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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

A regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

Regional Chair Henry assumed the Chair.

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Anderson
Councillor Ashe
Councillor Barton
Councillor Carter
Councillor Chapman
Councillor Collier
Councillor Crawford
Councillor Dies
Councillor Drew
Councillor Foster
Councillor Highet
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Lee
Councillor Marimpietri
Councillor Mitchell
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor John Neal
Councillor Joe Neal
Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Pickles
Councillor Roy
Councillor Ryan
Councillor Schummer
Councillor Smith
Councillor Wotten
Councillor Yamada
Regional Chair Henry

*** all members of Council, except the Regional Chair, participated electronically**

Councillor McLean was absent with regrets.

Councillor Schummer appeared on behalf of Councillor Bath-Hadden as the alternate for the Township of Brock

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, D. Beaton, B. Bridgeman, S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, B. Holmes, R. Inacio, I. McVey*, J. Presta, A. Robbins, S. Siopis, N. Taylor, S. Glover, C. Tennisco, and R. Walton
*denotes staff participating electronically

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

4. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

5. Presentations

5.1 Ian McVey, Manager of Sustainability, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, re: Follow Up Report including Regional Response to the Provincial Flooding Strategy (2020-COW-33) [Item 7. A)]

Ian McVey, Manager of Sustainability, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Regional Response to the Provincial Flooding Strategy Follow-up.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Why is this an issue?
- Flooding: Roles and Responsibilities
- Ontario Special Advisor on Flooding Report 2019
- Ontario's Flooding Strategy 2020
 - Seven Principles
 - Five Priorities
- Other Related Provincial Decisions
- Recommendation 1
 - Province of Ontario
 - Region of Durham
- Region's Actions Related to Flooding
- Status of Flood Risk Assessment
- Results of Region's Actions
- Recommendation 2
 - Region of Durham

I. McVey advised that the Ontario Special Advisor recommended through the 2019 Flooding Report, that the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry take the lead for all flood-related policy, standards, regulations and legislation, and have responsibility, authority, accountability to direct flood actions/responses.

I. McVey advised that the five priorities of Ontario's Flooding Strategy 2020 are:

- Understand flood risks
- Strengthen governance of flood risks
- Enhance flood preparedness
- Enhance flood emergency response and recovery
- Invest in flood risk reduction

I. McVey responded to questions from the Committee regarding the nationwide data on catastrophic losses; whether staff have differentiated urban, suburban, and rural flooding events and what mitigation tactics or strategies are available to examine this; how the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) are assisting with flooding efforts; the localized nature of the small flood events (ninja storms); the risk that a Ministry Zoning Order (MZO) will override any watershed plan; homeowners not being insured for overland or urban flooding, and the cost to have that insurance for the homeowner; whether Regional staff are in discussions with the insurance industry to provide more awareness to homeowners; and filling of ravines on the Greenbelt Oak Ridges Moraine.

In response to a question regarding what the main cause of flooding would in the Region of Durham, I. McVey advised that what is being heard is that it is urban overland flooding that is causing the largest amount of basement flooding, but that he would follow-up to see if he can collect clearer data on that.

In response to a question from Councillor Joe Neal regarding what major flood events have occurred in the Region of Durham in the past 10 years, I. McVey advised that he would collect that information and follow-up with him directly.

6. Correspondence

There were no communication items to be considered.

7. Reports

- A) Follow Up Report including Regional Response to the Provincial Flooding Strategy (2020-COW-33)
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Report #2020-COW-33 from Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer, was received.

Discussion ensued regarding the expectation for property owners to be aware of the potential flooding risks when buying a property; their ability to take steps to prevent their property from flooding; understanding their role in response to flooding; and the more active approach being taken by the Province of Quebec regarding denying permits to certain houses that are a flooding risk, as well as buying out properties in high risk areas.

In response to a question from Councillor Foster regarding the flood vulnerability assessments as noted in Section 4.7 of Report #2020-COW-33 and whether there will be a further report coming forward, I. McVey advised that there is information on the Regional website regarding homeowner flood readiness and that the Sustainability page of the website will be getting updated and re-launched. He advised that there are also three webinars planned in 2021 regarding flood readiness.

In response to a question regarding whether Report #2020-COW-33 was advocating that a specific body should be registering flood warnings on property titles, I. McVey advised that the Report is not advocating that a specific body should be registering flood warnings on property titles.

Moved by Councillor Smith, Seconded by Councillor Drew,
(43) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That in keeping with its constitutional responsibilities for managing flooding, the Province of Ontario should:
 - i) develop a detailed workplan identifying specific deliverables, leadership, partners and timelines for implementation of Ontario's Flooding Strategy; and
 - ii) clearly identify its multi-year financial commitment to supporting the workplan described above;
- B) That, where such workplans and commitments are developed by the province, the Region offer to share its expertise on provincially led multidisciplinary and/or cross-jurisdictional teams to update and develop related flood policies, guidance documents and programs;
- C) That Regional staff be directed to develop a proposed workplan and budget for the development of a Durham Region Flood Risk Management Strategy, with a focus on increasing property owner education and awareness of their role in the management of flood risks; and
- D) That a copy of Report #2020-COW-33 of the Chief Administrative Officer be forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Association of Municipalities of

Ontario (AMO), local area municipalities and conservation authorities (CAs) within Durham Region.

CARRIED

B) Proposed Treatment of the Cash Advance Provided to Community Housing Providers in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic (2020-COW-34)

Report #2020-COW-34 from N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance and S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, was received.

Discussion ensued regarding the cash advance provided to community housing providers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic being a good way to support the continuance of the affordable housing.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee regarding the issues that have affected housing community providers as discussed under Section 4.4 of Report #2020-COW-34, and the subsequent impact of those issues; whether there is accountability for the money provided to the community housing providers; what percentage accounts for those residents who stop paying their rent; and, how the turnover rates under Section 4.4 of the Report need to be taken into consideration.

Moved by Councillor Chapman, Seconded by Councillor Pickles,
(44) That we recommend to Council:

That, to support the sustainability of Community Housing, the Community Housing Providers be advised that the Region will not recover the cash advances, in the total amount of \$2,863,581, provided on March 25, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and that the Community Housing Providers be requested to invest the funds in their capital reserves if the funds are not required for pandemic response related purposes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY ON THE FOLLOWING
RECORDED VOTE:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Councillor Anderson	None
Councillor Ashe	
Councillor Barton	
Councillor Carter	
Councillor Chapman	
Councillor Collier	
Councillor Crawford	
Councillor Dies	
Councillor Drew	
Councillor Foster	
Councillor Highet	

Councillor Kerr
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Lee
Councillor Marimpietri
Councillor Mitchell
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor John Neal
Councillor Joe Neal
Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Pickles
Councillor Roy
Councillor Ryan
Councillor Schummer
Councillor Smith
Councillor Wotten
Councillor Yamada
Regional Chair Henry

Members Absent: Councillor McLean

Declarations of Interest: None

C) Report to Council with a status update on the Regional Recovery Framework and Action Plan (2020-COW-35)

Report #2020-COW-35 from Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer, was received.

Staff responded to questions regarding the amount of hiring that has occurred in the recent months; what is happening with the small strip mall landlords and the vacancy program; and meeting the needs of the vulnerable populations through the not-for-profit community. Councillor Foster requested that S. Danos-Papaconstantinou reach out to him for a conversation on poverty reduction in social housing. Councillor Foster further suggested that staff reach out to local hotels that would like to take advantage of the “staycation” programs.

In response to a question from Councillor Schummer regarding the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Deployment Strategy, S. Austin advised that she would put together details on the history, and how the partnerships have been performing from that project and forward them to him directly.

Discussion ensued regarding broadband being provided throughout the Region of Durham and the support and coordinated efforts needed between small internet companies and the Region, as well as with the Chief Administrative Officers of the local municipalities; the need for further dialogue with the Province with regards to supporting local businesses during the pandemic; establishing joint messaging between the local municipalities and the Regional Chair; and, the

need for immediate local health department discretion with respect to the operation of soccer domes under the COVID restrictions.

Moved by Councillor Marimpietri, Seconded by Councillor Lee,
(45) That Report #2020-COW-35 of the Chief Administrative Officer, be received for information.

CARRIED LATER IN THE MEETING
(See Following Motions)

Moved by Councillor Joe Neal, Seconded by Councillor John Neal,
(46) That the main motion (45) of Councillors Marimpietri and Lee be amended by adding the following:

It is further recommended that Durham Region request that the Province exclude nursing home COVID cases in determining Durham's COVID classification.

MOTION DEFERRED LATER IN THE MEETING
(See Following Motions)

Moved by Councillor Leahy, Seconded by Councillor Joe Neal,
(47) That the Committee recess for 10 minutes.

CARRIED

The Committee recessed at 11:05 AM and reconvened at 11:15 AM.

Following the recess, the Clerk conducted a roll call and all members of Committee were present except for Councillors Barton and McLean.

Moved by Councillor Joe Neal, Seconded by Councillor John Neal,
(48) That the foregoing amending motion (46) by Councillors Joe Neal and John Neal be deferred for consideration at the December 16, 2020 Regional Council meeting.

CARRIED

This item will be considered at the December 16, 2020 Regional Council meeting as Item 3 of the 7th Report of the Committee of the Whole.

8. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

9. Other Business

9.1 Carbon Monoxide Leak at a Town of Whitby Apartment Building

Mayor Mitchell thanked all those involved in resolving the problem that left residents at 250 Hickory Street, in the Town of Whitby, temporarily displaced due

to a carbon monoxide leak. He advised that the heat had been restored and residents were being bussed back to the apartment building from the Abilities Centre, who he also thanked for their help.

9.2 Technological Issues with Committee and Council Meetings

Concern was raised regarding technological issues/lack of required equipment, that Councillors and/or staff may be having with the Committee and Council meetings through Microsoft Teams. Staff advised that the IT Help desk is available 24/7 for anyone having challenges.

9.3 Response to Enquiries Arising Through the EFW-WMAC

In response to a question from Councillor Foster regarding unanswered questions asked by Ms. Gasser, S. Siopis advised that staff would provide a response as quickly as they can and will also copy the Municipality of Clarington on their response.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Collier, Seconded by Councillor Leahy,
(49) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM

Respectfully submitted,

J. Henry, Regional Chair

Committee Clerk