

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

**COTW 8-2019
Thursday, October 3, 2019
Council Chamber
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee: Bradley (Regional Chair), Bylsma, Chiocchio, Darte, Diodati, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gale, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Ugolini, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa

Absent/Regrets: Bellows, Butters, Campion, Disero, Jordan, Junkin, Villella

Staff: H. Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, R. Cheung, Senior Budget Analyst, Dr. A. Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health, D. Giles, Director, Community & Long Range Planning, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, M. Murphy, Associate Director, Budget Planning and Strategy, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, T. Potts, Senior Budget Analyst, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Regional Chair Bradley called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Budget Planning and Capital Financing

Margaret Murphy, Associate Director, Budget Planning and Strategy, provided information respecting Budget Planning and Capital Financing. Topics of the presentation included:

- Budget Planning By-law
- Indexing Options for Base Budget - Sustainable Budgeting
- Business Cases
- Capital Financing Policy

- Why do we need a Capital Financing Policy?
- What is Financial Sustainability?
- What challenges do we face?
- Capital Financing Strategy
 - Asset Management Plan Challenges
 - How do we finance our 10-year Capital Forecast?
 - Debt Management
 - Reserve Management
 - Development Charges
 - Other external sources
 - Equitable fiscal planning
 - Implementation Strategy

Councillor Information Requests):

Provide a list of the projects that have been deferred due to funding constraints. Councillor Easton.

Provide a contextualization of development charge rebates over the last ten years. Councillor Sendzik.

Provide a graph of comparable Regions with respect to capital financing. Councillor Nicholson.

Provide a graph illustrating reserve investments for the period 2010 to 2020. Councillor Sendzik.

Provide information respecting the rate of taxation and allocation to capital for the period 2010 to 2020. Councillor Sendzik.

Provide a graph of federal and provincial funding shifts over the last 30 years to illustrate the shifting burden to municipalities. Councillor Sendzik.

Provide context on the upward spike and drop off cliff of reserve balances Councillor Sendzik.

Provide a schedule of historical uploading from other governments and allocation/reserve. Councillor Sendzik

Provide the average interest rate of our historical debt and current rates. Councillor Whalen.

Provide information respecting debt retirement charges. Councillor Whalen.

Provide an inventory of current real estate assets. Councillor Bylsma.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

5. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

5.1 **CSD 65-2019**

Budget Planning By-law

Moved by Councillor Sendzik

Seconded by Councillor Zalepa

That Report CSD 65-2019, dated October 3, 2019, respecting Budget Planning By-law, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the draft Budget Planning By-law attached as Appendix 1 to Report CSD 65-2019, **BE APPROVED** with section 5.2 and any other references to Municipal Price Index removed;
2. That policy C-F-002 Affordability Guidance Policy **BE REPEALED**; and
3. That the necessary by-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration.

Clause 1 was considered separately as follows:

1. That the draft Budget Planning By-law attached as Appendix 1 to Report CSD 65-2019, **BE APPROVED** with section 5.2 and any other references to Municipal Price Index removed.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (19): Bylsma, Chiocchio, Darte, Diodati, Fertich, Foster, Gale, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Nicholson, Redekop, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Whalen, Witteveen.

No (4): Easton, Edgar, Ip, Zalepa.

Carried

The Regional Chair called the vote on the balance of the recommendations and declared it,

Carried

5.2 CSD 51-2019

Capital Financing Policy

Moved by Councillor Ugolini

Seconded by Councillor Steele

That Report CSD 51-2019, dated October 3, 2019, respecting Capital Financing Policy, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Capital Financing Policy, Appendix 1 to Report CSD 51-2019, **BE APPROVED**; and
2. That the Capital Asset Management Policy, C-F-024, Appendix 2 to Report CSD 51-2019, **BE AMENDED** to remove section 3.0 and 4.0.

Carried

6. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

There were no consent items for information.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

7.1 Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Funding

Councillor Steele advised members of the invitation to a webinar respecting the funding recently announced for community, culture and recreation infrastructure projects. The Community, Culture and Recreation stream will support community infrastructure priorities across the province, improving access to and / or quality of community, cultural, and recreation priority infrastructure projects.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 31, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Jim Bradley
Regional Chair

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk