



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES

GRC - 2/2017

The Region of Peel Government Relations Committee met on June 15, 2017 at 11:08 a.m., in the Regional Council Chambers, 5th Floor, Regional Administrative Headquarters 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton, ON.

Members Present: F. Dale; G. Gibson; J. Innis; M. Medeiros; G. Miles*; K. Ras; A. Thompson

Members Absent: B. Crombie, due to other municipal business; L. Jeffrey, due to vacation; J. Tovey, due to other municipal business

Also Present: D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer; L. Graham-Watson, Commissioner of Corporate Services; P. O'Connor, Regional Solicitor; A. Baird, Acting Commissioner of Human Services, J. Smith, Commissioner of Public Works; N. Polsinelli, Commissioner of Health Services; S. VanOfwegen, Commissioner of Finance and Chief Finance Officer and Acting Commissioner of Service Innovation, Information and Technology; K. Lockyer, Director of Clerks and Regional Clerk; A. Macintyre, Manager, Legislative Services; D. Arbuckle, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations; S. Mistry, Specialist, External Relations; J. Barillas, Advisor, External Relations; C. Thomson, Committee Clerk; S. MacGregor, Acting Legislative Assistant

Chaired by Vice-Chair Councillor J. Innis

1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – Nil

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION GRC-3-2017:

That the agenda for the June 15, 2017, Government Relations Committee meeting include an oral update on the 2017 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference, to be dealt with under Reports – Item 4.3;

And further, that the agenda for the June 15, 2017, Government Relations Committee meeting be approved, as amended.

* See text for arrivals

◆ See text for departures

3. DELEGATIONS

- 3.1 **Sylvia Jones, Member of Provincial Parliament, Dufferin-Caledon, Infrastructure Critic and Deputy Leader, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario**, Regarding the Provincial Government and the Region of Peel Working Together to Address Mutual Priorities

Received

Sylvia Jones, Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP), Dufferin-Caledon, Infrastructure Critic and Deputy Leader, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, invited members of the Government Relations Committee to share issues that they would like brought forward to the provincial government, particularly with respect to the Greater Toronto Area West (GTA-West) Corridor.

Councillor Miles arrived at 11:11 a.m.

Councillor Thompson highlighted the costs that municipalities have contributed to the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the GTA-West Corridor and the impact the delayed EA has on lands that need to be released for development. He also noted that the GTA-West Corridor should ultimately be a provincial corridor and not a Regional Road.

Councillor Thompson stated that Ontario municipalities are struggling with an infrastructure deficit of approximately \$3 billion each year and also noted that the Cap and Trade Carbon Tax is negatively affecting the economy.

Councillor Innis noted that the Region of Peel is responsible for approximately 20 per cent of the provincial goods movement gross domestic product and that approximately \$1.8 billion worth of goods is moved to, through and from the Region of Peel every day.

David Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer advised that the annual cost of congestion in the Greater Toronto Hamilton area is estimated to be \$6 billion per year.

In response to a question from Councillor Medeiros, Sylvia Jones stated that planning for a regional transportation network should include input from municipalities in determining routes.

Councillor Medeiros enquired as to how skilled worker shortages could be addressed, noting that there is a shortage of labour for infrastructure projects.

Sylvia Jones acknowledged a province-wide skill shortage and stated the need for better communication with school boards to identify employment opportunities for students who are considering their post-secondary education.

Councillor Ras commented on the competition between municipalities for service and labour resources as a result of projects that are awarded infrastructure funding at the same time. Councillor Ras also spoke of the challenge for municipalities in identifying infrastructure projects that meet provincial and federal qualifications for funding, for which the municipalities have not yet begun to plan for and fund.

Stephen VanOfwegen, Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, advised that staff would be reporting to Regional Council on the current challenges associated with infrastructure funding projects, noting that municipalities plan for projects that are needed but funding requirements preclude projects already included in their current plan.

Councillor Thompson stated the need for high speed broadband to enable people to work from home, access government services and utilize modern technologies, noting that the issue is a major concern in the Town of Caledon.

In response to a question from Councillor Innis, Sylvia Jones explained that the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario has established policy committees whose members review public suggestions and proactively review ideas and challenges. These suggestions will be presented at the fall policy convention where members vote on issues that form the party's election platform. She encouraged members to contact the policy committee chairs or to submit ideas, as individuals, to Ontario.ca.

4. REPORTS

4.1. 2018 Provincial Election Strategy Update

RECOMMENDATION GRC-4-2017:

That the targeted approach outlined in the report of the Commissioner of Corporate Services, titled "2018 Provincial Election Strategy Update" be approved.

4.2. 2017 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference

RECOMMENDATION GRC-5-2017:

That the advocacy issues identified in the report of the Commissioner of Corporate Services, titled "2017 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference" be approved.

Councillor Innis requested that staff coordinate conference delegations with local municipal staff to minimize the number of overlapping meetings.

Additional Item – Item 4.3:

4.3. Federation of Canadian Municipalities 2017 Annual Conference (Oral)

Received

Councillor Thompson advised that the Prime Minister of Canada attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 2017 Annual Conference and stated the federal government commitment to a national housing strategy that would include assisted living, aging in place and affordable housing.

Councillor Innis noted that the conference session regarding women in politics was very interesting and that Councillor Fonseca undertook to bring a similar forum to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Annual Conference.

5. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE (Oral)

Discussion led by David Arbuckle, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations

Received

David Arbuckle, Manger, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations, highlighted three issues that are the immediate focus of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and that will have impacts for municipalities. The first being a draft regulation related to asset management will seek to change asset management practices across the province. Region of Peel staff are preparing comments on the draft regulation for submission prior to the provincial deadline of July 24, 2017.

The second issue is the draft policy on chronic mental stress injuries in the workplace. The policy supports legislation that was passed in May, 2017 as part of the 2017 Budget that allows compensation for work-related chronic mental stress.

The third issue was the *Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017* which would raise the minimum wage to \$14 an hour starting in 2018 and then \$15 an hour in 2019. The proposed legislation includes a wide range of amendments to *Ontario's Employment Standards Act* and *Labour Relations Act*. Region of Peel staff are reviewing the proposed legislation to better understand its implications for the Region of Peel.

In response to a question from Councillor Medeiros, the Chief Administrative Officer advised that government relations updates are a standing item at the Region's Executive Leadership Team (ELT) meetings and that members of ELT meet with Assistant Deputy Ministers to discuss issues of importance to the Region of Peel. The Strategic Public Policy and External Relations team conducts research at the request of ELT members, as well as highlights topics which are considered important.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 2017 Summer MP/MPP Advocacy Update

Received

Councillor Gibson questioned the purpose and effectiveness of the MP/MPP Advocacy Update and suggested that more direct messaging would improve its effectiveness.

Councillor Innis stated that she has received positive feedback on the Advocacy Update as an effective communication tool and she noted that the first page message is rotated among the members of the Government Relations Committee.

7. IN CAMERA MATTERS – Nil

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Additional Item – Item 8.1:

8.1. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference (Oral)

Received

Councillor Ras inquired if there would be opportunity for the Government Relations Committee to meet prior to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Annual Conference.

David Arbuckle, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations, advised that meetings at the Conference are not usually confirmed until a week prior to the commencement of the Conference and that committee members would receive a briefing from staff once meetings are confirmed.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Government Relations Committee is scheduled for September 21, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chamber, 5th floor, Regional Administrative Headquarters, Suite A, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton, Ontario.

Please forward regrets to Christine Thomson, Committee Clerk, and (905) 791-7800 ext. 4582 or at christine.thomson@peelregion.ca.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.