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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

A regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:32 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

Regional Chair Henry assumed the Chair.

Chair Henry announced that Durham Region Transit (DRT) is holding a Public Information session in the lobby of Regional Headquarters between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM and encouraged members to participate if time permits.

Chair Henry further advised that it is The International Day of Pink, a worldwide anti-bullying and anti-homophobia event where individuals are encouraged to wear the colour pink in support of the day.

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Anderson, left the meeting at 12:16 PM
Councillor Ashe*
Councillor Barton*
Councillor Brenner
Councillor Carter* attended the meeting at 11:11 AM
Councillor Chapman
Councillor Collier*, attended the meeting at 11:43 AM
Councillor Cook*
Councillor Crawford, left the meeting at 12:55 PM
Councillor Dies, left the meeting at 1:00 PM
Councillor Foster
Councillor Garrod
Councillor Jubb*
Councillor Kerr, left the meeting at 12:30 PM
Councillor Leahy*, left the meeting at 11:32 AM and attended the meeting at 12:13 PM
Councillor Lee*
Councillor Marimpietri, attended the meeting at 10:35 AM
Councillor McDougall
Councillor Mulcahy*, left meeting at 1:00 PM
Councillor Neal
Councillor Nicholson*
Councillor Pickles
Councillor Roy, left the meeting at 12:09 PM

Councillor Schummer*

Councillor Woo*

Councillor Wotten, left the meeting at 11:37 AM and attended the meeting at 12:54 PM

Councillor Yamada* attended the meeting at 9:55 AM

Regional Chair Henry

*** denotes staff participating electronically**

All members of Committee were present with the exception of Councillor Shahid due to the celebration of a religious holiday.

Staff

Present: A. Evans*, S. Austin, E. Baxter-Trahair*, B. Bridgeman, A. Burgess, S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, S. Dessureault, H. Finlay, S. Gill*, C. Goodchild, B. Goodwin, A. Harras, B. Holmes, J. Hunt, R. Inacio, R. Jagannathan, I. McVey, G. Muller*, N. Pincombe, C. Taylor, N. Taylor, E. Valant* and V. Walker

***denotes staff participating electronically**

2. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

3. **Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

4. **Presentations**

4.1 Climate Change Education Session

- a. Sandra Austin, Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives, Re: Climate Emergency Context – Imperative for Action

Sandra Austin, Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives provided introductory remarks for the Climate Change Education Session, and outlined the agenda for the education session.

- b. Bryan Purcell, Vice President Policy and Programs, The Atmospheric Fund, Re: Overview of Climate Mitigation Action in the GTHA – Regional Context

Bryan Purcell, Vice President Policy and Programs, The Atmospheric Fund provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Overview of Climate Mitigation Action in the GTHA – Regional Context.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Methodology Insights
- Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area Emissions Inventory
- Pathway to Net-Zero
- Durham Region Sector Emissions
- Durham Region
 - Transportation
 - Buildings
 - Electricity
- Sector Emissions
 - Durham Region: Electricity Emissions, 2016-2022
 - Ontario Electricity Emissions Forecast, 2015-2040
- Municipal Climate Policy Priorities

B. Purcell responded to questions in regards to the data on emissions generated by the Durham York Energy Centre incinerator; defining the difference between clean and dirty energy and what causes emission numbers to rise in the Region of Durham; the suitability of small modular reactors as replacements for natural gas generating plants; the difference in cost between a natural gas generating plant per kilowatt and other sources of electricity; trends in other municipalities in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) concerning the increases in emissions and steps they are taking to lower their emission numbers; the percent of the population that disputes the significance of climate change and the measures taken by municipalities in the GTHA to educate the public on this issue; and overcoming the concerns surrounding small modular reactors and their integration into communities in the Region of Durham.

Councillor Foster clarified that the small modular reactors in the Region of Durham will be integrated into the existing grid, with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) anticipating their readiness by 2029.

B. Purcell responded to questions in regards to the timeline to bring a new gas Peaker plan to the Region of Durham to increase electricity production; and the promotion of devices aimed at assisting homeowners in managing electricity demand during peak times.

Staff clarified Durham Region Transit ridership per month had surpassed pre-pandemic levels through the fall of 2023.

B. Purcell responded to questions regarding the feasibility of the Region of Durham's emissions reduction goals for 2030, considering various factors.

- c. Don Iveson, Co-Chair, Task Force for Housing and Climate, and Executive Advisor, Co-Operators Insurance, Re: Task Force for Housing & Climate – Blueprint for More and Better Housing
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Don Iveson, Co-Chair, Task Force for Housing and Climate, and Executive Advisor, Co-Operators Insurance provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Blueprint for More and Better Housing.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Members
- Background
- 4 Goals for 5.8 Million Homes
- What's in the Blueprint
- 4 Gamechangers
 - Legalize Density
 - Implement Better Building Codes
 - Invest in Factory-Built Housing
 - Don't Build in High-Risk Areas
- Other Big Ideas
- Housing Spectrum
- Final Thoughts

D. Iveson responded to questions with regards to strategies for promoting density within established neighbourhoods; approaches for engaging with other levels of government to secure funding necessary for accommodating a higher density population; additional high-risk factors for residents residing in high-risk areas; and managing developers seeking to maximize profits on high-risk areas where future insurance coverage may be uncertain.

Moved by Councillor Neal, Seconded by Councillor Pickles,
(16) That the Committee recess for 5 minutes.

CARRIED

The Committee recessed at 11:11 AM and reconvened at 11:20 AM.

A roll call was conducted following the recess and all members of the Committee were present with the exception of Councillors Collier, Shahid, and Woo.

- d. Jennifer Alsop, Director Brilliant Energy Institute, Ontario Tech University and Sam Sadeghi, Vice President, Asset Management and Distribution Operations, Elexicon Energy, Re: Perspectives from the Durham Climate Roundtable on Electrification and the Energy Transition

Jennifer Alsop, Director Brilliant Energy Institute, Ontario Tech University and Sam Sadeghi, Vice President, Asset Management and Distribution Operations, Elexicon Energy provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Perspectives from the Durham Climate Roundtable on Electrification and the Energy Transition.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Durham Climate Roundtable Leadership Committee
- Overview of Elexicon Energy
- Regulatory Environment
- Sustainability Award
- Addressing Climate Change
- Energy Security Plan
- Asks of the Municipalities

S. Sadeghi responded to questions regarding raising awareness of power outage issues in the municipality of Clarington, specifically Newcastle, and the potential for grid modernization.

e. 15 Minute Break

There was no 15 minute break at this time.

f. Al Douglas, President, Climate Risk Institute, Re: Climate Adaptation 101 and Strategic Directions for Future Work

Al Douglas, President, Climate Risk Institute provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Climate Adaptation 101 and Strategic Directions for Future Work.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- About Climate Risk Institute
- Part 1 – Climate Adaption 101
 - Reflection Questions
 - Climate Shift
 - Driving Climate Change
 - Canada's Changing Climate Key Findings
 - Climate in the Durham Region: Trends and Projections
 - Climate Events: Canadian Context
 - Climate Events: Durham Region Impacts
 - Climate Impacts in Durham Region
 - Increasing Flood Risk
 - Acute verses Chronic Climate Impacts
 - Response to Climate Crisis
 - Where Are We? Where Are We Going?
 - Financial Benefits of Adaptation
 - More Evidence of Cost-Benefit?
 - Climate Change and Cost of Living
 - What Can 'Adapting' Look Like?
 - Adaptation and Resilience Initiatives in Durham Region

- Adaption Addresses Equity
- How Climate Intersects with Local Issues
- Changing Mean to Changing Extremes
- Small Changes to Catastrophic Failure
- Unprepared vs Resilient Infrastructure Systems
- Infrastructure Interdependencies
- Codes and Standards
- Infrastructure
- Agriculture and Food Security
- Energy – Generation and Distribution
- Asset Management
- Health and Health System Impacts
- Better Outcomes Through Adaptation
- Greenspaces and Natural Assets
- Planning and Housing
- Reflection - Revisiting

A. Douglas responded to questions in regards to changing past practice where green space was more prevalent, with density emerging as the primary concern; working with residents who acknowledge climate change as an issue but are hesitant to invest in addressing it; distinguishing interim measures from long-term goals related to climate change; managing the impacts of density on the Region of Durham and strategies for addressing these challenges; and the challenges stemming from applying uniform climate change initiatives to all communities.

A. Douglas continued with the PowerPoint presentation regarding Climate Adaptation 101 and Strategic Directions for Future Work.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Part II - Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment
 - Project Overview
 - Key Project Elements
 - Geographic Regions
 - Project Participants
 - Project Objectives
 - Risk Roll-Up Approach
 - Area of Focus Delineation
 - Food and Agriculture
 - Cross-Sectoral Themes
 - Food and Agriculture Risk Levels
 - Apples and Climate Risk Results
 - Food Security
 - Adaptation Best Practices Report

- Directions – Findings of the Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment (PCCIA)
- Principles and Pitfalls for Climate Change Adaptation
- Tangible Cross-Cutting Actions for Resilience
- Tangible Actions Within Sector
- Provincial Report – Take-Away Messages
- Activity - Explore the Reports
- Adaptation Best Practices – Exploration
- Community Function
- Part III - Strategic Direction for Future Climate Resilience Work
 - Resilience as a through-line
 - Policies and Policy Tools Interact
 - Mainstreaming
 - Adaptation is a Process
 - National Direction on Resilience
 - Provincial Directions on Resilience
 - Example – City of Windsor
 - Example – Whitby Resilience Analysis and Plans
 - Durham Region Resilience Planning
 - Directions – Knowledge, Skills and Implement Solutions
 - Legislation and Legal Obligations

A. Douglas responded to questions regarding the current provincial government's stance on climate adaptation, in light of the cancellation of a partially constructed renewable energy project in Prince Edward County; and how upcoming elections could alter the approach to addressing climate change.

Moved by Councillor Neal, Seconded by Councillor Marimpietri,
(17) That the Committee recess for lunch.

CARRIED

The Committee recessed for lunch at 1:00 PM and reconvened at 1:20 PM.

A roll call was conducted following the recess and all members of the Committee were present with the exception of Councillors Anderson, Crawford, Dies, Kerr, and Roy.

5. Delegations

- 5.1 Linda Gasser, Whitby Resident (Virtual Attendance), Re: 2024 Annual Climate Change Progress Report (2024-COW-12) [Item 7.1]

Linda Gasser, Whitby resident, did not appear due to technical difficulties.

Moved by Councillor Marimpietri, Seconded by Councillor Brenner,

- (18) That the delegation from Linda Gasser, Whitby resident re:2024 Annual Climate Change Progress Report be referred to Regional Council.
CARRIED

5.2 Wendy Bracken, Clarington Resident (Virtual Attendance), Re: 2024 Annual Climate Change Progress Report (2024-COW-12) [Item 7.1]

Wendy Bracken, Clarington resident, did not appear due to technical difficulties.

Moved by Councillor Marimpietri, Seconded by Councillor Brenner,

- (19) That the delegation from Wendy Bracken, Clarington resident re:2024 Annual Climate Change Progress Report be referred to Regional Council.
CARRIED

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

7. Reports

7.1 2024 Annual Climate Change Progress Report (2024-COW-12)

Report #2024-COW-12 from E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer, was received.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Brenner,

(20) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Regional Council receive this 2024 Climate Change Progress Report for information; and
- B) That a copy of Report #2024-COW-12 of the Chief Administrative Officer be sent to all Durham MPs and MPPs, local area municipalities, Conservation Authorities, and local energy utilities, for their information and consideration.

CARRIED

7.2 Sole Source Procurement for the Economic Study to undertake the analysis necessary to prepare the Region of Durham for the future prescribed Bill 131 Background Study (2024-COW-13)

Report #2024-COW-13 from N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance, and B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Brenner,

(21) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That a sole source contract for the preparation of an Economic Study to explore using the new Station Contribution Charge through the GO Transit

Station Funding Act, 2023, to deliver four new GO stations along the Lakeshore East GO Extension to Bowmanville, which will build on the work completed for the Region's Station Implementation Strategy by N. Barry Lyon Consultants (NBLC), be awarded to a consultant team led by NBLC and including Watson & Associates Economists Limited, with an upset limit of \$285,000, to be financed through the approved 2024 Transit Oriented Development Division budget or at the discretion of the Commissioner of Finance; and

- B) That the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to execute the necessary documents related to the contract.

CARRIED

7.3 The Region of Durham's response to the Ontario Regulatory Registry posting related to the "Proposal to create regulation to support implementation of the GO Transit Station Funding Act, 2023" (2024-COW-14)

Report #2024-COW-14 from N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance and B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Brenner,
(22) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That the letter from the CAO to the Province of Ontario as contained in Attachment 2 to Report #2024-COW-14 of the Commissioners of Finance and Economic Development, be endorsed as the Region of Durham's response to Ontario's Regulatory Registry post regarding the proposal to create regulation to support the implementation of the GO Transit Station Funding Act, 2023; and
- B) That a copy of Report #2024-COW-14 and Council resolution be sent to all area municipalities within the Region of Durham.
CARRIED AS AMENDED
(See Following Motion)

Moved by Councillor Chapman, Seconded by Councillor Pickles,
(23) That Part A) of the main motion (22) of Councillors Foster and Brenner be amended to read as follows:

- A) That the letter from Regional staff to the Ministry of Infrastructure as contained in Attachment 2 of the Report #2024-COW-14, be endorsed as the Region of Durham's response to Ontario's Regulatory post regarding the proposal to create regulation to support the implementation of the GO Transit Station Funding Act, 2023; and
CARRIED

7.4 Recommendations for Eligible Projects Under the At Home Incentive Program for

Affordable Housing (2024-COW-15)

Report #2024-COW-15 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance, S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, and R. Jagannathan, Commissioner of Works, was received.

Discussion ensued with regards to withdrawing additional funds from the reserves for the At Home Incentive Program and whether this project might impact other potential projects funded by the reserve in the future.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Brenner,
(24) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Otter Creek Co-operative Homes Inc. located at 835 McQuay Boulevard in the Town of Whitby be supported through a re-allocation of the 2023 At Home Incentive Program funding in the amount of \$2,500,000 (or \$138,889 per affordable rental unit) to support the construction of 18 deeply affordable housing units which have been approved for funding under federal and provincial affordable housing programs and require additional funds from the Region due to construction cost escalation (Attachment #1 to Report #2024-COW-15);
- B) That the existing Municipal Housing Contribution Agreement with Otter Creek Cooperative Homes Inc. be amended to reflect the Municipal Capital Housing Facilities Bylaw requirements, and additional funding, and that the funding be advanced based on the following key construction milestones:
 - i) 50 per cent at the signing of the revised Municipal Housing Contribution Agreement and registration of security;
 - ii) 40 per cent at confirmation of fully enclosed building; and
 - iii) 10 per cent at confirmation of occupancy;
- C) That following affordable rental housing projects and allocations be approved under the At Home Incentive Program (AHIP):
 - i) Ledim Developments located at 310 Kingston Road East in the Town of Ajax in the amount of \$5,000,000 (or \$64,103 per affordable rental unit) to support the development and construction of 78 units of affordable rental housing in the Town of Ajax (Attachment #2 to Report #2024-COW-15) from the 2023 AHIP funds;
 - ii) Kindred Works located at 15-23 Main Street in the Township of Uxbridge in the amount of \$2,750,000 (or \$110,000 per affordable rental unit) to support the development and construction of 25 units of

affordable rental housing (Attachment #3 to Report #2024-COW-15) from the 2024 AHIP funds;

- D) That financing for the projects listed in Recommendation C) be provided from the At Home Incentive Program Reserve Fund (AHIPRF) and advanced based on the following key construction milestones:
- i) 50 per cent at the signing of the Municipal Capital Housing Facilities and Contribution Agreement and registration of security;
 - ii) 40 per cent at confirmation of fully enclosed building; and
 - iii) 10 per cent at confirmation of occupancy;
- E) That the Region enter into a Municipal Capital Housing Facilities and Contribution Agreement with each of the recommended parties, at the appropriate time, to:
- i) maintain affordable rents for the specified affordability period;
 - ii) continue to use the eligibility requirements for tenants;
 - iii) to enable the use of capital grants for eligible purpose-built affordable rental housing projects; and
 - iv) provide accountability and reporting requirements; and
- F) That the Regional Solicitor be directed to prepare the necessary by-laws and any amendments required to the AHIP Reserve Fund By-law.

CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING RECORDED
VOTE:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Councillor Ashe	None
Councillor Barton	
Councillor Brenner	
Councillor Carter	
Councillor Chapman	
Councillor Collier	
Councillor Cook	
Councillor Foster	
Councillor Garrod	
Councillor Jubb	
Councillor Leahy	
Councillor Lee	
Councillor Marimpietri	
Councillor McDougall	

Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Pickles
Councillor Schummer
Councillor Woo
Councillor Wotten
Councillor Yamada
Regional Chair Henry

Members Absent: Councillor Anderson
Councillor Crawford
Councillor Dies
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Neal
Councillor Roy
Councillor Shahid

Declarations of Interest: None

7.5 Request for Funding from Kawartha Conservation Authority for the Acquisition of Land in the Township of Scugog (PT LT 19 Con 14, Reach; parts 2, 3, and 5, Plan 40R32476) (2024-COW-16)

Report #2024-COW-16 from N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance, and B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Brenner,
(25) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That in response to the request for funding from Kawartha Conservation Authority, that funding in the amount of \$3,971, representing 40 per cent of the estimated eligible acquisition costs for approximately 4.92 hectares (12.16 acres) of land located in the Township of Scugog (PT LT 19 Con 14, Reach; parts 2, 3 and 5, Plan 40R32476), be approved and financed from the Region's Land Conservation and Protection Reserve; and
- B) That the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to adjust the total payment amount to Kawartha Conservation Authority pending a review of the eligibility of final costs incurred pursuant to the Region's Land Acquisition Funding Policy.

CARRIED

8. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Chapman,
(26) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John Henry, Regional Chair

Sarah Dessureault, Committee Clerk