

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

PWC 11-2024

Tuesday, December 3, 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)*, Easton, Foster, Gale*, Grant*, Heit, Insinna (Committee Vice-Chair), Junkin*, Morocco*, Rigby, Seaborn*, Siscoe*, Sorrento, Steele*, Ugulini, Villella*, Witteveen (Committee Chair), Zalepa*

Other Councillors: Craitor*

Absent/Regrets: Chiocchio, Diodati, Huson

Staff: D. Barnhart, Chief of Staff, Governance*, D. Carnegie, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services/Treasurer*, D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services, C. Habermebl, Director, Waste Management Services*, R. Hill, Legislative Coordinator, P. Lambert, Director, Water & Wastewater Services, K. Lotimer, Deputy Regional Clerk, B. Menage, Director, Procurement & Strategic Acquisitions*, R. Muzzell, Manager, Program Financial Support*, J. Oatley, Manager, Wastewater Quality & Compliance, T. Ricketts, Commissioner, Public Works, M. Sergi, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, J. Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, M. Steele, Associate Director, Reporting and Analysis, F. Tassone, Director, Transportation Services, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer, D. Yousif, Manager, Waste Policy and Planning.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Witteveen called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Committee Chair Witteveen 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**

Moved by Councillor Sorrento
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Aaron Dobbin **BE PERMITTED** to appear before Committee as a delegate respecting Hauled Sewage Rate Review (PW 38-2024, Agenda Item 7.1)

Carried

5.1 Hauled Sewage Rate Review (PW 38-2024, Agenda Item 7.1)

5.1.1 Michelle Wasylyshen, Ontario Craft Wineries

Michelle Wasylyshen, Ontario Craft Wineries, and Debbie Zimmerman, Grape Growers of Ontario, appeared before Committee to express concerns respecting the proposed hauled sewage rates, the consultation process for the Terms of Reference of the study, the development of the rate structure and the ability of wineries to treat grey water.

5.1.2 Harald Thiel, Hidden Bench Estate Winery

Harald Thiel, Hidden Bench Estate Winery, appeared before Committee to express concerns regarding the proposed haulage rate increase, the general taxation on the wine industry, the data collected during the consultant study and to request that Committee consider a single rate increase for hauled sewage.

5.1.3 Tom Richardson, Sullivan Mahoney LLP, on behalf of 1218691 Ontario Inc. (S.C. Watson)

Tom Richardson, Sullivan Mahoney LLP, appeared on behalf of 1218691 Ontario Inc. (S.C. Watson) respecting PW 38-2024, Hauled Sewage Rate Review, to express concerns regarding the capital growth costs, the consultant reports, and using a blended rate phased in over 5 year for the hauled sewage rates.

Moved by Councillor Easton
Seconded by Councillor Ugolini

That Tom Richardson, Sullivan Mahoney LLP, **BE PERMITTED** to extend his delegation an additional five (5) minutes.

Carried

5.1.4 Aaron Dobbin, Wine Growers Ontario

Aaron Dobbin, Wine Growers Ontario, appeared before Committee to express the important role of wineries in Niagara, challenges to respond during harvest season, and the potential impact the proposed rate increase would have on the wine industry.

There being no objections, Report PW 38-2024 (Agenda Item 7.1), respecting Hauled Sewage Rate Review - Comment Period Responses, was dealt with at this time.

7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 PW 38-2024

Hauled Sewage Rate Review - Comment Period Responses

Terry Ricketts, Commissioner, Public Works, provided information respecting the Hauled Sewage Rate Review - Comment Period Responses. Topics of the presentation included:

- Why Change is Needed
- Who Pays the Fee
- Other Wine Region Rates
- Municipality Comparison
- Pollutant Concentration Comparison
- Principles of the Proposed Method
- Consultations and Responses
- Alternatives for Consideration

Moved by Councillor Easton

Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report PW 38-2024, dated December 3, 2024, respecting Hauled Sewage Rate Review - Comment Period Responses, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Moved by Councillor Easton

Seconded by Councillor Zalepa

That Report PW 38-2024, dated December 3, 2024, respecting Hauled Sewage Rate Review - Comment Period Responses, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

That the Public Works Committee **RECOMMEND** to the Budget Review Committee of the Whole the following:

1. That the low concentration hauled sewage rate of \$71/1000 gallons (2025 fee number PW 49) as outlined the Draft 2025 Schedule of Fees and Charges attached as Appendix 1 to Report CSD 57-2024 **BE APPROVED**;

2. That Regional staff **BE DIRECTED** to undertake focused consultation with those wineries most impacted by the high concentration rate before the Council meeting on December 12, prior to approval of the 2025 Fees and Charges By-law (specifically, wineries with reported high concentration annual volumes of greater than 170,000 imperial gallons resulting in a total Regional hauled sewage fee increase of \$20,000 or more); and
3. That Regional staff **REPORT BACK** to Council on December 12, 2024, to provide alternatives for addressing the high concentration hauled sewage rate (2025 fee number PW-50) as outlined in Appendix 1 to Report CSD 57-2024 respecting 2025 Schedule of Fees and Charges.

A request was made to vote on Clause 1 separately.

The Committee Chair called the vote on Clause 1 and declared it,

Carried

The Committee Chair called the vote on Clauses 2 and 3 and declared it,

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide the potential cost to residents if the rate increase for high concentration hauled sewage is delayed until 2025 and the cost if these rates are increased incrementally. Councillor Insinna.

Consider providing alternative options for rate increases with blended rates and incremental increases. Councillor Villella.

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 6.1 PW 36-2024
Extension of Curbside Collection/Haulage of Garbage, Recyclables and Organics Contracts (Contract 2019-RFP-156)

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Ugulini

That Report PW 36-2024, dated December 3, 2024, respecting Extension of Curbside Collection/Haulage of Garbage, Recyclables and Organics Contracts (Contract 2019-RFP-156), **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Region's one (1) year extension option in Contract 2019-RFP-156 for Curbside Collection/Haulage of Garbage, Recyclables and Organic Waste with Miller Waste Systems Inc. made November 19, 2019, as amended (the "**Miller Contract**") **BE EXERCISED** such that the Miller Contract **BE EXTENDED** on the same terms and conditions for an additional year at an estimated total cost of \$15,443,060 (including 13% HST) as further set out in this report;
2. That the Region's one (1) year extension option in Contract 2019-RFP-156 for Curbside Collection/Haulage of Garbage, Recyclables and Organic Waste with GFL Environmental Inc. made November 19, 2019, as amended (the "**GFL Contract**") **BE EXERCISED** such that the GFL Contract **BE EXTENDED** on the same terms and conditions for an additional year at an estimated total cost of \$9,042,844 (including 13% HST) as further set out in this report; and
3. That the Director of Waste Management **BE AUTHORIZED** to issue the necessary notices to each of Miller Waste and GFL in order to affect the extensions of the Miller Contract and GFL Contract, respectively.

Carried

6.2 PW 37-2024

Award of Contract 2024-T-195 Regional Road 81 King Street Replacement of Twenty Mile Creek Arch Bridge (Structure 081210) in the Town of Lincoln

Moved by Councillor Insinna
Seconded by Councillor Easton

That Report PW 37-2024, dated December 3, 2024, respecting Award of Contract 2024-T-195 Regional Road 81 King Street Replacement of Twenty Mile Creek Arch Bridge (Structure 081210) in the Town of Lincoln, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Contract 2024-T-195 Regional Road 81 King Street Replacement of Twenty Mile Creek Arch Bridge (Structure 081210) in the Town of Lincoln, **BE AWARDED** to the lowest compliant bidder, Urban Link Civil Ltd., at their bid price of \$8,101,010.12 (including 13% HST); and
2. That the Regional Chair and the Regional Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute the contract documents, in a form satisfactory to the Director, Legal and Court Services.

Carried

7. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

7.2 PW 34-2024
Annual Water Quality Management System Update

Moved by Councillor Easton
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report PW 34-2024, dated December 3, 2024, respecting Annual Water Quality Management System Update, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

7.3 PW 35-2024
Oswego Creek Bridge Replacement Project

Moved by Councillor Insinna
Seconded by Councillor Steele

That Report PW 35-2024, dated December 3, 2024, respecting Oswego Creek Bridge Replacement Project, **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 Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Councillor Witteveen
Committee Chair

Jenna Spratt
Legislative Coordinator

Kelly Lotimer
Deputy Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk