

Regional Councillor Report

Submitted by: Colleen Jordan, Regional Councillor Wards 3 & 4

Date: Feb. 23, 2015

Regional Council Meeting - Feb. 11, 2015

Triple A Credit Rating

Durham Region's Triple "A" Credit Rating has been confirmed by Moody's Investors Service of New York.

Joint Committee

2015 Annual Solid Waste Management & Servicing Financing Study

Council endorsed the recommendations of the Joint Committee which included receiving the 2015 Annual Solid Waste Management Servicing and Financing Study to support the upcoming detailed 2015 budget and business planning deliberations (see Regional Report to Council dated Feb. 9, 2015).

Annual Review of Regional Housing Programs

Motions from Joint Committee were endorsed by Council to request that the Province;

- Not implement any further downloading of responsibilities to Municipal Service Managers without the required long term funding for administration
- Negotiate with the Federal Government to commit to a housing framework that includes stable, long term Federal funding
- Provide a full disclosure of the use of annual Federal funds received on a program basis from the Federal government under the Social Housing agreement
- Continue to advocate with the Federal government to reinvest the legacy savings resulting from expiring Federal funding agreements into Ontario's social housing portfolio to ensure a stable source of long term funding.

Housing and Finance staff responded to questions advising that about 5,400 people are now on the waiting list for affordable housing in Durham and that the shortfall in capital reserves to fund future works to maintain the social housing capital assets is in excess

of \$200 million. Ontario is the only province in Canada that has downloaded responsibility for social housing to municipalities.

Works Committee – Feb. 18, 2015

General Tax – 2015 Business Plans and Budgets

The Works General Tax – 2015 Business Plans and Budgets in the amount of a total expenditure of \$38.017 million was approved to be considered during budget deliberations. Two new positions have been included to support the Region's capital roads program to oversee design and infrastructure improvements for road projects in Seaton and related to the Highway 407 extension and to manage intersection related projects.

The Regional Road Capital Program includes major road construction and reconstruction, rehabilitation/resurfacing and traffic signal installation and modernization programs. The 2015 program proposed at \$74.182 million (gross cost) includes the widening of Westney Road from north of Delaney to Rosland to four lanes (\$7.85 million in 2015 budget) for a total cost of \$9.250 million.

Solid Waste Management – 2015 Business Plans & Budgets

Works Committee approved a net expenditure of \$43.964 million for consideration during the 2015 budget deliberations.

A pilot program for diversion of small scale renovation and construction material along with the exploration of the feasibility of collecting and marketing bulky rigid plastics utilizing the call in service is included in the 2015 budget. An increase of \$55,000 for education and community outreach to promote diversion initiatives is also included.

Major capital projects for 2015 consist of remediation projects at former landfill sites and completion of studies related to anaerobic digestion and transfer station facilities. Landfill remediation work planned in 2015 will include a pilot program of landfill mining at the Blackstock landfill site.

Individual Producer Responsibility

The Works Committee endorsed Ajax's motion approved on Jan 26, 2015 that calls on the Ontario Government to introduce legislation to replace the Waste Diversion Act with a system based on Individual Producer Responsibility, ensuring that producers are responsible for 100% of the costs of designated waste.