

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

**BRCOTW 2-2024**

**Thursday, September 12, 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), Champion\*, Chiocchio, Craitor\*, Davies\*, Easton, Foster, Ganann, Grant, Heit, Insinna, Junkin\*, Kaiser, Morocco, Redekop (Committee Chair), Rigby, Seaborn, Siscoe, Sorrento\*, Steele\*, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen (Committee Vice-Chair), Witteveen

Absent/Regrets: Diodati, Gale, Huson, Ip, Jordan, Secord, Zalepa

Staff: C. Banach, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Regional Housing/Director, Housing Services, B. Brens, Associate Director, Budget Planning & Strategy, D. Carnegie, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, S. Eickmann, Emergency Medical Services Logistics Program Manager\*, R. Ferron, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services, L. Gigliotti, Associate Director, Human Resource Operations and Systems\*, C. Habermehl, Director, Waste Management Services\*, P. Hamilton, Supervisor, Corporate Budgets, S. Hendrie, Chief Information Officer, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, Dr. A. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health\*, H. Koning, Director, Senior Services, P. Lambert, Director, Water Wastewater Services, K. Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, P. Maposa, Director, Asset Management\*, A. Niece, Program Financial Specialist\*, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, B. Ray, Associate Director, Facilities Projects, Assets and Energy\*, M. Sergi, Commissioner, Growth Strategy & Economic Development, J. Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, M. Steele, Associate Director, Reporting & Analysis, D. Szymkow, Senior Budget Analyst, F. Tassone, Director, Transportation Services, N. Wolfe, Director, Construction, Energy and Facilities Management\*

Others Present: C. Stout, General Manager, Niagara Transit Commission\*

\* 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 6:31 p.m.

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Councillor Kaiser read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. **DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

5. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

6.1 **CSD 46-2024**  
2025 Capital Budget

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

- 2025 Key Drivers
- Financing Strategy
- 2025 Capital Budget Outcomes
- Risks & Considerations
- Next Steps

Moved by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Councillor Ugolini

That Report CSD 46-2024, dated September 12, 2024, respecting 2025 Capital Budget, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the 2025 Capital Budget for Niagara Regional Departments and Agencies, Boards and Commissions and Special Levies of \$376,112,038 **BE APPROVED** to the projects in Appendix 1 of Report CSD 46-2024, pending final By-law approval anticipated to be on December 12, 2024;

2. That the following incremental transfers as utilized in the Capital Budget and forecast **BE CONSIDERED** in the 2025 Operating Budgets;
  - a. General Capital Levy – \$12,075,960 or 2.5% of the levy;
  - b. Water & Wastewater Capital Reserves – \$11,160,869 or 7.22% of the net Water & Wastewater requisition;
  - c. Niagara Transit Commission (NTC) – \$2,166,667;
  - d. NRPS - \$320,000;
3. That \$290,900 for the incremental operating costs related to capital projects funded with the General Capital Levy as per Appendix 2 of Report CSD 46-2024 **BE CONSIDERED** as part of the 2025 Operating Budget to be funded from Assessment Growth;
4. That financing in the amount of \$333,872,038 gross and \$174,157,666 net **BE INITIATED** upon approval of the 2025 Capital Budget and **BE ALLOCATED** to the projects as summarized in Appendix 1 of Report CSD 46-2024;
5. That development charge (DC) funding for the Barrick Road Trunk Watermain **BE INCREASED** from 40% to 50% as per the Region's policy approach to identifying benefit to existing (BTE) for projects;
6. That the WTP Upgrade – Welland Upgrade – Phase 2 **BE FUNDED** 50% with DCs and 50% with non-DC sources as per the Region's policy approach to identifying BTE for projects; and
7. 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 Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Steele

That the question **BE CALLED**.

**Defeated**

As the motion to call the question was defeated, discussion continued.

The Committee Chair called the vote on the motion, and declared it

**Carried**

**Councillor Information Request(s):**

Provide information respecting the legal obligations of Council under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Regional Chair Bradley.

**7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

7.1 BRC-C 1-2024

Capital Budget Submissions – Niagara Regional Housing, Niagara Regional Police Service and Niagara Transit Commission

Moved by Councillor Whalen  
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Memorandum BRC-C 1-2024, dated September 12, 2024, respecting Capital Budget Submissions- Niagara Regional Housing, Niagara Regional Police Service and Niagara, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of other business.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 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