

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL**  
**OF**  
**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK**

February 20, 2003

The Regional Council met at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers, York Region Administrative Centre, 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, with Regional Chair Fisch presiding.

The following were present at this Meeting:

Mayor: Bell, Black, Cousens, Di Biase, Emmerson, Holec, Jones, Taylor and Young.

Regional Councillor: Barrow, Frustaglio, Hogg, O'Donnell, Rosati, Scarpitti, Wheeler and Wong.

Staff: Cartwright, Davidson, Garrett, Jaczek, Schipper, Simmons, Tuckey and Wilson.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**14 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk June 8, 2003**

Mayor Don Cousens, Town of Markham, informed Council of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk to Cure Diabetes at Seneca College taking place on June 8, 2003. He noted that the Town of Markham would be participating in the Walk and encouraged other municipalities to participate as well.

**15 Make-A-Wish Foundation**

Kim Sokolowski, Director of Operations, Toronto, Make-A-Wish Foundation, thanked York Region for the donation made by the 2002 Mountain Bike Poker Run. The funds granted a wish to six-year old Luke and his family, (parents Lucy and Enio and sister Vivian) who were given a trip to Disney last November.

The Regional Chair and the staff involved in the Mountain Bike Poker Run were presented with a plaque. Regional Chair Fisch thanked the staff for their participation in this charitable event. The following staff were present to accept the plaque: Dino Basso, Scott Stover, Sharon Richard, Bob Partridge and Joanne Armstrong.

**16 Health Status Report, 2002**

Dr. Helena Jaczek, Medical Officer of Health made a presentation regarding the York Region Health Status Report, 2002. She began by acknowledging and thanking the following staff for their work in the preparation of this report: Dianne Bladec-Willett, Director, Policy and Planning; Brenda Guarda, Manager, Epidemiology and Research; Bill Kou, Epidemiologist; Sarah Feltis, Health Information Analyst; and Beata Pach, Librarian/Resource Centre Coordinator.

Dr. Jaczek indicated that this mandatory Health Status Report covers the period 1997-2002. It shows that York Region's citizens are overall very healthy and score highly on all major health indicators. This is primarily because of their socio-economic status compared to people in the rest of Ontario. Among other things, York Region's citizens have the highest life expectancy in Ontario, at 81.83 years and the highest disability-free life expectancy at 71.1 years. 93% of York Region's citizens rate their health in the good to excellent range.

Dr. Jaczek also noted that some indicators, notably the number of people who smoke, Body Mass Index and the overall rate of physical activity, leave some room for improvement. She cited a number of future challenges, including the level of population growth, cultural diversity and the ageing population.

*(Council requested staff to prepare a report to the Health and Emergency Medical Health Committee on programs for educating young people about the effects of smoking.)*

(A copy of the slide presentation is on file in the Office of the Regional Clerk.)

**17 2003 Business Plan and Budget**

Mayor Jones, Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, introduced the 2003 Business Plan and Budget by thanking Regional Chair Fisch for his leadership, and Members of Council, York Regional Police, staff, and particularly Sandra Cartwright, Commissioner of Finance, and staff of the Finance Department for all of their hard work in preparing the Business Plan and Budget.

Mayor Jones indicated that the Business Plan and Budget contains \$78 million allocated to GTA Pooling as directed by the Province and reflects Provincial funding reductions in Emergency Medical Services and Social Assistance. He commended Michael Garrett, Chief Administrative Officer, for his rigorous review and the numerous efficiencies and savings found in the Business Plan and Budget.

Mayor Jones further indicated that the Business Plan and Budget provides for a 5.7% increase after assessment growth. Major drivers of this increase include an increase of \$6.9 million for transit improvements, \$14.2 million for the transfer of solid waste

disposal funding from the area municipalities, and an increase of \$7.8 million for York Regional Police to hire 66 additional staff. The Business Plan and Budget also contains \$7.3 million for hospital capital funding and allocations to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and Toronto Region Conservation Authority that reflect York Region's continuing commitment to protecting the environment. In short, this is a community-building budget that reflects the goals of Vision 2026.

Mr. Garrett began by thanking Regional Chair Fisch and Mayor Jones for their leadership and suggestions and noted that this budget moves the Region in the direction of continuous improvement.

Mr. Garrett indicated that the Region's 2003 Business Plan and Budget provides for gross expenditures of \$1.42 billion. Of this, 51%, or \$727.4 million, is spent on operating programs and 49%, or \$697.5 million, is spent on capital programs. Police Services account for \$121.8 million. Another \$78.8 million is allocated to GTA Pooling as directed by the Province. The Region's debt repayment obligations are very healthy, in the range of only 2%.

Mr. Garrett then referred to specific items. The Business Plan and Budget provides for another \$100 million in capital investment for transit (up from \$34 million). The operating portion of the transit budget is also up significantly to provide 85,000 additional service hours and for a projected 10% increase in ridership. Likewise, over \$120 million is projected to be spent on construction and resurfacing of Regional roads in 2003, with 45 additional lane kilometres to be constructed.

He then indicated that \$152 million is budgeted for capital projects for providing safe drinking water to York Region residents, both now and in years to come. Another \$225 million will be spent on major sewer projects. Likewise, there is an additional \$14.2 million in operating costs for solid waste disposal and diversion.

The 2003 Business Plan and Budget also provides for two additional emergency response vehicles in Emergency Medical Services. It contemplates 7,300 additional vehicle service hours as part of the need to respond to nearly 80,000 calls --a projected 5% increase from 2002. It also provides for Phase 1 of the Heart Alive program, with 75 defibrillators being allocated to 30 Regional sites.

Mr. Garrett further pointed out that the Business Plan and Budget provides for additional social assistance costs of \$2.1 million. The Family and Children's Services component reflects a cap in funding from the Province. The Housing and Residential Services portion contains a marginal increase due to an increase in savings from mortgage costs.

The 2003 Business Plan and Budget contains an increase for Police Services to support an additional 47 officers and 19 civilians for 2003. It also includes funding of \$3.9 million to the Conservation Authorities and \$1.4 million in land securement reserves to reflect the Region's commitment to the environment. There are a number of other

corporate initiatives reflected in the Business Plan and Budget, including an enhanced performance measurement framework.

Mr. Garrett concluded by thanking Commissioner Sandra Cartwright, Tom Webster, Kelly Strueby and all the other Finance Department staff for their hard work and leadership throughout the process leading to Council's consideration of the Business Plan and Budget today.

Sandra Cartwright, Commissioner of Finance began her presentation by giving Regional Chair Fisch her personal thanks for all of his leadership throughout this process. She indicated that the major pressures on the budget, in terms of the tax impact after assessment growth, relate to Solid Waste (3.3%), Police and Boards (1.8%) and Transit (1.6%) that are offset by a 1% decrease in all other programs for a total tax impact of 5.7%. This will result in a \$70-\$80 increase on the average household in York Region, assessed at \$287,000. Police (27%), Pooling (17%), Roads (10%), Transit (8%), Social Housing (8%) and Social Assistance (7%) account for the largest parts of the budget. Council has also previously approved a 3% increase in the water and wastewater rates for 2003.

(A copy of the slide presentation is on file in the Office of the Regional Clerk.)

It was moved by Mayor Taylor, seconded by Mayor Emmerson, that the presentations be received.

Carried.

- 18** It was moved by Mayor Jones, seconded by Regional Councillor O'Donnell, that Report No. 1 of the Chief Administrative Officer and the Commissioner of Finance be considered at this time.

Carried.

It was moved by Mayor Jones, seconded by Regional Councillor O'Donnell, that Report No. 1 of the Chief Administrative Officer and the Commissioner of Finance, relating to the 2003 Regional Business Plan and Budget, be adopted.

Carried.

**19 MINUTES**

It was moved by Mayor Black, seconded by Mayor Di Biase, that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 23rd day of January, 2003, be confirmed in the form supplied to the Members.

Carried.

## COMMUNICATION

Council proceeded to consider the following communication:

### 20 Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues

Judy Sgro, MP, York West, Chair, Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues, February 7, 2003, regarding Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues Final Report: Canada's Urban Strategy a Blueprint for Action.

It was moved by Regional Councillor Scarpitti, seconded by Mayor Di Biase, that this communication be received.

Carried.

### 21 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Regional Councillor Wong presented the following reports for the consideration of Council:

Report No. 2 of the Community Services and Housing Committee  
Report No. 2 of the Finance and Administration Committee  
Report No. 1 of the Fire Services Committee  
Report No. 2 of the Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee  
Report No. 1 of the Interim Accessibility Advisory Committee  
Report No. 2 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee  
Report No. 2 of the Rapid Transit Public/Private Partnership Steering Committee  
Report No. 2 of the Transportation and Works Committee  
Report No. 1 of the Commissioner of Community Services and Housing  
Report No. 1 of the Commissioner of Finance and the Commissioner of Health Services

It was moved by Regional Councillor Wong, seconded by Mayor Taylor, that the reports be received and that Council resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to consider them.

Carried.

Chair Fisch chaired the Committee of the Whole.

The Committee of the Whole rose after making the following recommendations:

Report No. 2 of the Community Services and Housing Committee, be adopted, without amendment;

Report No. 2 of the Finance and Administration Committee, be adopted, without amendment;

Report No. 1 of the Fire Services Committee, be adopted, without amendment;

Report No. 2 of the Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee, be adopted, without amendment;

Report No. 1 of the Interim Accessibility Advisory Committee, be adopted, without amendment;

Report No. 2 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee, be adopted, without amendment;

Report No. 2 of the Rapid Transit Public/Private Partnership Steering Committee be adopted, without amendment;

Report No. 2 of the Transportation and Works Committee, be adopted, without amendment;

Report No. 1 of the Commissioner of Community Services and Housing be adopted, without amendment; and

Report No. 1 of the Commissioner of Finance and Commissioner of Health Services, be adopted, without amendment.

It was moved by Regional Councillor Scarpitti, seconded by Mayor Di Biase, that Council adopt the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole.

Carried.

## **22 BY-LAWS**

It was moved by Mayor Emmerson, seconded by Mayor Holec, that certain Bills be introduced and approved in the form as noted on the Agenda and enacted as By-laws.

By-law No. R-1357-2003-014      To acquire certain lands for or in connection with the widening and reconstruction of St. John's Sideroad (YR 26) in the Towns of Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville

By-law No. RD-0503-2003-015      To dedicate certain lands for the purposes of public highways

By-law No. D-0159-2003-016 To authorize the issue of instalment debentures in the amount of \$1,821,000.00 for the purposes of The Regional Municipality of York

By-law No. L-0127-2003-017 To levy against the Town of East Gwillimbury for the purposes of the Tile Drainage Act

Carried.

## **MOTIONS**

### **23 Appointments to Corporate Clean Air Task Force**

It was moved by Regional Councillor Scarpitti, seconded by Mayor Di Biase, that Mayor Holec be appointed Chair, and Regional Councillor Frustaglio be appointed Vice Chair, of the Corporate Clean Air Task Force.

Carried.

### **24 OTHER BUSINESS**

It was moved by Regional Councillor Frustaglio, seconded by Mayor Black, that Council permit the introduction of the following additional item.

Carried.

### **25 Support for a Province-wide Legislation Addressing the Prohibition of Smoking in Public Places and Workplaces in Ontario**

It was moved by Regional Councillor Frustaglio, seconded by Mayor Black, that:

WHEREAS international scientific studies conclude that there are direct causes and linkages between exposure to second-hand smoke and serious health effects among non-smokers, and

WHEREAS second-hand smoke is the third major preventable cause of death behind only active smoking and alcohol in Ontario, and

WHEREAS second-hand smoke kills approximately 2,600 people in Ontario every year, and

WHEREAS the current "patchwork" of tobacco regulations in some municipalities do not provide full protection for children, non-smoking public, and employees, and

WHEREAS existing local tobacco regulations create an "unlevel playing field" within the hospitality and gaming industries across Ontario, and

WHEREAS Ontarians support a province-wide legislation for smoke-free public places and workplaces, and

WHEREAS a province-wide legislation that prohibits smoking in all public places and workplaces will protect the health and wellbeing of all Ontario residents and workers from the exposure to second-hand smoke, and

WHEREAS Ontario is recognized as a leader in new and innovative health care programs and services, and

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is responsible for protecting the health of all Ontarians,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Regional Municipality of York request the Province of Ontario to enact province-wide legislation that addresses the prohibition of smoking in all public places and workplaces in Ontario, and that this resolution be forwarded to the York Region area municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Medical Association, the Ontario Public Health Association, the Association of Public Health Agencies for Ontario, and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Carried.

## **26 PRIVATE SESSION**

It was moved by Regional Councillor O'Donnell, seconded by Regional Councillor Scarpitti, that Council convene in Private Session, for the purpose of considering personnel matters.

Carried.

Council met in Private Session at 11:54 a.m. and reconvened in Council at 12:20 p.m. with no report out.

It was moved by Regional Councillor O'Donnell, seconded by Regional Councillor Scarpitti, that Council reconvene in Public Session.

Carried.

## **27 CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW**

It was moved by Mayor Jones, seconded by Regional Councillor Hogg, that the following by-law be enacted to confirm the proceedings of this meeting of Council.

By-law No. M-0688-2003-018      To confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on February 20, 2003.

Carried.

The Council meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

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Regional Clerk

Minutes confirmed and adopted at the meeting of Regional Council held on the 27th day of March, 2003.

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Regional Chair