



Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Budget Committee

Minutes

Tuesday February 19, 2019

1:00 p.m.

Regional Council Chambers

150 Frederick Street, 2nd Floor, Kitchener

Present were: Chair S. Strickland, L. Armstrong, E. Clarke, J. Erb, S. Foxton ,T. Galloway, M. Harris, D. Jaworsky, H. Jowett, G. Lorentz , J. Nowak, K. McGarry*, K. Redman, S. Shantz and B. Vrbanovic

Members absent: K. Kiefer

Motion to Reconvene into Open Session

Moved by M. Harris

Seconded by S. Foxton

That Budget Committee reconvene into Open Session.

Carried

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest under “The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act”

None declared.

Opening Remarks

Sean Strickland, Chair, and Mike Murray, Chief Administrative Officer, provided introductory comments.

M. Murray noted the 2019 budget has four key sets of challenges:

- Base budget pressures
- Funding for both existing infrastructure as well as new, growth-related capital development
- Service enhancements driven by growth, implementation of various master plans, the need to increase organizational capacity, and various requests by Councillors
- Uncertainty regarding interest rates, fuel prices and utility costs, funding from other levels of government, potential changes to Provincial policies, and the review of municipal governance now underway by the Province

* K. McGarry entered the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

Budget Update Presentation

COR-FSD-19-09, Final Tax Supported 2019 Operating Budget and 2019-2028 Capital Program

Craig Dyer, Commissioner, Corporate Services/Chief Financial Officer, provided a [presentation](#); a copy is attached to the original minutes.

Highlights included:

- Grand River Transit (GRT) U-Pass Program update
- Transit system fare revenue review
- Accessible Transportation Service fees and recommendations from the Accessibility Fund Working Group
- Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration (WWLHIN) funding
- Wellbeing Waterloo Region Initiative
- Review of Budget Issue Papers
- Review of the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) Budget

Moved by T. Galloway

Seconded by E. Clarke

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following action with respect to the 2019 Tax Supported Operating Budget as set out in Report COR-FSD-19-09 dated February 19, 2019:

1. Change the effective date of any 2019 Transit fare increase from July 1, 2019 to September 1, 2019;

2. Increase the budget for Grand River Transit Fare revenue by \$200,000;
3. Approve the use of 2018 fees of approximately \$134,000 paid to the Region by auxiliary taxi brokers not offering accessible vehicles as follows:
 - a. Allocate \$20,000 towards Taxi Scrip funding in the 2019 GRT MobilityPLUS operating budget;
 - b. \$59,000 to fund a portion of the capital cost of the acquisition of mobility buses, subject to approval of the 2019 Specialized Transit budget issue paper; and
 - c. Hold the remaining funds in the Accessible Transportation Service Reserve pending further recommendations from staff;
4. Approve a one-time increase to the 2019 Housing Services operating budget of \$499,000, funded 100% by the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network with no net 2019 property tax levy impact; and
5. Amend the preliminary 2019 operating budget to include expenditure and sponsorship funding of \$250,000 for Wellbeing Waterloo Region with no net 2019 property tax levy impact.

Carried

Moved by S. Foxton

Seconded K. Redman

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo amend the motion with respect to the 2019 Tax Supported Operating Budget as set out in Report COR-FSD-19-09 dated February 19, 2019:

- 3 a. Allocate \$30,000 towards Taxi Scrip funding in the 2019 GRT MobilityPLUS operating budget;

Carried

Item Referred from Library Committee

Moved by L. Armstrong

Seconded by S. Foxton

That the Library Committee take the following action with regard to the 2019 Region of Waterloo Library Budget, as described in Report PDL-LIB-19-01, dated January 29, 2019:

- a) Approve the 2019 Library Operating Budget with a net property tax levy of \$2,985,732;
- b) Approve the 2019-2028 Library Capital Budget and Forecast;

And that the matter be referred to the Budget Committee for consideration.

Carried

Information Papers

The following 2019 Budget Information Papers were received for information:

- Councillor Requests
- Public Engagement Feedback
- 2019 Region of Waterloo POA Revenue
- Fees & Charges By-law
- Municipal Budget Regulation

The Committee questioned the number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions being requested in 2019 Budget Issue Papers. Staff confirmed there are currently approximately 3,056 Regional FTEs and the Budget Issue Papers request 85 new FTEs, not including WRPS. Some of these would be funded through the Capital or Operating budgets, while others are program-specific and funded from user rates or other levels of government. Of the proposed requests 40.3 FTEs are in Transit Services, 12 FTEs in Paramedic Services, and 11.9 FTE requests are for Personal Support Workers at Sunnyside Home.

Introduction of the Main Budget Motion

Moved by T. Galloway

Seconded by H. Jowett

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the 2019 Tax Supported Operating Budget with a property tax levy of \$370,270,409 excluding Police Services and inclusive of Budget Issue Papers with no incremental 2019 tax levy impact;

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the 2019 Tax Supported Capital Budget and 2020-2028 Tax Supported Capital Forecast, excluding Police Services, as amended by Budget Committee on January 16, 2019 and February 6, 2019 and

February 19, 2019 and subject to final adjustments for 2018 carry-forwards and inclusive of \$89,023,000 of investment in new cycling and active transportation infrastructure.

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo repeal By-law Number 17-76 and By-law 18-028 (as amended), being a By-law to Establish Fees and Charges for the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and that a new Fees and Charges By-law be passed including the new and adjusted fees and charges listed on the February 19, 2019 Budget Committee Agenda excluding Transit Services tickets and passes charged to individuals;

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve a 3% Transit fare increase effective September 1, 2019 and direct staff to report back to Committee prior to the effective date with a proposed fare structure taking into account the outcome of the Low Income Transit Pilot Project, and;

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo adopt the Information Paper titled "Municipal Budget Regulation" included in the February 19, 2019 Budget Committee Agenda, as required by Ontario Regulation 284/09.

The main motion was voted on at the end of the meeting.

Councillors' Resolutions

A copy of the 2019 Budget [Committee Chair Budget Day Proposals](#) is attached to the original minutes. Items a), b) and c) are included with the main budget motion.

Block #1:

The Committee expressed concern regarding the need for supportive housing & other supports in the community. The Budget Issue Paper for Enhancing the Housing Stability System suggests 2 Bundles. Bundle 1 would serve 10 individuals with portable home-based supports, 45 winter shelter overflow beds, and adds a 1 FTE Housing Program Lead. Bundle 2 would serve an additional 20 individuals with portable home-based supports and provide additional Eviction Prevention funding. The Committee asked if funding would be able to come from delaying the hiring of FTEs in other areas. Jennifer Murdoch-Martin, Manager, Housing Programs explained that the program is scalable in blocks of 10, and while the need is there, staff are still looking for landlords to provide available units to fulfill the demand. There are currently approximately 300 people on the wait list for supported housing.

Moved by E. Clarke

Seconded by G. Lorentz

That the Region of Waterloo approve Community Services Committee 2019 Budget Issue Papers as identified in Block 1:

- Personal Support Workers (Nights), \$203,000
- Personal Support Workers (1:1 HINF), \$83,000
- Implementation of Paramedic Master Plan (Year 3) (Bundle 1), \$286,000
- Implementation of Paramedic Master Plan (Year 3) (Bundle 2), \$193,000
- Increased Housing Stability System supports (Bundle 1), \$321,000

Carried

Block #2:

Moved by T. Galloway

Seconded by S. Shantz

That the Region of Waterloo approve Planning and Works Committee – Transit Services 2019 Budget Issue Papers as identified in Block 2:

- Implementation of GRT Business Plan (Year 2) (Bundle 1), \$1,907,000
- Implementation of GRT Business Plan (Year 2) (Bundle 2), defer implementation to April 2020
- Conestoga College UPass, \$619,000
- Implementation of Specialized Transit Five-Year Business Plan (Year 2), \$144,000
- Transit Service to Woolwich, with Kiwanis Operating circulator route, \$112,000

Carried

Block #3

Moved by T. Galloway

Seconded by E. Clarke

That the Region of Waterloo approve Planning & Works Committee – Economic Development and Community Sustainability 2019 Budget Issue Papers as identified in Block 3:

- Funding for economic development initiatives, \$100,000

- Residential project neutral campaign for two years (funded by Tax Stabilization Reserve)
- EvolveGreen funding for four years, \$50,000

Carried

Block #4

Moved by T. Galloway

Seconded by G. Lorentz

That the Region of Waterloo approve Planning & Works Committee – Transportation and T&ES Asset Management 2019 Budget Issue Papers as identified in Block 4:

- Add 2 Traffic signal maintenance positions and 1 signal technician, \$263,000
- Add 1 FTE for Transportation Corridor Management, \$76,000
- Asset Management support technologist - Waste Management & Airport, \$79,000
- Add 1 FTE for Transportation Planning, \$101,000
- Add 1 FTE for Infrastructure Analysis, \$69,000
- Traffic signal technology (Option 1 & 2)

Carried

Block #5

Moved by E. Clarke

Seconded by S. Foxton

That the Region of Waterloo approve Administration & Finance Committee 2019 Budget Issue Papers as identified in Block 5:

- Network infrastructure security and support, \$157,000
- Convert 1 FTE from temporary to permanent (Facilities safety management system), \$98,000
- Corporate technology project delivery, \$219,000
- Asset management systems implementation and ongoing support (GIS), \$78,000

B. Vrbanovic proposed an amendment to the motion to delay hiring of Information Technology Services staff to allow funds for Enhancing the Housing Stability System, Bundle 2 in Block 1. In answer to a question from the Committee, staff advised that

delaying hiring until later in the year would limit the number of projects that would be able to be completed in 2019, and staffing decisions made for the 2019 budget will impact the budget for 2020.

B. Vrbanovic requested a recorded vote.

Moved by B. Vrbanovic

Seconded by S. Shantz

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo delay the hiring of Information Technology Services (ITS) positions until later in 2019, and that \$312,000 be directed to Increased Housing Stability System supports (Bundle 2), as identified in Block 1.

Carried

Yays: L. Armstrong, E. Clarke, J. Erb, S. Foxton, T. Galloway, M. Harris, H. Jowett, G. Lorentz, J. Nowak, K. McGarry, K. Redman, S. Shantz and B. Vrbanovic

Nays: D. Jaworsky and S. Strickland

The motion, as originally tabled, was amended.

Moved by E. Clarke

Seconded by S. Foxton

That the Region of Waterloo approve Administration & Finance Committee 2019 Budget Issue Papers as identified in Block 5:

- Network infrastructure security and support, \$157,000
- Convert 1 FTE from temporary to permanent (Facilities safety management system), \$98,000
- Corporate technology project delivery, \$219,000
- Asset management systems implementation and ongoing support (GIS), \$78,000

And that the Regional Municipality of Waterloo delay the hiring of Information Technology Services (ITS) positions until later in 2019, and that \$312,000 be directed to Increased Housing Stability System supports (Bundle 2), as identified in Block 1.

Carried

Item d)

Moved by H. Jowett

Seconded by J. Erb
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That the Region of Waterloo approve 2019 Budget reductions as identified in Item d) in the 2019 Budget Committee Chair Budget Day Proposals:

- Regional Transportation Master Plan (RTMP) phase in final urban levy increase over two years at 0.4% in 2019, \$1,592,623
- All 2019 fuel savings to tax levy, \$358,000
- Fund incremental SWIFT contribution from reserves, \$223,000
- Gapping and other compensation adjustments, \$336,000

Carried

Final 2019 Tax Supported Budget Resolutions

Regional Services Excluding Police Services

The Main Budget Motion, as originally tabled, was amended to include the approved Councillors'/Chairs' budget resolutions.

Moved by T. Galloway

Seconded by H. Jowett

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That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the 2019 Tax Supported Capital Budget and 2020-2028 Tax Supported Capital Forecast, excluding Police Services, as amended by Budget Committee on January 16, 2019, February 6, 2019 and February 19, 2019 and subject to final adjustments for 2018 carry-forwards and inclusive of \$89,023,000 of investment in new cycling and active transportation infrastructure.

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo repeal By-law Number 17-76 and By-law 18-028 (as amended), being a By-law to Establish Fees and Charges for the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and that a new Fees and Charges By-law be passed including the new and adjusted fees and charges listed on the February 19, 2019 Budget Committee Agenda excluding Transit Services tickets and passes charged to individuals;

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve a 3% Transit fare increase effective September 1, 2019 and direct staff to report back to Committee prior to the effective date with a proposed fare structure taking into account the outcome of the Low Income Transit Pilot Project, and;

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo adopt the Information Paper titled “Municipal Budget Regulation” included in the February 19, 2019 Budget Committee Agenda, as required by Ontario Regulation 284/09.

Carried, as amended

2019 Waterloo Regional Police Services Budget

Moved by K. Redman

Seconded by B. Vrbanovic

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the Waterloo Region Police Service 2019 Tax Supported Operating Budget with a property tax levy of \$169,534,406 as recommended by the Police Services Board on January 16, 2019.

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the Waterloo Regional Police Service 2019 Tax Supported Capital Budget and 2020-2028 Tax Supported Capital Forecast as recommended by the Police Services Board on January 16, 2019, subject to final adjustments for 2018 carry-forwards.

Carried

Adjourn

Moved by S. Foxton

Seconded by J. Nowak

That the meeting adjourn at 2:45 p.m.

Carried

Committee Chair, S. Strickland

Committee Clerk, T. Plummer