

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

BRCOTW 5-2024

Thursday, November 14, 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*, Diodati, Easton*, Foster, Gale*, Ganann*, Grant*, Heit, Huson, Insinna*, Ip, Jordan*, Junkin*, Kaiser*, Morocco, Redekop (Committee Chair), Rigby, Seaborn*, Siscoe, Sorrento*, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen (Committee Vice-Chair), Witteveen, Zalepa

Absent/Regrets: Davies, Secord

Staff: C. Banach, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Regional Housing/Director, Housing Services, D. Barnhart, Chief of Staff, Governance*, B. Brens, Associate Director, Budget Planning & Strategy, D. Carnegie, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services/Treasurer, D. D'Amboise, Manager, Program Financial Support*, J. Dimanis, Manager, Housing Operations, D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services, R. Hill, Legislative Assistant, H. Koning, Acting Commissioner, Community Services, P. Maposa, Director, Asset Management*, S. Mota, Program Financial Specialist, R. Muzzell, Manager, Program Financial Support, A. Niece, Program Financial Specialist, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, M. Raquion, Director, Financial Management and Planning/Deputy Treasurer, T. Ricketts, Commissioner, Public Works*, M. Sergi, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer*, J. Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, F. Tassone, Director, Transportation Services*, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer, M. Vink, Associate Director, Court Services

Others Present: B. Fordy, Chief of Police, Niagara Regional Police Service, L. Gagnon, Director, Corporate Services, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, J. Lawson, Niagara Regional Police Service Board Chair*, L. Lee-Yates, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, L. Rullo, Finance Manager, Niagara Regional Police Service,

* 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. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Councillor Bateman read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. **DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

See Minute Item 6.3

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

5. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

6.1 **BRC-C 5-2024**

Miranda Vink, Associate Director, Court Services, provided information respecting the Court Services 2025 Proposed Operating Budget. Topics of the presentation included:

- Court Services Operating Budget
- Budget Drivers
- Annual Charging Volumes
- Budget Summary
- Operating Budget Staff Summary
- Proposed Budget Investments
- Next Steps

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Ugulini

That Correspondence Item BRC-C 5-2024, dated October 29, 2024, respecting Court Services 2025 Proposed Operating Budget, **BE RECEIVED**; and

That the Court Services 2025 Proposed Operating Budget **BE APPROVED** in principle subject to consideration of the general levy for Niagara Region.

Carried

6.2 BRC-C 6-2024

Cameron Banach, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Regional Housing, and Jim Dimanis, Manager Housing Operations, provided information respecting Proposed Niagara Regional Housing 2025 Operating Budget. Topics of the presentation included:

- Core Services and Service Delivery Model
- Key Service Levels
- Service Outlook
- Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) Priority Projects or Initiatives
- NRH New Development Projects
- Performance Measures and Results
- 2025 Budget Recommendations
- 2025 Operating Budget Overview
- Budget Overview
- 2025 Levy Budget Analysis
- Efficiencies
- 2025 Proposed Budget Investments

Moved by Councillor Zalepa
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Correspondence Item BRC-C 6-2024, dated November 6, 2024, respecting Proposed Niagara Regional Housing 2025 Operating Budget, **BE RECEIVED**; and

That the Niagara Regional Housing 2025 Proposed Operating Budget **BE APPROVED** in principle subject to consideration of the general levy for Niagara Region.

Carried

6.3 BRC-C 7-2024

Chief Fordy, Niagara Regional Police Service, and Jen Lawson, Police Service Board Chair, provided information respecting the 2025 Proposed Operating Budget - Niagara Regional Police Service and Police Service Board. Topics of the presentation included:

- Chief's Vision and What Sets Us Apart
- Growth of Population, Calls for Service and Cases
- Clearance Rates
- Population versus Total Personnel by Police Service
- Community Safety and Compliance

- Right Sizing
- Base Budget Increase by Pressure
- 2025 Operating Budget
- Direct Impact of Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA)
- Risks of Deferring
- Mitigation Strategies
- 2025 Operating Budget Process and Funding Sources
- Policing in the 21st Century

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide the cost associated with calls to Niagara Regional Police Service related to domestic violence. Councillor Bateman.

Consider including population data for the comparator regions in future presentations. Councillor Kaiser.

Provide the data used to forecast future calls per service as well as break down of call by local area municipality. Committee Chair Redekop.

Provide the comparator costs of other Police Service Boards. Councillor Kaiser.

Moved by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Councillor Morocco

1. That Correspondence Item BRC-C 7-2024, dated November 5, 2024, respecting 2025 Proposed Operating Budget - Niagara Regional Police Service and Police Service Board, **BE RECEIVED**; and
2. That the Niagara Regional Police Service and Police Service Board 2025 Proposed Operating Budget **BE APPROVED** in principle subject to consideration of the general levy for Niagara Region.

Moved by Councillor Ip

Seconded by Councillor Steele

That the motion **BE AMENDED** to include the following:

1. ***That Niagara Regional Council DIRECT the Regional Chair to write a letter to Premier Doug Ford and Solicitor General Michael Kerzner to request that the increase in the Niagara Regional Police Services operating budget of \$10,323,969 (5.7%) as a result of the replacement of the Police Services Act with the Community Safety and Policing Act, be funded by the province, rather than through the tax levy funded by the property taxes of Niagara residents; and***

2. ***That this motion and the letter written by the Regional Chair BE CIRCULATED to all 12 local area municipalities, Niagara's four MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ontario's Inspectorate of Policing, and the Niagara Regional Police Service Board.***

Carried

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Morocco

That Regional Council **EXTEND** this meeting's curfew to 11:00 p.m.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by Councillor Ugolini

That the budget submission **BE AMENDED** to remove 1.9% (due to staggered hiring) for a new proposed operating budget of \$213,308,546 or 13.18%.

Carried

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

1. That Correspondence Item BRC-C 7-2024, dated November 5, 2024, respecting 2025 Proposed Operating Budget - Niagara Regional Police Service and Police Service Board, **BE RECEIVED**;
2. That the Niagara Regional Police Service and Police Service Board 2025 Proposed Operating Budget of \$213,308,546 or 13.18% **BE APPROVED** in principle subject to consideration of the general levy for Niagara Region;
3. That Niagara Regional Council **DIRECT** the Regional Chair to write a letter to Premier Doug Ford and Solicitor General Michael Kerzner to request that the increase in the Niagara Regional Police Services operating budget of \$10,323,969 (5.7%) as a result of the replacement of the Police Services Act with the Community Safety and Policing Act, be funded by the province, rather than through the tax levy funded by the property taxes of Niagara residents; and

4. That this motion and the letter written by the Regional Chair **BE CIRCULATED** to all 12 local area municipalities, Niagara's four MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ontario's Inspectorate of Policing, and the Niagara Regional Police Service Board.

A request was made to vote separately on the clauses.

The Committee Chair called the vote on Clauses 1 and 2.

Recorded vote:

Yes (15): Champion, Diodati, Foster, Gale, Heit, Ip, Morocco, Rigby, Siscoe, Sorrento, Steele, Ugulini, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa.

No (14): Bateman, Bradley, Craitor, Easton, Ganann, Grant, Huson, Insinna, Jordan, Junkin, Kaiser, Seaborn, Redekop, Villella.

Carried

The Committee Chair called the vote on Clauses 3 and 4.

Recorded vote:

Yes (29): Bradley, Champion, Chiochio, Craitor, Diodati, Easton, Foster, Gale, Ganann, Grant, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Junkin, Kaiser, Morocco, Redekop, Rigby, Seaborn, Siscoe, Sorrento, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa.

No (1): Bateman.

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Consider including all charges in the 2027 Development Charge background study for Police Service to ensure future development rate charges are accurately determined. Councillor Steele.

Provide the percentage of the Regional budget that is allocated to Niagara Regional Police Service and the percentage for comparative regions. Councillor Insinna.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Huson declared a conflict respect to Correspondence Item BRC-C 8-2024 (Minute item 6.4) respecting Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority 2025 Draft Budgets and Municipal Levies, as the NPCA is a client of her employer and therefore did not take part in its discussion.

Moved by Councillor Ugolini
Seconded by Councillor Siscoe

That consideration of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority 2025 Draft Budgets and Municipal Levies, **BE DEFERRED** to a Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting to be held on November 21, 2024.

Carried

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Councillor Redekop
Committee Chair

Jenna Spratt
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk