

## Report #6 of the Finance & Administration Committee

For consideration by Regional Council

September 27, 2023

The Finance & Administration Committee recommends approval of the following:

1. The Regional Municipality of Durham 2022 Accessibility Report ([2023-A-11](#))  
That the Regional Municipality of Durham 2022 Accessibility Report #2023-A-11 of the Chief Administrative Officer be received for information.
2. Appointment of new members to the Durham Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) ([2023-A-12](#))  
That the following people be appointed to the Durham Accessibility Advisory Committee;  
  
Ms. Priya Chandwani – Professional from the stakeholder community; and  
  
Mr. Lyle Williams – Person with a disability.
3. Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce Cohort 2 Workplan ([2023-A-14](#))  
That the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce Cohort 2 Workplan, as outlined in Attachment #1 to Report #2023-A-14 of the Chief Administrative Officer, be approved.
4. Tile Drainage Loans on behalf of the Township of Brock for Ms. Candice Greer (C845 Concession Road 11, Lot 10, Cannington, ON) and Mr. Jason Creighton (C845 Concession Road 11, Lot 9, Cannington, ON) ([2023-F-17](#))
  - A) That funds in the amount of \$50,000 be advanced to the Township of Brock with respect to a loan application pursuant to the *Tile Drainage Act*, R.S.O., 1990, c. T. 8 (the “Act”) for Ms. Candice Greer (C845 Concession Road 11, Lot 10) in the Cannington area of the Township of Brock;
  - B) That funds in the amount of \$20,500 be advanced to the Township of Brock with respect to a loan application pursuant to the *Tile Drainage Act*, R.S.O., 1990, c. T. 8 (the “Act”) for Mr. Jason Creighton (C845 Concession Road 11, Lot 9) in the Cannington area of the Township of Brock; and
  - C) That the requisite by-laws be approved by Regional Council.
5. Update of Regional Commodity Price Hedging Agreements: Statement of Policies and Goals ([2023-F-18](#))
  - A) That the proposed September 2023 update to the Region’s Commodity Price Hedging Agreements: Statement of Policies and Goals contained in

Attachment #1 to Report #2023-F-18 of the Commissioner of Finance be approved with the following key elements:

- i) That the Region of Durham (the Region) will continue to consider commodity price hedging agreements as a means of fixing, directly or indirectly, or enabling the Region to fix the price or range of prices to be paid by the Region for the future delivery of some or all of the commodity or the future cost to the municipality of an equivalent quantity of the commodity, where it is advantageous for the Region to do so;
- ii) That the Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer for the Region will continue to be the designated person responsible for administrative matters pertaining to commodity price hedging and will delegate certain administrative duties and responsibilities to internal staff and external agents. In addition, the Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer, or their designate, will continue to be authorized to enter into contracts for the purpose of engaging a Contract Agent in accordance with the Region's Purchasing Policies;
- iii) That the Statement of Policies and Goals: Commodity Price Hedging Agreements be further broadened to consider a wider range of appropriate risk control measures for particular commodity price hedging agreements, which may include, but not be limited to, the potential for limiting credit exposure based on a degree of regulatory oversight and/or on the regulatory capital of the other party to the agreement;
- iv) That the Statement of Policies and Goals: Commodity Price Hedging Agreements be updated to reflect current staff responsibilities and accountabilities for reviewing and recommending commodity price hedging transactions; and
- v) That in accordance with the requirements of Ontario Regulation 653/05 under the Municipal Act, 2001, the Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer continue to annually prepare and provide a report to Regional Council with respect to any and all commodity price hedging agreements in place for the prior fiscal year.

6. By-law for the Appointment of Municipal Auditor ([2023-F-19](#))

That the Legal Department be directed to submit the appropriate by-law for the appointment of Deloitte LLP as Municipal Auditor for a five (5) year term for the 2023 to 2027 fiscal years.

7. Additional Allocation and Revision of Canada Community- Building Fund Program Funds to Road Rehabilitation Projects ([2023-F-20](#))

- A) That in order to fully utilize Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) Program Funds, an additional allocation of \$3.3 million be approved for the

following road rehabilitation projects, replacing the previously approved Road Rehabilitation Reserve Fund financing:

Main Street Uxbridge / Concession Road 7 (Project R2216) \$1,900,000

Lake Ridge Road from north of Regional Road 5  
to south Chalk Lake Road (Project R1718) \$1,400,000

Total \$3,300,000:

- B) That the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to adjust the split between the CCBF and other financing for the roads rehabilitation projects as required to ensure that the full CCBF funding is utilized prior to the expiry of the applicable expenditure period.

8. Requesting a Share of Ontario’s Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) for Ontario Municipalities (2023-F-21)

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That the Province of Ontario and Federal Government be requested to provide municipalities with a share of their portions of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) to ensure sustainable municipal revenues and sufficient financial capacity for increasingly complex programs and services.

9. 2024 Regional Business Plans and Property Tax Supported Budget Guideline (2023-F-22)

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- A) That the following detailed direction and guidelines for the 2024 Business Plans and Budget for Regional Departments, Conservation Authorities and other Outside Agencies (excluding Durham Regional Police Services Board) be approved:
- i. The 2024 Property Tax Guideline not exceed an overall property tax impact of 7.25 per cent compared to the 2023 approved budget including 0.50 per cent dedicated to fund anticipated property tax impacts resulting from Provincial Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, and the guideline increases for Conservation Authorities as detailed in recommendation A (ii)
  - ii. The 2023 Operating Budget for each Conservation Authority not exceed an increase of 2.5 per cent, plus or minus any current value assessment adjustments, and the 2024 Special Benefitting Programs Budget for each Conservation Authority not exceed an increase of 1.5 per cent, plus or minus any current value assessment adjustments, compared to the 2023 approved budget
- B) That the following detailed direction and guideline for the 2024 Business Plans and Budget for the Durham Regional Police Services Board be approved:

- i. The 2024 Business Plans and Budget for the Durham Regional Police Services Board not exceed \$267.966 million, an increase of 8.26 per cent compared to the 2023 approved budget for the Durham Regional Police Service, which translates to an overall budgetary property tax impact of 2.50 per cent
- C) That the requested funding by Oak Valley Hospital for the Uxbridge Hospital redevelopment, under the Region's Community Investment Grant Program, be approved up to a maximum of \$10.0 million subject to the execution of a funding agreement with terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Finance that include milestone payments and performance deliverables;
- D) That the February 2024 Finance and Administration Committee meeting be moved from February 13, 2024 to February 21, 2024 and the preliminary timetable for the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget be approved as outlined in Attachment #1 to Report #2023-F-22 of the Commissioner of Finance, which includes the following key dates:
  - i. December 20, 2023 – final Regional Council approval of the 2024 Water Supply and Sanitary Sewerage Business Plans and Budget;
  - ii. February 21, 2024 – Finance and Administration Committee consideration of the staff report recommending adoption of the proposed 2024 Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget;
  - iii. February 28, 2024 – final Regional Council approval of the entirety of the 2024 Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget; and
- E) That copies of Report #2023-F-22 of the Commissioner of Finance be forwarded to the Durham Regional Police Services Board, Durham Region Transit Commission, Conservation Authorities, Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation, and other Outside Agencies to guide the development of detailed 2024 Business Plans and Budget.
- F) That staff be requested to report on the impact of limiting the tax cap at 6.25% and 5.25% for Regional Departments and related agencies; and

That the Durham Regional Police Services Board (DRPSB) be requested to provide a scenario of an overall budgetary property tax impact of 2% for Council's consideration.

10. Confidential Report of the Commissioner of Corporate Services – Labour Relations/Employee Negotiations with respect to Ontario Nurses Association (“ONA”), Local 16 (2023-A-13)
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That the recommendations contained in Confidential Report #2023-A-13 of the Commissioner of Corporate Services be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Ashe, Chair, Finance & Administration Committee