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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### SPECIAL WORKS COMMITTEE

Monday, December 11, 2023

A special meeting of the Works Committee was held on Monday, December 11, 2023 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 2:30 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

#### 1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Barton, Chair  
Councillor Marimpietri, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Cook\*  
Councillor Mulcahy  
Councillor Nicholson  
Councillor Yamada\*  
Regional Chair Henry  
**\*denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Absent: Councillor Crawford was absent on municipal business

Also

Present: Councillor Ashe\*  
Councillor Carter\*  
Councillor Kerr\*  
Councillor McDougall  
Councillor Pickles\*  
Councillor Woo\*  
Councillor Wotten\*  
**\*denotes visiting Councillors participating electronically**

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer  
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
C. Dunkley, Director of Corporate Infrastructure and Strategic Business Services, Works Department  
A. Evans, Director of Waste Management Services  
B. Holmes, General Manager of Transit  
M. Hubble, Director of Environmental Services  
J. Hunt, Regional Solicitor/Director of Legal Services, Corporate Services – Legal Services  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
R. Jagannathan, Acting Commissioner of Works  
N. Pincombe, Director of Business Planning & Budgeting

N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance  
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
\* **denotes staff participating electronically**

**2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**3. Works**

**3.1 Reports**

**A) Works Department – 2024 Water Supply and Sanitary Sewerage Systems  
Business Plans and Budget (2023-W-50)**

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This item was referred from the December 6, 2023 Works Committee meeting.

Report #2023-W-50 from R. Jagannathan, Acting Commissioner of Works, was received.

Discussion ensued regarding the capital budget process and the annual water and sewer user rate portion of the capital budget. N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance, clarified that on the capital budget side, staff prepare a current year capital budget and 9-year forecast and that staff do not assume water and sewer user rate funding of capital will be received each year. She advised that when staff look at the capital budget and forecast and the required amount of water and sewer user rate support for the current year, it could be incrementally higher than the previous year or incrementally lower than the previous year, the current year water and sewer user rate funded portion of the capital budget would only reflect the amount needed for the current year capital program and not the future or historical years requirement.

Moved by Councillor Marimpietri, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,  
(112) That we recommend to the Finance and Administration Committee for  
subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That the Works Department's portion of the 2024 Water Supply System and  
Sanitary Sewerage System Business Plans and Budget be approved.

**CARRIED AS AMENDED LATER IN THE  
MEETING**

(See Following Motions)

In response to a question from the Committee regarding the past practice of holding joint committee meetings, A. Harras, Regional Clerk, advised that Regional Council moved to a Committee of a Whole (COW) structure in 2016 and in 2018 Regional Council decided to move back to a standing committee structure but replaced joint committee meetings with a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Detailed discussion ensued regarding the possibility of reviewing and subsequently revising the annual budget process so that the business plans and budgets would be presented to COW instead of a standing committee. E. Baxter-Trahair advised that the budget process is reviewed each year and that staff will again look at ways to make improvements to the process.

Moved by Councillor Nicholson, Seconded by Councillor Marimpietri,  
(113) That the main motion (112) of Councillor Marimpietri and Regional Chair Henry be amended to add the following as a new Part B):

“B) That the Durham Region Rules of Procedure be amended to allow for the calling of Joint Standing Committees to be called at the discretion of and with the consent of the Chairs of the respective standing committees.”

REFERRED BACK TO STAFF  
(See Following Motion)

Moved by Councillor Nicholson, Seconded by Councillor Marimpietri,  
(114) That the amending motion (113) of Councillors Nicholson and Marimpietri be referred back to staff in order for staff to review the annual budget process including the possibility of presenting the business plan and budgets at a Committee of the Whole meeting instead of a standing committee.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Nicholson, Seconded by Councillor Marimpietri,  
(115) That the main motion (112) of Councillor Marimpietri and Regional Chair Henry be amended to add the following as a new Part B):

“B) That moving forward that the Water and Sewer budgets be brought before a Joint meeting of the Works and Finance and Administration Standing Committees and be presented for consideration and potential approval by no later than October 30th of the previous calendar year.”

REFERRED BACK TO STAFF  
(See Following Motion)

Moved by Councillor Nicholson, Seconded by Councillor Marimpietri,  
(116) That the amending motion (115) of Councillors Nicholson and Marimpietri be referred back to staff for staff to review the possibility of presenting the business plan and budgets at a Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED

Detailed discussion ensued with respect to finding alternatives for funding capital works portions of the water and sewer budgets and what options are available to alleviate the burden of increasing user rates on Durham Region residents.

Moved by Councillor Nicholson, Seconded by Councillor Marimpietri,  
(117) That the main motion (112) of Councillor Marimpietri and Regional Chair Henry be amended to add the following as a new Part B):

“B) That staff be directed to investigate the method of funding for capital works portions of the Water and Sewer budgets including but not limited to, the increase use of front-end loading agreements with third parties. The investigation to give priority to a new funding policy that requires those who benefit from growth resulting from additional capacity expanded service capabilities, and expansion of serviced areas to fund the capital works that secure their benefits.”

CARRIED

Detailed discussion ensued regarding how it can be clearly reflected on the residents' water and sewer bill what costs are being driven by the Province of Ontario to meet their housing growth targets and other provincial initiatives. N. Taylor advised that changes to the actual bill could not be done in the short term, but communication materials and inserts could be prepared and distributed now, and a header could be created and added to the webpage when residents log on electronically to view their water bills. Discussion also ensued regarding the need to consult with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

Moved by Councillor Nicholson, Seconded by Councillor Marimpietri,  
(118) That the main motion (112) of Councillor Marimpietri and Regional Chair Henry, as amended, be further amended to add the following as a new Part C):

“C) That both the electronic and paper water and sewer bills reflect in their billed amounts the amounts charged for projects mandated by the Province to meet their housing growth targets and other provincial initiatives. The billing amounts to reflect information similar to that list below. In addition, the explanatory notes and descriptions on Regional webpages be amended to reflect and explain the new outline.”

REFERRED BACK TO STAFF  
(See Following Motion)

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Marimpietri,  
(119) That the amending motion (118) of Councillors Nicholson and Marimpietri be referred back to staff to look at options on how to reflect the costs that have been downloaded to the Region from the Provincial and Federal governments on resident's water and sewer bills.

CARRIED

Detailed discussion ensued regarding the user rate increase being too high and the need to withdraw whatever possible from the reserve funds to make the user

rate more palatable for Durham Region residents; and what the consequences of withdrawing too much from the reserve funds would be for the Region.

Further discussion ensued regarding how the Region could continue to deliver its services with a reduced user rate, but without impacting or compromising the future needs of the Region.

Moved by Councillor Nicholson, Seconded by Councillor Marimpietri,  
(120) That the main motion (112) of Councillor Marimpietri and Regional Chair Henry, as amended, be further amended to add the following as a new Part C):

“C) That additional monies from the Water and Sewer Reserves be added to the Water and Sewer budgets submissions to reduce the 2024 User Rate impact to between 4-5%.”

CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING  
RECORDED VOTE:

Yes

No

Councillor Cook  
Regional Chair Henry  
Councillor Marimpietri  
Councillor Mulcahy  
Councillor Nicholson  
Councillor Yamada

Councillor Barton, Chair

Members Absent: Councillor Crawford

Declarations of Interest: None

The main motion (112) of Councillor Marimpietri and Regional Chair Henry was then put to a vote and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, AS AMENDED, ON THE FOLLOWING RECORDED VOTE:

Yes

No

Councillor Cook  
Regional Chair Henry  
Councillor Marimpietri  
Councillor Mulcahy  
Councillor Nicholson  
Councillor Yamada  
Councillor Barton, Chair

None

Members Absent: Councillor Crawford

Declarations of Interest: None

This item will be considered by the Finance & Administration Committee at their meeting to be held on December 12, 2023.

**4. Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Marimpietri, Seconded by Councillor Nicholson,  
(121) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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D. Barton, Chair

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S. Ciani, Committee Clerk