



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012
10:23 a.m.
Regional Council Chamber
150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario

Present were: Chair T. Galloway, L. Armstrong, J. Brewer, T. Cowan, D. Craig, R. Deutschmann, J. Haalboom, B. Halloran, R. Kelterborn, G. Lorentz, C. Millar, J. Mitchell, K. Seiling, S. Strickland, J. Wideman, and C. Zehr

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST UNDER THE MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

None declared.

REPORTS – Regional Chair

- a) RC-12-001, Jack Young Award, Councillor Length-of-Service Recognition and Region of Waterloo Naming Policy

Chair T. Galloway provided opening remarks on the content of the report.

K. Seiling provided background information on the work of the Committee in the development of the report's recommendations, and the factors taken into consideration in doing so. He explained that the costs of implementing the recommendations were not viewed as significant by the Committee, and could be accommodated within existing budgets. He clarified that artwork for length-of-service recognition would include a broad spectrum of art forms that would be jointly acceptable by the recognized Councillor and Regional Council. There was discussion at the Committee with regard to dollar limits for art, and the Committee would examine the funding envelope if the recommendation is approved.

The Committee acknowledged the work of Janice Kroetsch, Executive Assistant to the Regional Chair, in working with the Jack Young Committee to prepare the report's recommendations, and thanked her for her efforts.

MOVED by K. Seiling
SECONDED by J. Brewer

1. That Regional Council approve the following in relation to the Jack Young Civic Award:
 - a) That the Jack Young Civic Award be presented every two years at the last Council meeting in November effective November 2012;
 - b) That the Jack Young Committee continue to evaluate nominations for the Jack Young Civic Award and make recommendations on the Award to Regional Council;
 - c) The nomination process, eligibility criteria and selection process as outlined in Report RC-12-001.

2. That Regional Council commence the practice of periodic, official recognition of Regional Councillors' Length-of-Service in five year increments as described in Report RC-12-001.
3. That Regional Council approve the establishment of a Naming Policy for Region of Waterloo Facilities as described in Report RC-12-001.

CARRIED

REPORTS - Finance

- b) F-12-065, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation Sale Price Index

Received for Information.

Craig Dyer, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the report, noting that the reassessment of properties to January 1, 2012 values is underway. He provided detail on phase-in periods for reassessments and offered specific statistics on price indices at the provincial and regional levels. He indicated that the Committee will be provided more analysis with regard to reassessment impacts in the Region as more detailed information is released. Assessment notices are scheduled to be mailed on September 17 to owners of residential and farm properties, while owners of business properties can expect their notices in the middle of November.

C. Dyer discussed the impact of reassessment on individual properties' taxation, noting that Regional residents could expect education taxes to be reduced slightly and observing that reassessments may shift taxes between classes of properties, or between geographic areas. The Committee emphasized that reassessments have no impact on municipal revenues.

The Committee underscored the difficulty in communicating the impacts of property reassessment to residents, given the complexity of the issue. The Committee confirmed with C. Dyer that the provincial assessment increases were largely driven by price growth in the Greater Toronto Area and in Ottawa.

- c) F-12-066, Ontario Municipal Infrastructure Strategy

Received for Information.

C. Dyer noted that the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative was launched in August, and that Regional staff are awaiting details from the province on how eligibility, timelines and requirements for funding will be determined.

The Committee commented on a recent report card issued by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities on the risk to Canadian infrastructure, and the costs of bringing the infrastructure up to standard.

- d) F-12-067, Support for the Town of Tillsonburg Council Resolution on Business Tax Capping

Chair T. Galloway commented on the steady reduction of the numbers of capped properties and the decreasing usefulness of capping in general.

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by R. Kelterborn

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo support the resolution of the Town of Tillsonburg Council attached as Appendix A to report F-12-067 requesting the Province of Ontario to amend Part IX of the Municipal Act, 2001 and related regulations to make Business Tax Capping optional at the discretion of each upper and single tier jurisdiction effective for the 2013 taxation year;

AND THAT this resolution be circulated to the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local MPPs and the Area Municipalities.

CARRIED

e) F-12-068, Prescribed Rates for Heads and Beds Payments in Lieu of Taxation

C. Dyer noted that the report's recommendation asks the Committee to support the request to amend the prescribed rates for "heads and beds" payments in lieu of taxation, in support of the request made by the City of Waterloo. He observed that the request was consistent with the view of Regional staff on those payments, and that a similar motion was passed by Regional Council in November 2007.

A member of the Committee recalled a meeting at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference with Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, where a number of Councillors were present and where the importance of the "heads and beds" payments was emphasized to the Minister. It was observed that the issue has little traction with the province, and that municipalities need to maintain their advocacy for amending the prescribed rates.

MOVED by B. Halloran
SECONDED by C. Zehr

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo request the Minister of Finance to amend the prescribed rates for "Heads and Beds" payments in lieu of taxation under Section 323 of the Municipal Act to allow for inflation over the past 25 years;

AND THAT the resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Health and Long Term Care, the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, The Council of Ontario Universities, the Ontario Hospitals Association, Cities of Kitchener, Cambridge and Waterloo and the local Members of Provincial Parliament.

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Council Enquiries and Request for Information Tracking List was received for information.

NEXT MEETING – September 25, 2012

ADJOURN

MOVED by L. Armstrong
SECONDED by G. Lorentz

THAT the meeting adjourn at 10:49 a.m.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE CHAIR, *T. Galloway*

COMMITTEE CLERK, *M. Grivicic*