

NOTLINE NEWS

A NEWS UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF Niagara-On-The-Lake

Issue # 179 – October 28, 2009

QUEEN STREET FIRE UPDATE

Acting Lord Mayor Terry Flynn provided Committee of the Whole with a verbal update regarding the October 25 structure fire on Queen Street. He expressed his appreciation for the excellent work of the fire department and the mutual aid contribution from the City of St. Catharines. He also thanked local businesses, residents, and the Chamber of Commerce for their support of the fire service and for housing those who have been displaced as a result of the fire. Committee was advised the owners are anxious to rebuild and the scene is currently in the control of the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office. It was further noted the report will be made public once available.

2009 BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Corporate Services Advisory Committee endorsed a staff report detailing the state of the 2009 Budget, indicating a slight year-end surplus projection of \$97,909. The staff report, based on budget status as of August 31, 2009, provided Committee with a detailed analysis of each department's status and explanations for the larger favourable and unfavourable year-end variances from budgeted amounts. Committee directed for any final surplus to be transferred to the Tax Rate Stabilization and Contingency reserve.

BENEFIT CARRIER CHANGE

The Corporate Services Advisory Committee endorsed a recommendation to change the Town's current fringe benefit carriers to Manulife Financial effective January 1, 2010.

Staff, working with a benefits consulting firm, The Morel Group, provided an analysis of current benefit expenditures and scenarios for potential claims based on the Town's current experiences. After seeking submissions from a number of benefit carriers, it was determined Manulife's submission will provide lower overall costs. Prior to endorsing the report, Committee received a presentation from a representative of The Morel Group who provided detailed information on the benefit program and responded to Committee's questions.

PONDVIEW ESTATE WINERY

Following a public meeting convened pursuant to the requirements of the Planning Act, the Planning Advisory Committee endorsed a zoning amendment to provide for the development of an estate winery to be known as Pondview Estate Winery (located at 945 Line 2 Road). The zoning amendment provides for 3,362 sq. ft. for secondary uses including retail space, tasting space, office space, and outdoor hospitality space. A seasonal outdoor event area will be provided 479 feet to the rear of the proposed winery building. The development of the site, including parking and landscaping, will be regulated by a site plan control agreement. The agreement was also endorsed by Committee.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – OCTOBER 13, 2009

Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs announced the Lord Mayor's Mardi Gras fundraising event is scheduled for February 12, 2010, and more information will be made available in the near future.

In review of the Corporate Services Advisory Committee minutes, Council modified the recommendations regarding the Code of Conduct Task Force to require the submission of a report within six months from the formation of the Task Force.

The balance of the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole were adopted without change.

Further to a presentation and request made at the Committee of the Whole meeting by Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro, Council endorsed a staff report supporting a resolution to authorize NOTL Hydro to borrow funds in the amount of \$1,500,000 for the purpose of financing the purchase and implementation of 'smart metering' in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The loan term will be 15 years with the rate being approximately 4.43 percent.

Pursuant to the Notice of Motion portion of the Council agenda, Council acted on a number of motions including the following:

- to consider engaging a traffic consultant to conduct a comprehensive rural road safety study during the 2010 Capital Budget process
- to possibly support a Regional Transit System where costs are based on households or per capita, and not on assessment

Further to the meeting with representatives of the Bed and Breakfast Association, Council endorsed a resolution directing the Town's Solicitor to work with the Ontario Municipal Board to postpone an appeal hearing to a proposed Official Plan Amendment in order to provide time for the parties to investigate a possible resolution.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. This NOTL Newsletter, as well as information on meeting schedules and deputation procedures, is also available on the Town's website at www.notl.org. Further questions may be directed to the Clerk's Department at 905-468-3266.

Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs, Councillors: Jim Collard, Dennis Dick, Terry Flynn, Andrea Kaiser, Jack Lowrey, Martin Mazza, Art Viola, Gary Zalepa