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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

A regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM

Regional Chair Henry assumed the Chair.

Present: All members of Council were present with the exception of Councillors Barton, Bath-Hadden, Carter, Marimpietri, Nicholson and Ryan.
Councillor Barton attended the meeting at 9:33 AM

Staff

Present: S. Austin, E. Baxter-Trahair, B. Bridgeman, J. Demanuele, B. Holmes, S. Hardman, J. Hunt, R. Inacio, J. Kilgour, L. O'Dell, R.J. Kyle, A. Robins, S. Siopis, N. Taylor, S. Penak, N. Prasad, R. Walton and G. Williams

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

E. Baxter-Trahair introduced Gary Williams, Director of Corporate Communications.

2. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

3. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

4. Presentations

4.1 Dr. R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, and E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer, re: Verbal Update on COVID-19

Dr. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, and E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer, provided a verbal update with regards to COVID-19.

Dr. Kyle stated that the local level of government is part of an integrated public health system which includes the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Ministry of Health and Public Health Ontario, and public health units. He stated that Canada's response to COVID-19 so far has been containment and advised that at the local level, the responsibility is to respond to inquiries; facilitate testing; case and contact management; follow provincial guidelines that are updated on an ongoing basis; and monitor cases and contacts and report to higher authority.

Dr. Kyle further advised that the current test sites are local emergency departments. He stated that the Health Department has mobilized its health incident management group and has been meeting weekly for several weeks. He advised that staff receives daily situation reports from the Ministry of Health and are engaged in two teleconferences a week with the Ministry of Health and public health units. He also advised that the Corporate Communications Department has amplified and modulated the Health Department's messaging. Dr. Kyle advised that staff is working closely with the Human Resources Department regarding COVID-19 staff related issues; as well as the Emergency Management Office regarding the continuity of operations and providing guidance to local municipalities. He advised that Durham Region Transit will be displaying messages regarding hygiene on their buses.

E. Baxter-Trahair stated that Durham Region's focus within the organization has been to protect staff, businesses and residents. She advised that public health directives have been changing regularly but staff will continue to update messages and procedures. She advised that on March 9, 2020 employees were provided with a set of protocols to follow under the following 3 scenarios: anyone returning from the Hubei Province (China) or Iran requires an automatic 14 days of isolation; anyone returning from other areas of China, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Singapore and South Korea would require possible isolation based on public health; as well as anyone returning from elsewhere in the world. Should staff require isolation upon return from a trip but are asymptomatic, they are encouraged to work from home if possible. If they are symptomatic, and not able to work, they can access time banks to cover any time off and there will be flexibility with the attendance management policy.

With regards to March Break travel, E. Baxter-Trahair advised that a communication and screening protocol has been launched. She also advised that all business travel outside of Canada has also been suspended until March 31, 2020. Staff at the Region is in consultation with unions and local municipalities to make sure all plans are in alignment.

Dr. Kyle responded to questions with regards to what is being done to prepare front-line workers; advice on responding to inquiries about the Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival and other mass gatherings; self isolation versus mandatory isolation and compliance; how does a person go about getting tested and having alternate test sites to divert from the emergency departments; how the virus is spread; testing capacity and whether extra testing will be done; whether there is a role for paramedics regarding in-home testing; wait times for people calling into public health; and whether directives are being sent to community centres.

4.2 Sandra Austin, Director, Corporate Policy and Strategic Initiatives and Sonya Hardman, Manager, Corporate Initiatives re: Durham Region Strategic Plan 2020-2024 Goals and Priorities (2020-COW-4) [Item 6. B]

S. Austin, Director, Corporate Policy and Strategic Initiatives and S. Hardman, Manager, Corporate Initiatives, provided a presentation and a brief video regarding the Durham Region Strategic Plan 2020-2024 Goals and Priorities. S. Austin stated that on March 1, 2019, Council gave direction to develop a new Strategic Plan and for a Strategic Plan Task Force to guide the process.

S. Austin advised that there has been extensive community engagement with stakeholders including region-wide and local organizations, public, and regional staff. She advised that input was received through roundtable discussions, staff focus groups, community surveys, Town Hall discussions, the “Your Voice Durham” public engagement portal, and pop-up events across the Region.

S. Hardman provided an overview of the digital version of the Strategic Plan 2020-2024 and advised that printed copies will be developed and distributed in April 2020. She stated that the Strategic Plan Task Force confirmed the following five strategic goals and supporting priorities for the 2020-2024 period:

- Goal 1 – Environmental Sustainability
- Goal 2 – Community Vitality
- Goal 3 – Economic Prosperity
- Goal 4 – Social Investment
- Goal 5 – Service Excellence

S. Austin and S. Hardman responded to questions with regard to Smart Cities and possible initiatives for amalgamation of a centralized call centre.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Drew,
(5) That the Committee of the Whole recess for 15 minutes.

CARRIED

The Committee recessed at 11:12 AM and reconvened the meeting at 11:28 AM.

5. Correspondence

There were no communication items to be considered.

6. Reports

A) Acquisition of Property Required for a Future Transit Facility in the City of Oshawa (2020-COW-3)

Report #2020-COW-3 from S. Siopis, Commissioner of Works and N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance, was received.

Staff responded to questions regarding the location and storage purposes of the Transit facility.

Moved by Councillor Chapman, Seconded by Councillor Lee,
(6) That we recommend to Council:

A) That the purchase agreement for the land required for a future Transit facility in the City of Oshawa be approved:

Ver-Mak Development Group Limited	Thornton Road North, Part of Lot 17, Concession 5, City of Oshawa	\$7,900,000*
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B) That financing for the acquisition be provided from within the approved project budget which includes \$2,487,604 in debenture financing;

C) That the Regional Chair and Treasurer be authorized to issue debentures or other prescribed financial instruments to a maximum of \$2,487,604 over a term not to exceed fifteen (15) years to finance the land acquisition;

D) That funding for additional closing costs in the amount of \$15,000 be financed at the discretion of the Commissioner of Finance; and

E) That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute all documents associated with the purchase and sales agreement.

CARRIED

B) Durham Region Strategic Plan 2020-2024 Goals and Priorities (2020-COW-4)

Report #2020-COW-4 from E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer, was received.

Staff responded to questions with regards to whether committee members will be provided with detailed reports and measurables; clarification of lifelong learning; age-friendly communities and the importance of including youth and young families; and whether future reports will reference the Strategic Plan's goals and priorities.

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Mulcahy,
(7) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That the Durham Region Strategic Plan 2020-2024 (Attachment #1 linked within Report #2020-COW-4) be adopted; and
- B) That the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to develop and deliver an action plan, including action items, implementation strategies and the identification of related key performance indicators.

CARRIED

7. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

8. Other Business

8.1 Status of Site Selection for the Anaerobic Digester

Councillor Joe Neal requested that staff provide an update on the status of the site selection for the anaerobic digester. He inquired why there would be a recommendation of a preferred site prior to the closing of the public comment period. Staff advised that the recommended site is South Courtice beside the Durham York Energy Centre.

Councillor Joe Neal further inquired how the site was recommended and whether staff was aware of the Courtice Waterfront Park. Staff advised that GHD (the consultant) supported staff through the process and led regional staff to the recommended site. Councillor Joe Neal further inquired about the required planning approvals and whether an environmental compliance approval has to be applied for.

8.2 Wait Times for People calling into Public Health

Regional Chair Henry requested that Dr. Kyle speak to the length of the wait times for people calling in to Public Health. Dr. Kyle advised that the incoming phone calls of previous weeks are monitored. He also advised that staff has been working extended hours on week days as well as weekends to avoid unnecessary waiting. Dr. Kyle advised that he will follow up with staff to see if there is an issue that needs to be addressed with regards to the length of the wait times.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Smith,
(8) That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:41 AM

Respectfully submitted,

John Henry, Regional Chair

Committee Clerk