



Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Administration and Finance Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

10:34 a.m.

Regional Council Chamber

150 Frederick Street, Kitchener

Present were: Vice Chair K. Redman, L. Armstrong, E. Clarke, S. Foxton, T. Galloway, D. Jaworsky, H. Jowett, K. Kiefer, G. Lorentz, J. Mitchell, J. Nowak, K. Seiling*, S. Shantz and B. Vrbanovic

Members absent: D. Craig and S. Strickland

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest under the “Municipal Conflict of Interest Act”

There were no declarations.

Reports

5.1 PDL-LEG-15-71/PDL-CAS-15-10/COR-TRY-15-96, Municipal Act Review

Angela Hinchberger, Director of Treasury Services/Deputy Treasurer, responded to a Committee question regarding the prescribed rates for Heads and Beds payment, noting that the Region worked with the Municipal Financial Officers Association (MFOA) and their figure is \$140 based on the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI) rather than the Canadian CPI.

Kris Fletcher, Director, Council and Administrative Services/Regional Clerk, responded to a Committee inquiry related to the proposed mandatory training for Councillors, stating that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has suggested that there be required training for all Councillors but the Region suggests that this be for newly-elected Councillors only.

A. Hinchberger responded to a Committee comment about the redundancy of property tax capping for the Region and the proposal that municipalities be given the option not to cap. She stated that other municipalities have been discussing this issue and are in a position similar to the Region where capping has outlived its benefit. She noted that MFOA is preparing a submission in support of giving municipalities the option not to cap. The staff recommendation also seeks allowing municipalities to have the option.

C. Dyer, Commissioner, Corporate Services/Chief Financial Officer, added that most large municipalities have written almost identical reports and that only a small number of properties are affected by capping. He indicated that staff are encouraged by the momentum for this issue and the possible provincial direction.

* K. Seiling joined the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

K. Fletcher responded to a Committee comment about the allowance of and the advocacy for remote participation at Council meetings, stating that there is no specific provision in the Act to define remote meeting. The Act doesn't allow Council to make decisions other than calling a meeting and having that meeting in a room. She advised that provisions are being considered for advisory committees and foundations and that some Regional advisory Committees do allow for remote participation during meetings. Staff will raise the issue of remote attendance with the ministry to determine if there is a consideration to allow this, especially for those municipalities in northern areas of Ontario. There were additional Committee comments about the benefits and drawbacks to allowing remote meetings to take place.

C. Dyer responded to a Committee question about the intent of the ability to impose non-traditional taxes, indicating that this is more general, seeking to amend the Act to give all municipalities the option to make the decisions about imposing these taxes, as allowed for the City of Toronto.

Moved by L. Armstrong

Seconded by D. Jaworsky

That The Regional Municipality of Waterloo support the recommendations outlined in Appendix 'A' to report PDL-LEG-15-71/PDL-CAS-15-10/COR-TRY-15-96, dated October 6, 2015; and

That a copy of the report together with the recommendations be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing as the Region's response to the Municipal Act Review.

Carried

Reports – Chief Administrative Office

5.2 CAO-SPL-15-03, The 2015-2018 Strategic Plan

Mike Murray, Chief Administrative Officer, provided opening remarks. He noted that there was unprecedented engagement by the public and Regional staff. Additionally, Regional Councillors have had four (4) workshops to determine actions towards the implementation of the vision. He stated that the staff report contains revised actions based on the input from the Steering Committee. He offered his appreciation to the Councillors involved with the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and to Lorie Fioze, Manager, Strategic Planning and Strategic Initiatives.

In response to a Committee inquiry about plans for sharing the Strategic Plan with the public, M. Murray advised that there are multiple opportunities, including preparing a user-friendly version of the plan and making it available in a variety of formats. Additionally, he noted that staff may reconvene some of the community forums to let those participants know what came out of the meetings.

The Committee expressed their appreciation for all staff efforts and the level of citizen engagement, as well the process that involved Council. It was noted that there are a number of areas that overlap with what is being done in the local municipalities, resulting in numerous opportunities to work together on the action items.

Moved by B. Vrbanovic

Seconded by S. Shantz

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan as outlined in report CAO-SPL-15-03.

Carried

Information/Correspondence

6.1 Council Enquiries and Requests for Information Tracking List was received for information.

Next Meeting – October 27, 2015

Motion to go into Closed Session

K. Redman noted that there is an additional item for the closed session, being the receiving of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege and litigation related to a matter before an administrative tribunal.

Moved by K. Kiefer

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Seconded by S. Foxton

That a closed meeting of Planning and Works and Community Services Committees be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 immediately following Administration & Finance Committee in the Waterloo County Room in accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, for the purposes of considering the following subject matters:

- a) receiving of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege related to an agreement
- b) personal matters about an identifiable individual
- c) labour relations and personal matters about identifiable individuals
- d) receiving of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege and litigation related to a matter before an administrative tribunal

Carried

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Committee Vice Chair, K. Redman

Committee Clerk, S. Natolochny