

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES - OPEN SESSION**

**BRCOTW 10-2019
Thursday, December 5, 2019
Council Chamber
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee: Bradley (Regional Chair), Butters, Campion, Chiocchio, Darte, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gale, Gibson, Heit, Huson, Ip, Jordan, Junkin, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Villella, Whalen (Committee Vice Chair), Witteveen, Zalepa (Committee Chair)

Absent/Regrets: Bellows, Bylsma, Greenwood, Insinna, Ugulini

Staff: D. Barnhart, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair, H. Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, M. Evely, Legislative Coordinator, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, Dr. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, V. Kuhns, Acting Director, Economic Development, B. McMahon, Program Financial Specialist, R. Mostacci, Commissioner, Planning & Development Services, M. Murphy, Associate Director, Budget Planning & Strategy, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, T. Potts, Senior Budget Analyst, C. Ryall, Director, Transportation Services, R. Tripp, Commissioner, Public Works/Acting Chief Administrative Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Zalepa called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Huson declared an indirect pecuniary interest regarding the Brock LINC funding as noted in Appendix 6 of Report CSD 78-2019 respecting 2020 Levy Operating Budget, as she has an employment relationship with Brock University.

See Minute Item 5.1

3. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 CSD 78-2019
2020 Levy Operating Budget

Helen Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, provided information respecting 2020 Levy Operating Budget. Topics of the presentation included:

- 2020 Consolidated Levy Budget – Key Themes
- 2020 Budget Process
- Regional Department Levy Expenses and Increase
- Council Strategic Priorities
- Consolidated Levy Budget Recommendations
 1. Base Budget Increase of 2.0%
 2. Revenue/Provincial Decisions/Download
 3. Capital Financing for Assets
 4. New/Enhanced (net of one-time reserve funding)
 5. Costs of Growth
- Risks and Opportunities
- Approvals and Tax Policy
- Next Steps

Moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by Councillor Villella

That Report CSD 78-2019, dated December 5, 2019, respecting 2020 Levy Operating Budget, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That an increase of 2.0% or \$3,726,858 over the 2019 departmental levy, for a total departmental levy of \$190,069,763, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law for base services, as outlined in Appendix 1 of Report CSD 78-2019, **BE APPROVED**;
2. That an increase of 0.6% or \$2,146,506 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law for revenue pressures, as outlined in Appendix 2 of Report CSD 78-2019, **BE APPROVED**;
3. That an increase of 1.54% or \$5,620,497 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law to support capital net debt charges for the Long-term Care Home Redevelopment, **BE APPROVED**;

4. That an increase of 0.1% or \$478,995 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law for new and enhanced programs, as outlined in Appendix 3 of Report CSD 78-2019, **BE APPROVED**;
5. That an increase of 1.83% or \$6,690,323 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, funded by 1.42% of assessment growth and a 0.41% separate increase, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law that assessment growth be utilized for costs of growth and Council Priorities as identified in Appendix 4 of Report CSD 78-2019, **BE APPROVED**;
6. That the 2020 levy operating budget including the Niagara Regional Departments of \$205,006,084 and ABCs of \$187,877,851 for a total of \$392,883,935 **BE APPROVED**; and
7. That the necessary by-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration.

Moved by Councillor Ip
Seconded by Councillor Foster

1. That the Suicide Prevention Initiative, being the addition of two Mental Health positions to increase response to suicide in Niagara, at a cost of \$185,678 or 0.05% of the levy, **BE MOVED** from the Programs Deferred to 2022 (Appendix 6 of Report CSD 78-2019) to New and Enhanced Programs (Appendix 3 of Report CSD 78-2019) and **BE FUNDED** through an additional increase to the levy.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Ip

That the ProKids program funding **BE REESTABLISHED** and added to the levy, with a cost of \$250,000 which is approximately 0.1% addition to the levy.

Councillor Edgar declared a direct pecuniary interest regarding the ProKids program funding as noted on page 4 of Report CSD 78-2019 respecting 2020 Levy Operating Budget, as his wife is the Director of Children's Services.

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

That the ProKids program funding **BE REESTABLISHED** and added to the levy, with a cost of \$250,000 which is approximately 0.1% addition to the levy.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (9): Bradley, Butters, Easton, Foster, Ip, Jordan, Steele, Villella, Witteveen.

No (16): Campion, Chiocchio, Dart, Diodati, Fertich, Gale, Gibson, Heit, Huson, Junkin, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Whalen, Zalepa.

Defeated

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Huson

That \$400,000 allocated for Wayfinding Guidelines (Appendix 3 of Report CSD 78-2019) **BE REMOVED** from the 2020 Levy Operating Budget.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That \$750,000 in savings realized from the restructuring of the Internal Control and Organizational Performance Division **BE APPLIED** to the 2020 operating budget.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Campion
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That funding of \$600,000 for the Smarter Niagara Investment Program (SNIP) **BE INCLUDED** in the 2020 Levy Operating Budget and **BE FUNDED** utilizing \$450,000 from the Tax Payer Stabilization Fund and \$150,000 from remaining 2019 SNIP funds; and

That the Smarter Niagara Investment Program **CONTINUE** to be administered as it was in 2019.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (10): Campion, Chiocchio, Diodati, Easton, Fertich, Nicholson, Redekop, Sendzik, Villella, Whalen.

No (15): Bradley, Butters, Dart, Edgar, Foster, Gale, Gibson, Heit, Huson, Ip, Jordan, Junkin, Rigby, Witteveen, Zalepa.

Defeated

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

That Report CSD 78-2019, dated December 5, 2019, respecting 2020 Levy Operating Budget, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That an increase of 1.6% or \$2,976,858 over the 2019 departmental levy, for a total departmental levy of \$189,319,763, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law for base services, as outlined in appendix 1 of Report CSD 78-2019, **BE APPROVED**;
2. That an increase of 0.6% or \$2,146,506 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law for revenue pressures, as outlined in appendix 2 of Report CSD 78-2019, **BE APPROVED**;
3. That an increase of 1.54% or \$5,620,497 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law to support capital net debt charges for the Long-term Care Home Redevelopment, **BE APPROVED**;
4. That an increase of 0.15% or \$664,673 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law for new and enhanced programs, as outlined in appendix 3 of Report CSD 78-2019 as amended to include funding for the suicide prevention initiative and remove wayfinding, **BE APPROVED**;
5. That an increase of 1.83% or \$6,690,323 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, funded by 1.42% of assessment growth and a 0.41% separate increase, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law that assessment growth be utilized for costs of growth and Council Priorities as identified in appendix 4 of Report CSD 78-2019, **BE APPROVED**;
6. That the 2020 levy operating budget including the Niagara Regional Departments of \$204,441,762 and ABCs of \$187,877,851 for a total of \$392,319,613 **BE APPROVED**; and
7. That the necessary by-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration.

Each clause of the motion was considered separately as follows:

1. That an increase of 1.6% or \$2,976,858 over the 2019 departmental levy, for a total departmental levy of \$189,319,763, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law for base services, as outlined in appendix 1 of Report CSD 78-2019, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

2. That an increase of 0.6% or \$2,146,506 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law for revenue pressures, as outlined in appendix 2 of Report CSD 78-2019, **BE APPROVED**;

Carried

3. That an increase of 1.54% or \$5,620,497 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law to support capital net debt charges for the Long-term Care Home Redevelopment, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

4. That an increase of 0.15% or \$664,673 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law for new and enhanced programs, as outlined in appendix 3 of Report CSD 78-2019 as amended to include funding for the suicide prevention initiative and remove wayfinding, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

5. That an increase of 1.83% or \$6,690,323 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, funded by 1.42% of assessment growth and a 0.41% separate increase, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law that assessment growth be utilized for costs of growth and Council Priorities as identified in appendix 4 of Report CSD 78-2019, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

6. That the 2020 levy operating budget including the Niagara Regional Departments of \$204,441,762 and ABCs of \$187,877,851 for a total of \$392,319,613 **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

7. That the necessary by-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration.

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide information respecting Regional expenditures on staff travel and advertising in the last five years and information respecting if Niagara Region were to delay hiring positions when they become vacant for six months what the potential annual savings would be. Councillor Huson.

5.2 CSD 72-2019
2020 Fees and Charges By-law

Moved by Councillor Heit
Seconded by Councillor Villella

That Report CSD 72-2019, dated December 5, 2019, respecting 2020 Fees and Charges By-law, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the 2020 Fees and Charges schedule, Appendix 1 of Report CSD 72-2019, **BE APPROVED**, with an effective date of January 1, 2020; and
2. That the necessary by-law, Appendix 2 of Report CSD 72-2019, **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for Consideration.

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide information respecting how close the Niagara Region is to cost recovery on Planning user fees and what is being charged by similar municipalities/regions. Councillor Redekop

6. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Moved by Councillor Diodati
Seconded by Councillor Foster

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

CSD 79-2019
Financial Disclosure Requirements – Ontario Regulations 284/09

BRC-C 14-2019
Additional Information Regarding 2020 Capital Budget Vehicle Projects

Carried

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of other business.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Councillor Zalepa
Committee Chair

Mark Evely
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk