

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

A regular meeting of the Finance & Administration Committee was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Ashe, Chair
Councillor Leahy, Vice-Chair* left the meeting at 11:14 AM
Councillor Garrod
Councillor Lee
Councillor McDougall
Councillor Schummer
Councillor Woo
Regional Chair Henry

Also
Present: Councillor Brenner* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Carter* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Cook* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Crawford
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Mulcahy* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Pickles* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Roy
Councillor Wotten
***denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Staff
Present: S. Austin, Director, Strategic Initiatives
C. Bandel, Deputy Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development
A. Burgess, Director, Communications & Engagement
T. Cheseboro, Chief, Region of Durham Paramedic Services, Health
S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services
J. Dixon, Director, Business Affairs and Finance Management, Social Services

C. Dunkley, Director, Corporate Infrastructure and Strategic Business Services, Works Department
A. Evans, Director of Waste Management Services
T. Fetter*, Director, Business Services, DRPS
L. Fleury, Deputy Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
S. Gill*, Director, Economic Development and Tourism
C. Goodchild, Director of Planning
B. Goodwin, Commissioner of Corporate Services
A. Hector-Alexander, Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
W. Holmes, General Manager, DRT
J. Hunt, Regional Solicitor/Director of Legal Services, CAO's Office – Legal
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
R. Jagannathan, Acting Commissioner of Works
J. Kilgour, Acting Deputy General Manager – Maintenance, DRT
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
N. Pincombe, Director, Business Planning & Budgets
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance
* **denotes staff participating electronically**

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Woo made a declaration of interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act with respect to Item 9.4 B) Report #2024-F-3: The 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budgets for Property Tax Purposes, including General Purpose, Solid Waste Management and Durham Region Transit, as it pertains to Departmental Operations. He indicated that he has a relative that works in the Social Services Department.

Councillor Ashe made a declaration of interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act with respect to Item 9.4 B) Report #2024-F-3: The 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budgets for Property Tax Purposes, including General Purpose, Solid Waste Management and Durham Region Transit, as it pertains to Departmental Operations. He indicated that his son works in the Works Department.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by Councillor McDougall,
(6) That the minutes of the regular Finance & Administration Committee meeting held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Presentations

There were no presentations.

6. Delegations

6.1 Jeff Gray, President, Unifor Local 222, re: Transit Long-Term Service and Financing Strategy

J. Gray, President, Unifor Local 222 appeared before the Committee with respect to the Transit Long-Term Service and Financing Strategy.

J. Gray stated that the Region is experiencing explosive growth and the post-pandemic return of Durham Region Transit (DRT) ridership has exceeded expectations.

J. Gray noted that the Ontario Tech University and Durham College campus is continually expanding.

J. Gray advised that they represent student associations for both the University and College and that the student associations have been discussing enhanced transit to improve the student experience. J. Gray stated that there is a need to protect students and help them complete their education by providing effective transit.

J. Gray further advised that recently Del Monte announced the closure of their Oshawa operations which means there are now 71 former employees looking for work, most of whom do not drive and rely on transit to enable them to get to work.

J. Gray stated that new Canadians are being marginalized, and that transit needs to be inclusive and support those who need transit the most.

J. Gray responded to questions from the members of Committee.

6.2 Ian Sinnott, Chair, Unifor Local 222, re: Transit Long-Term Service and Financing Strategy

I. Sinnott, Chair, Unifor Local 222 appeared before the Committee with respect to the Transit Long-Term Service and Financing Strategy.

I. Sinnott stated that studies have indicated that transit services are relied on more by marginalized populations. I. Sinnott added that the population of Durham is growing, and the forecasted population number does not take into account growth in the student population and that there will also be new greenfield developments that will require transit services.

I. Sinnott advised that a study was conducted by the Toronto Board of Trade which recommends 10-minute transit frequency throughout the GTA. I. Sinnott

stated that the DRT 900 series achieves 15-to-30-minute frequency and is ranked last compared to the nearest comparators; is not investing as much per capita into transit; and is ranked last in revenue hours per capita.

I. Sinnott stated that there has been a large increase in ridership since the pandemic, but due to funding limitations, DRT can not keep up with the increased demand, buses are at full capacity and targets are not being met. I. Sinnott added that the expansion of the GO train will also impact service.

I. Sinnott stated that the 2024 budget guideline has resulted in a 1.6% tax levy for DRT which means DRT will need to reduce the planned increase in service, and since the Transit Service and Finance strategy is a multi year strategy, DRT will need to makeup for less funding this year in future year's budgets.

I. Sinnott stated that transit use will exceed ridership forecasts by up to 15% and the Region needs a viable transit service. I. Sinnott asked that Council support a 2% tax levy increase for Transit.

I. Sinnott responded to questions from the Committee members.

6.3 Shayne Fields, Unifor National Representative for the DRT Unit, Unifor Local 222 (In-Person Attendance), re: Transit Long-Term Service and Financing Strategy and Current Durham Region Budget Discussions

S. Fields, Unifor National Representative for the DRT Unit, Unifor Local 222 appeared before the Committee with respect to the Transit Long-Term Service and Financing Strategy and current Durham Region budget discussions.

S. Fields stated that they represent workers across Canada and recounted a story about being in Oshawa as a young child and taking the bus, and questioned how many kids can safely take the bus by themselves now.

S. Fields stated that the Region is growing fast and the demand for transit is there, but the proposed budget does not deliver on the Transit Service and Financing strategy that was approved.

S. Fields stated that Council needs to be held accountable and that they have made a commitment for transit and need to honour it.

S. Fields advised that they have heard from students who do not feel like they are getting what they paid for with DRT and have concerns about overcrowded, late buses, that are not accessible.

S. Fields responded to questions from the Committee members.

6.4 Colin Thompson, Unit Leader, PARA Marine Search and Rescue (In-Person Attendance), re: Annual Report and Strategic Plan

C. Thompson, Unit Leader, and Clint Scott, Community Development Officer, Pickering Auxiliary Rescue Association (PARA) Marine Search and Rescue appeared before the Committee with respect to PARA's Annual Report and Strategic Plan.

C. Scott stated that PARA undertook a project this past winter in which they identified the need to start looking into obtaining funding for a new vessel to be purchased within the next couple of years. C. Scott added that they recently used \$300,000 from savings to update their current vessel.

C. Scott advised that the number of operations that they have been involved with has increased significantly since the pandemic.

C. Scott advised that PARA is requesting that the Region and the local area municipalities fund one or two full time employees or consultants to help with developing a strategy on how to raise \$2 million for a new vessel which would cost approximately \$100,000 to \$150,000 per year, and would be a short-term funding request for the next couple of years.

C. Thompson and C. Scott responded to questions from the Committee members.

- 6.5 Tyler Smale, Durham resident (In-Person Attendance) re: The 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budgets as it pertains to Durham Region Transit [Refer to Item 9.4 b)]
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T. Smale, Durham resident, did not attend the meeting.

7. Administration

7.1 Correspondence

There were no Communications to consider.

7.2 Reports

There were no Administration reports to be considered.

8. Finance

8.1 Correspondence

- A) Memorandum from Alison Burgess, Director of Communications and Engagement, re: Senior Government Funding
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A. Burgess provided background information regarding the memorandum.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Lee,
(7) That we recommend to Council:

Whereas Durham Region along with other regional governments in Ontario were excluded from major new federal and provincial infrastructure programs to enable housing; namely the Housing Accelerator Fund and the Building Faster Fund;

Whereas regional governments are responsible to deliver costly infrastructure to enable growth such as water and sewer infrastructure and transit investments;

Whereas there is a homelessness, housing affordability and supply crisis;

Whereas there is currently a gap in senior government infrastructure funding programs and new funding commitments are required to close the gap in a timely fashion;

Whereas Durham Region residents deserve a fair share of investment from senior level government;

Be it therefore resolved that Durham Region request the federal and provincial government to include regional governments in any new infrastructure program to enable growth and that new major infrastructure programs are established urgently;

And further that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister, Premier of Ontario, Durham MPs and MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

CARRIED

8.2 Reports

- A) The Remuneration and Expenses in 2023 of Members of Regional Council and Regional Council Appointees to Local Boards, as Required by Section 284(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25 (2024-F-1)
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Report #2024-F-1 from N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance was received.

Moved by Councillor McDougall, Seconded by Councillor Garrod,
(8) That we recommend to Council:

That Report #2024-F-1 of the Commissioner of Finance be received for information.

CARRIED

- B) Region of Durham Paramedic Services (RDPS) Logistics Vehicle to Support Community Programs (CP) (2024-F-4)
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Report #2024-F-4 from N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Lee,
(9) That we recommend to Council:

That the purchase of a new Logistics Delivery vehicle, at an estimated upset limit of \$95,000 and financed 100 per cent from reallocation of surplus Provincial funding, be approved to better assist with delivery of supplies to address the need of our enhanced workload related to Community Programs (CP).

CARRIED

9. Business Plan and Budget Review and Property Tax Study

9.1 Presentations

- A) Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer, Nancy Taylor, Commissioner of Finance, Barb Goodwin, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Nicole Pincombe, Director, Business Planning and Budgets, re: The 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budgets for Property Tax Purposes, including General Purpose, Solid Waste Management and Durham Region Transit (2024-F-3) and the 2024 Strategic Property Tax Study (2024-F-2)
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E. Baxter-Trahair, N. Taylor, B. Goodwin and N. Pincombe provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budgets and the 2024 Strategic Property Tax Study.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Overview of the 2024 Budget
- Overview of the Chief Administrative Officer's Budget
- Overview of the Corporate Services Department Budget
- Regional Property Tax Supported Budget
- 2024 Property Tax Impacts: Average Home
- 2024 Property Tax Impacts: Regional
- 2024 Property Tax Impacts: Overall
- 2024 Property Tax Policy
- Base Budget Pressures
- Fiscal Sustainability – New Financial Framework
- Significant Investments in Critical Service Areas
 - Housing and Homelessness
 - Regional Transit
 - Paramedic Services
 - Police Services
 - Climate Action
 - Other
- Potential Social Housing Development/Redevelopment Projects
- 2024 Capital Budget and Nine-Year Forecast
- Bill 23 Impacts
- Items Deferred/Phased
- Looking forward: 2025 – 2033 Forecast

- Engagement Opportunities and Insights
- Overview of the 2024 Budget

Staff responded to questions with respect to what the 2023 surplus is projected to be; new staffing for the CAO's office; cyber-security; long-term budget forecasting; deferred/phased implementations for certain items; financing from the tax levy for capital projects; funding to support the transit service and financing strategy; inflation rates; the variance between gross funding and net property tax impact; social housing rebuild costs; the Durham Built standard; subsidies for electric buses; the emotional model of care; the federal Zero Emissions Transit Fund grant funding; autonomous buses; downloading of social housing in Ontario; AMOs call for an economic prosperity review; and the application of additional reserve and reserve fund financing.

Staff was asked to bring forward information at a future meeting with respect to cyber-security.

9.2 Correspondence

- A) Memorandum from the Transit Executive Committee, re: 2024 Durham Region Transit Business Plans and Budget (2024-DRT-05)
- B) Memorandum from the Health & Social Services Committee, re: 2024 Health Department Business Plans and Budget (2024-MOH-2)
- C) Memorandum from the Health & Social Services Committee, re: 2024 Social Services Department Business Plans and Budget (2024-SS-2)
- D) Memorandum from the Planning & Economic Development Committee, re: 2024 Planning and Economic Development Department Business Plans and Budget (2024-P-7)
- E) Memorandum from the Works Committee, re: 2024 Works Department General Tax and Solid Waste Management Business Plans and Budget (2024-W-6)
- F) Memorandum from the 9-1-1 Management Board, re: 9-1-1 Emergency Service System 2024 Business Plans and Budget
- G) Memorandum from the Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation, re: 2024 Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation Business Plans and Budget
- H) Memorandum from the Durham OneNet Inc. Board, re: 2024 Durham OneNet Inc. Regional Broadband Business Plans and Budget

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by Councillor Schummer,

- (10) That Correspondence Items A) to H) be referred to Item 9.4 b), Report #2024-F-3 of the Commissioner of Finance.

CARRIED

9.3 Business Plans and Budgets

A) Conservation Authorities 2024 Business Plans and Budgets

The Committee reviewed the Conservation Authorities 2024 Business Plans and Budgets, including:

- Central Lake Ontario
- Kawartha Region
- Ganaraska Region
- Toronto and Region
- Lake Simcoe Region

Staff responded to questions with respect to the Province's long term plans for Conservation Authorities; who is responsible for managing erosion in coastal and flood risk areas; and funding for Conservation Authorities.

B) Durham Regional Police Service 2024 Business Plans and Budget

The Committee reviewed the Durham Regional Police Service 2024 Business Plans and Budget.

C) Durham Region Transit 2024 Business Plans and Budget

The Committee reviewed the Durham Region Transit (DRT) 2024 Business Plans and Budget.

Staff responded to questions with respect to what would be required in the budget if the request for a 10-minute transit frequency was to be met (per Toronto Board of Trade Study); the status of the viability of hydrogen buses; the potential for a full grid-pattern transit system; the possibility of bus routes to the Ontario Tech and Durham College campuses that use alternate routes, rather than Simcoe Street; and using airports as a driver for transit.

D) Health 2024 Business Plans and Budget

The Committee reviewed the Health 2024 Business Plans and Budget, including:

- Public Health
- Paramedic Services

E) Social Services 2024 Business Plans and Budget

The Committee reviewed the Social Services 2024 Business Plans and Budget, including:

- Emergency Management and Program Support Services
- Social Assistance
- Children's Services
- Family Services
- Housing Services
- Long Term Care and Services for Seniors

Staff responded to questions with respect to the operating costs for the new long term care facility in Pickering; and the differences in costs and efficiencies depending on the size of the facility.

F) Planning & Economic Development 2024 Business Plans and Budget

The Committee reviewed the Planning & Economic Development 2024 Business Plans and Budget, including:

- Planning
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Rapid Transit and Transit Oriented Development Office

Staff responded to questions with respect to whether the province has approved the Region's Official Plan yet, and would anything change in the budget if it is not approved; the impact of reduced participation by the Region in trade shows; potentially hosting a technology event; and the measures of economic development success.

Moved by Councillor McDougall, Seconded by Councillor Lee,
(11) That the Committee recess for lunch.

CARRIED

The Committee recessed at 11:55 AM and reconvened at 12:20 PM

A roll call was conducted following the recess and all members were present with the exception of Councillor Leahy.

G) Works 2024 Business Plans and Budget

The Committee reviewed the Works 2024 Business Plans and Budget, including:

- Works – General Tax
- Solid Waste Management

H) Finance & Administration 2024 Business Plans and Budgets

The Committee reviewed the Finance & Administration 2024 Business Plans and Budgets, including:

- Regional Council
- Office of the Regional Chair
- Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
- Legal Services and Legal POA
- Corporate Services
- 9-1-1 Emergency Service System
- Finance
- Corporate Items
- Regional Headquarters
- Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation
- Durham OneNet Inc.
- Listing of Fees and Charges

Staff responded to questions with respect to whether the debenture is paid off for the Regional Headquarters building and if not, what the annual contribution to the debenture is; whether the majority of fees charged by the Region are charged to Durham residents and what percentage are charged to non-residents; and whether there is an opportunity to charge higher fees to non-residents for some services.

9.4 Reports

A) 2024 Strategic Property Tax Study (2024-F-2)

Report #2024-F-2 from N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance, was received.

Staff responded to questions with respect to the two municipalities with nuclear power plants and the status of their stranded debt to the Independent Electricity System Operator; if the Bruce Nuclear Power Plant is considered private; the non-residential versus the residential share of Regional property taxes and what could change as a result of the next Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) reassessment; whether the increase in the non-residential share of the property taxes in 2011 was driven by market conditions and if that scenario can be replicated; what can be done to increase the share of other property tax classes so that the residential classes do not make up such a large majority of the tax base; and whether there are any organizations/think tanks looking into modelling the implications of the upcoming MPAC reassessment.

Moved by Councillor Woo, Seconded by Councillor McDougall,
(12) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That for the 2024 property taxation year, the municipal property tax ratios for the following property classes and subclasses for the Regional Municipality of Durham and its area municipalities be set as follows, consistent with the 2023 ratios, and the requisite by-law be prepared, and approval be granted,

Multi-Residential

1.8665

New Multi-Residential	1.1000
Landfill	1.1000
Pipelines	1.2294
Farmland	0.2000
Managed Forests	0.2500

Commercial Broad Class

(Including Shopping Centres, Office Buildings, Parking Lots and Residual)

Occupied	1.4500
Vacant Land	1.4500
Excess Land	1.4500
On Farm	1.4500

Industrial Broad Class

(Including Large Industrial and Residual)

Occupied	2.0235
Vacant Land	2.0235
Excess Land	2.0235
On Farm	2.0235

- B) That to achieve greater fairness and equity in the Current Value Assessment (CVA) system and property taxation policy, the Province be requested to:
- update the Provincial statutory rate applicable to nuclear generating facilities;
 - institute an annual mechanism to ensure the rate continues to be updated in the future, and;
 - redirect proxy property tax payments currently paid by the Region's two nuclear generating facilities to the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation (OEFC) for the Ontario Hydro stranded debt to the host municipalities and the Region following retirement of the stranded debt.

CARRIED

- B) The 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget for Property Tax Purposes, including General Purpose, Solid Waste Management and Durham Region Transit (2024-F-3)
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Report #2024-F-3 from N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance, was received.

Staff responded to questions with respect to what is driving the 2023 surplus; what the \$450,000 transfer to the Climate Change Mitigation and Environmental Reserve Fund is for; and when will the report regarding losses in Development Charge revenues due to Bill 23 and related legislation be provided.

Discussion ensued with respect to advocating for reform in Development Charge legislation.

Concerns were raised with respect to the impacts on future budgets from deferring projects, the losses in Development Charge revenue due to Bill 23, and increases in property tax funding requirements for capital projects due to a lack of infrastructure funding grants. An additional concern was raised with respect to factors impacting the property tax budget that were not intended to be funded through property taxes including asylum seekers, homelessness issues; recidivism; and carbon taxes on fuel for transit.

Moved by Councillor Woo, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
(13) That we recommend to Council:

2024 General Purpose Property Tax Business Plans and Budget

- A) That the 2024 Business Plans and Property Tax Budget for General Purposes (excluding Durham Region Transit and Solid Waste Management) be approved, at a total net property tax requirement of \$746,567,000 as detailed within the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget, which are highlighted in this report and summarized as follows:

Regional Operations

- i) Departmental Operations - excluding Long-term Care
- ii) Departmental Operations – Long-term Care
- iii) Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act Provision
- iv) Regional Roads Reserve – Growth
- v) Regional Roads – Rehabilitation Reserve Fund
- vi) Regional Bridges – Rehabilitation Reserve Fund

Total Regional Operations

vii) **Police Services**

viii) **Conservation Authorities**

Special Contributions:

- ix) Land Conservation and Protection Reserve Fund
- x) Durham Region Community Investment Grant

Total Special Contributions

SUBTOTAL

- xi) Deferral for Seaton Assessment Growth

TOTAL GENERAL PROPERTY TAX PURPOSES

**2024 Tax
Requirements
(\$000s)**

333,627

69,416

5,558

12,549

26,050

5,525

452,725

267,966

9,383

394

6,220

6,614

736,688

9,879

746,567

- B) That the 2024 Capital Program for General Property Tax Purposes and financing (excluding Solid Waste, Durham Region Transit and Conservation Authorities' requirements), as outlined in Attachment 5 to Report #2024-F-3 of the Commissioner of Finance and as further detailed within the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget, in the amount of \$281,936,000 be approved including up to \$46,833,000 in debenture financing;
- C) That the 2025 to 2033 Capital Forecast for General Property Tax Purposes (excluding Solid Waste, Durham Region Transit and Conservation Authorities' requirements), as outlined in Attachment 5 to Report #2024-F-3 of the Commissioner of Finance and as further detailed within the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget in the amount of \$3,782,409,000 be received for information purposes only and be subject to future approvals.

Contributions for Regional Roads and Bridges

- D) That a 2024 contribution of \$12,549,000 to the Regional Roads Reserve – Growth be authorized to allow for financing of Road Capital Construction Projects;

- E) That a 2024 contribution of \$26,050,000 to the Regional Roads Rehabilitation Reserve Fund be authorized to assist with road rehabilitation requirements;
- F) That a 2024 contribution of \$5,525,000 to the Regional Bridges Rehabilitation Reserve Fund be authorized to assist with bridge rehabilitation requirements.

Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation

- G) That the 2024 Budget for the Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation be approved at a total net property tax requirement of \$14,991,550.

Conservation Authorities

H)	That funding totalling \$6,963,838 for 2024 operations be approved for the Region's five Conservation Authorities as summarized below:	
	Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (including transitioning the 2019-2023 Restoration pilot program to a permanent program in 2024)	\$4,620,240
	Kawartha Region Conservation Authority	729,104
	Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority	658,597
	Toronto and Region Conservation Authority	724,800
	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority*	231,097
	Total Conservation Authority Operations Funding	\$6,963,838

*The 2024 operating budget provision for Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority includes all Category 1 Corporate Services costs.

I)	That funding totalling \$1,679,259 for 2024 special projects be approved for the Region's Conservation Authorities as summarized below:	
	Kawartha Region Conservation Authority	\$146,100
	Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority	249,559
	Toronto and Region Conservation Authority	994,371
	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority	289,229
	Total Conservation Authority Special Projects Funding	\$1,679,259

J)	That funding totalling \$200,000 for 2024 land management expenditures be approved for properties within Durham Region as outlined below:	
	Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority	\$85,000
	Kawartha Region Conservation Authority	15,000
	Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority	37,000
	Toronto and Region Conservation Authority	41,000
	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority	22,000

Total Conservation Authority Land Management Funding	\$200,000
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- K) That the Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program (ORMGP) Initiatives be continued in 2024 at a funding level of \$175,000 for ongoing groundwater protection initiatives jointly funded with the City of Toronto, Region of York and Region of Peel;
- L) That the special funding requests as outlined below be approved subject to the accountability of project costs incurred and project completion:
 - a) Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority for improvement to the entrance at Enniskillen Conservation Area and Russ Powell Nature Centre in the amount of \$120,000;
 - b) Kawartha Conservation Authority for updates to their Watershed Planning in the amount of \$30,500;
 - c) Kawartha Conservation Authority for phase five of five for the digitization of corporate records in the amount of \$5,446; and
 - d) Kawartha Conservation Authority for the implementation of their 10-year Environmental Monitoring Strategy in the amount of \$9,077;
- M) That the special funding request from the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority as outlined below be approved subject to securing the remainder of the project funding from the National Adaptation Strategy and Hydrologic Prediction and Innovation Program, project completion and accountability of project costs incurred:
 - a) LiDAR base mapping for the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority watershed to assist with floodplain mapping programs in the amount of \$80,000;
- N) That the approval for the special funding request from the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority for a Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan Pilot Project (SNAP) in the amount of \$120,000 be delegated to the Commissioner of Finance pending final review of the pilot project selected and its alignment with Regional responsibilities and priorities. The advancement of any funding approved for this special request will be subject to project completion and accountability of project costs incurred;
- O) That a contribution of \$393,977 to the Land Conservation and Protection Reserve Fund be authorized to assist in financing requests for funding received from the five Conservation Authorities to acquire environmentally sensitive lands within the Region, based on eligibility criteria per the approved Regional Land Acquisition Reserve Fund Policy.

Solid Waste Management 2024 Business Plan and Budget

- P) That the 2024 Business Plan and Budget for Solid Waste Management at a net property tax requirement of \$60,075,000 be approved as detailed in the 2024 Solid Waste Management Business Plan and Budget;
- Q) That the 2024 Capital Program for Solid Waste Management and financing, as outlined in Attachment 5 to Report #2024-F-3 of the Commissioner of Finance and as further detailed within the 2024 Regional Business Plan and Budget for Solid Waste Management, in the amount of \$4,732,000 be approved;
- R) That the 2025 to 2033 Capital Forecast for Solid Waste Management as outlined in Attachment 5 to Report #2024-F-3 of the Commissioner of Finance and as further detailed within the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget in the amount of \$242,030,000 be received for information purposes only and be subject to future approvals.

Durham Region Transit 2024 Business Plan and Budget

- S) That the 2024 Business Plan and Budget for Durham Region Transit be approved at a total net property tax requirement of \$92,816,000, as detailed in the 2024 Durham Region Transit Business Plan and Budget;
- T) That the 2024 Capital Program for Durham Region Transit and financing, as outlined in Attachment 5 to Report #2024-F-3 of the Commissioner of Finance and as further detailed within the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget, in the gross amount of \$342,336,000 be approved, including up to \$63,095,000 in debenture financing (including \$20,230,000 in long-term financing from the Canada Infrastructure Bank) subject to federal funding approval for applicable projects;
- U) That the 2025 to 2033 Capital Forecast for Durham Region Transit as outlined in Attachment 5 to Report #2024-F-3 of the Commissioner of Finance and as further detailed within the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget in the amount of \$1,028,132,000 be received for information purposes only and be subject to future approvals;
- V) That staff report back to the Transit Executive Committee and Finance and Administration Committee in advance of the 2025 Business Plan and Budget should sufficient senior government funding not be forthcoming to support the implementation of Durham Region Transit's fleet electrification strategy and forecasted service enhancements, with recommendations on updating the Transit Service and Financing Strategy (2023 – 2032) to reflect funding realities.

Financial Management and Accountability

- W) That the Listing of 2024 Regional Fees and Charges, as set forth in the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget be approved and made available to the public and all applicable by-laws be amended accordingly;
- X) That a transfer of \$450,000 to the Climate Change Mitigation and Environmental Reserve Fund from savings in the Region's natural gas hedging account be approved;
- Y) That a transfer of \$3,068,880 to the Equipment Reserve from the Capital Impact Stabilization Reserve Fund be approved to support the ongoing sustainability of the reserve for fleet equipment replacement;
- Z) That the Growth Related General Infrastructure (Property Tax) Reserve Fund be established to finance the shortfall in development charge receipts from the mandatory phase-in, freezing, exemptions and discounts introduced through Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, Bill 134, Affordable Homes and Good Jobs Act, 2023 and related legislation, and that for 2023, any property tax surplus up to the maximum amount of the estimated 2023 development charge shortfall for property tax services be allocated to the Growth Related Property Tax Infrastructure Reserve Fund;
- AA) That the necessary By-laws for the establishment of the recommended Growth Related General Infrastructure (Property Tax) Reserve Fund be presented to Regional Council;
- BB) That the Region continue to advocate directly and jointly with our municipal partners and associations for senior government funding for shortfalls in development charge funding resulting from Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, Bill 134, Affordable Homes and Good Jobs Act, 2023 and related legislation as well as for the unplanned and accelerated infrastructure needs to meet the provincial housing targets;
- CC) That Council support the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call on the Government of Canada for urgent investment in infrastructure and commitments to enhancements to the Canada Community Building Fund, establishing a permanent Public Transit Fund and enhanced investment in Reaching Homes funding;
- DD) That the Province of Ontario be requested to provide stability and certainty to the Provincial Gas Tax program to support transit operations and capital priorities;
- EE) That based upon the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget as recommended herein, the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to set 2024 Regional Property Tax Rates for General Purposes, Solid Waste Management and Durham Region Transit and approval be granted for the requisite By-laws;

- FF) That for any Regional program change or capital expenditure included within the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget which is proposed to be financed in whole, or in part, from Provincial/Federal subsidies, grants or related revenues, neither staffing, capital nor other related Regional expenditures can be committed until such time as adequate confirmation, to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Finance/Treasurer, is received from the respective provincial/federal ministry to commit to the subsidy, grant or related revenues in accordance with the Regional Budget Management Policy;
- GG) That funding totalling up to \$83,250 be approved for the Pickering Auxiliary Rescue Association with the funding to be provided from within the Finance Department's 2024 Business Plan and Budget to be administered by the Finance Department in consultation with the Durham Regional Police Service, based upon services rendered;
- HH) That funding totalling up to \$52,160 be approved for COMRA Marine Rescue Association with the funding to be provided from within the Finance Department's 2024 Business Plan and Budget to be administered by the Finance Department in consultation with the Durham Regional Police Service, based upon services rendered;
- II) That the Commissioner of Finance be delegated authority, for purposes of the Region's Humanitarian response to asylum-seekers and refugees, to extend the Region's agreement with Community Development Council Durham to June 30, 2024, execute any transfer payment agreements, expend funds up to a maximum of an additional \$5,528,000 in accordance with the program guidelines, make any modifications to the program(s) to ensure desired outcomes are achieved, receive any federal and/or provincial funds for this response, and waive the Region's Purchasing By-law and Budget Management Policy as required for this response; and that any costs associated with the extension of this agreement not reimbursed under the federal Interim Housing Assistance Program or the provincial Homelessness Prevention Program or any other federal or provincial funds be funded at the discretion of the Commissioner of Finance;
- JJ) That the federal government be requested to urgently reimburse the Region of Durham for all costs incurred to date and anticipated to be incurred up to June 30, 2024 for the Region's Humanitarian response to asylum-seekers and refugees and establish an ongoing funding program from July 1, 2024 onward to cover the costs of providing settlement services for asylum-seekers and refugees to prevent the cancellation of any programs offered by the Region of Durham after June 30, 2024;

- KK) That the Region continue to advocate for sustained senior government funding for growth related capital infrastructure to support the housing goals within the Region of Durham;
- LL) That staff be directed to prepare a 10-year Housing Service and Financing Strategy to be brought forward to Council in conjunction with the 2025 Business Plans and Budget;
- MM) That the reporting of the Impact of Excluded Expenses for tangible capital asset amortization, post-employment benefits and solid waste landfill closure/post-closure expenses be adopted, per requirements under the Ontario Regulation 284/09 of the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB);

**Estimated Impact of Excluded Expenses on Accumulated Surplus
For the 2024 Business Plans and Budgets (\$,000's)**

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2024</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Property Tax</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
<u>PSAS Additions to Budget</u>					
Tangible Capital Asset Amortization	164,648	104,174	29,860	36,776	170,810
Post-Employment Benefit Expense	27,301	43,820	738	890	45,448
Asset Retirement Obligation - Increase/(Decrease)	(248)	1,317	161	86	1,564
Transfers from Reserves and Reserve Funds	145,359	246,889	31,417	19,785	298,091
Proceeds of Debt issued for Regional Purposes	160,883	109,928	-	45,868	155,796
Total PSAS Additions	497,943	506,128	62,176	103,405	671,709
<u>PSAS Reductions to Budget</u>					
Gross Tangible Capital Asset Acquisitions	(784,858)	(628,307)	(143,006)	(215,158)	(986,471)
Less: Tangible Capital Asset Recoveries	40,691	-	-	60,172	60,172
Net Tangible Capital Asset Acquisitions	(744,167)	(628,307)	(143,006)	(154,986)	(926,299)
Debt Principal Payments	(18,643)	(18,589)	(695)	(2,802)	(22,086)
Transfers to Reserves and Reserve Funds	(155,268)	(152,579)	(9,836)	(20,773)	(183,188)
Contributed Tangible Capital Assets	(20,017)	(1,270)	(9,360)	(13,396)	(24,026)
Total PSAS Reductions	(938,095)	(800,745)	(162,897)	(191,957)	(1,155,599)
Net Impact - (Increase) to Accumulated Surplus	(440,152)	(294,617)	(100,721)	(88,552)	(483,890)

- NN) That sections of this resolution be forwarded to each relevant party to inform them of their approved funding and/or Council's position on the appropriate matter.

CARRIED LATER IN THE MEETING
(See Following Motions)

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Lee,
(14) That the main motion (13) of Councillor Woo and Regional Chair Henry be divided in order to allow voting on part A i) Departmental Operations – excluding Long-term Care, separately from the remainder.

CARRIED

Part A) i) was then put to a vote and CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING RECORDED VOTE. Councillors Ashe and Woo declared conflicts of pecuniary interest on this item earlier in the meeting and did not vote on this item:

Yes

No

Councillor Garrod
Regional Chair Henry
Councillor Lee
Councillor McDougall

Councillor Schummer

Members Absent: Councillor Leahy

Declarations of Interest: Councillor Ashe, Chair
Councillor Woo

The main motion (13) of Councillor Woo and Regional Chair Henry [with the exception of Part A) i)] was then put to a vote and CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING RECORDED VOTE:

Yes

No

Councillor Ashe, Chair
Councillor Garrod
Regional Chair Henry
Councillor Lee
Councillor McDougall
Councillor Woo

Councillor Schummer

Members Absent: Councillor Leahy

Declarations of Interest: None

10. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

11. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

12. Other Business

There was no other business to be considered.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Finance & Administration Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

14. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Woo, Seconded by Councillor Lee,
(15) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 PM

Respectfully submitted,

K. Ashe, Chair

L. Fleury, Deputy Clerk