

Provide a listing of programs for which the Region has been allocating surplus funding due to federal/provincial funding shortfalls and include information on the impacts of the elimination of this additional funding allocation. Councillor Insinna.

Provide a detailed listing of the non-mandatory programs and services that the Region has been funding. Councillor Zalepa.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of other business.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

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Councillor Redekop  
Committee Chair

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Kelly Lotimer  
Deputy Regional Clerk

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk