



COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

**Tuesday, December 18 , 2007
7:30 P.M.**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CIVIC SQUARE

1. **COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE (IN CAMERA) (6:30 p.m.)**
(See yellow tab)
Solicitor -Client Privilege Matter.
Litigation or Potential Litigation Matter.
Security of Property Matter.
 2. **ARISE FROM COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE (IN CAMERA) (7:25 p.m.)**
 3. **OPEN COUNCIL MEETING (7:30 p.m.)**
 - 3.1 **NATIONAL ANTHEM**
 - 3.2 **OPENING REMARKS**
 - 3.3 **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA**
 - 3.4 **DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**
 - 3.5 **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Regular Council Meetings of November 27, 2007 and December 4, 2007
(Previously Distributed)
 - 3.6 **CALL UPON THE DEPUTY CLERK TO REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO BLOCK**
 - 3.7 **COUNCILLORS TO DETERMINE AGENDA ITEMS AND BY-LAWS TO BE REMOVED FROM BLOCK FOR DISCUSSION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (OPEN)**
(See pink tab)
 4. **ORAL REPORTS AND DELEGATIONS**
 - 4.1 **PRESENTATION(S)**
Community Involvement Recognition
Presentation of plaque to Wayne Zatorski.
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- 4.2 DELEGATION(S) (maximum 5/10/5 policy): NIL

 - 4.3 BOARDS, AGENCIES, COMMISSIONS REPORT(S)
 - 99-99 Stephen Fischer, Manager, Business & Operations and Michael Lottridge, Secretary/Treasurer, Welland Recreational Canal Corporation (WRCC) – 3rd quarter budget report and activity update. **(Backaround information included in Council Members' Agenda Packages).**

 5. COMMIT-TEE OF THE WHOLE (OPEN)
(to discuss items removed from Agenda Block)

 6. BY-LAWS (SEE AGENDA INDEX)

 7. NOTICES OF MOTION
 - 7.1 Councillor matters discussed with staff for reporting purposes.
 - 7.2 Notices of Motion (previously submitted for discussion)
 - 7.3 Notices of Motion (for introduction)

 8. CORPORATIONREPORTS
 - 8.1 Councillor Activities Report
Councillor Alexander re: Federation of Canadian Municipalities Duties.
 - 8.2 Mayor's Report
 - 8.3 City Manager's Report

 9. ADJOURNMENT
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Date: December 3, 2007

To: Welland Council and staff, other interested officials and citizens

From: Councillor David Alexander

Re: Federation of Canadian Municipalities Duties

This is another regular report on my work on the Board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. In 2007 Welland's share of the federal gas tax is **\$3,300,000** which was directly as a result of FCM's New Deal for Cities and Communities. Since my last report I was appointed Vice Chair of FCM's Infrastructure and Transportation Standing Committee and continue to serve on the Rural Caucus as well as other committees. I was also re-elected FCM's Judge of the **FCM-CH2MHill** Canadian Sustainable Communities Awards for the third time.

Municipalities get 8 cents out of every tax dollar (the Feds get half and the Province's share is 42 cents). As FCM does its advocacy work to increase its share of funding and attention on local priorities I continue to hammer away that the only way cities and communities will be successful is to manage the 'there is only one taxpayer' message. Why? I believe Canadians are turned off when they see governments fighting over their wallets. Overall taxes need to be better spent. Period. I believe what people want is that each order of government collaborates as efficiently as possible as partners. This allows each community to develop its own long-term plan, but we can see these initiatives as part of the national mission. If it is based on being the best and not just accepting the minimum standard then and only then can we have healthy communities, a realistic and measured vision, and supported by guaranteed resources and regular performance reports.

The most significant effort since my last report is that FCM released a study [Danger Ahead: The Coming Collapse of Canadian Municipal Infrastructure](#). This reveals that on the municipal infrastructure gap has grown to \$123 Billion. It continues to grow and will be a significant challenge facing the ratepayers in Canadian cities and communities. The report is **only** a repair bill (like the **Welland** arena) and does **not** include the cost for anything new (like for a new ice sheet). Led by Canada's foremost engineer in this area, it calls on the Federal Government to do a better job. What is clear is that as municipal officials we can't play politics with people's basic needs let alone create that kind of community people want. It is clear that we are at a point of no return if we **don't come up with alternatives to the regressive nature of property taxes**. The study allows us to have that conversation because it presents the truth, the numbers and not the spin.

Currently, direct federal spending on municipal projects is part of the \$33 Billion [Building Canada Fund](#). To some, the BCF is spun as 'new' part of the 'new' brand the Government is using. To others, it bundles and extends the program of the former government. In reality, some dollars are new and some dollars are only for new projects. FCM wants to get beyond this. FCM has called for a cent of the GST to be spent immediately on Canada's Cities and Communities. FCM wants a commitment to make the gas tax transfer permanent, but also add true Federal revenues committed to municipal projects that change with the performance of the economy. For **Welland** it would mean that we would have about \$8 million extra dollars staying in the community every year. If we had that, all that is proposed on the current lo-year capital plan becomes a realistic objective. There also have to be assurances that this money is for projects and not a tax cut.

Instead of guaranteed funding, the BCF doles out based on application. The \$33 Billion is the overall figure. Only \$17 Billion of that is targetted for municipalities as the other part of the BCF is for initiatives like border infrastructure and provincial-level projects. Furthermore, the fund

continues the one-third formula, requiring municipalities to change their capital plans to get these external dollars. For rural municipalities, this continues to be a greater challenge in finding the staff time. FCM's position is that any fund allocate infrastructure funds on a per-population basis. What governments should agree on is to enable this kind of investment in an audited lo-year capital plan and ensure that that is part of an overall sustainability plan for that community. While this may eliminate some ribbon-cutting announcements, it is my belief that the public just wants the priority work to get done on time and on budget. Other points:

- While we get \$3.3 million per year from the gas tax, this allocation is based on population – but using the 2001 census. If we were using the 2006 census **Welland** would get an additional \$264,000 this year so FCM has asked that the most current census figure be used. I would also like to see what portion of this is Regional and what is local and if there is any targeting.
- FCM continues to call for Federal leadership in developing a national transit and transportation plan, a national packaging protocol which would help address municipal solid waste, and money for water and wastewater to prevent another Walkerton. The report also points out the need for investment in basic community, recreational, cultural and social infrastructure.
- Taxes will get more out of hand with higher energy costs. Municipalities need to aggressively conserve on the municipal utility and energy bill using innovation, technology and training.
- Getting Canadians to realize aging bridges, roads and water and wastewater systems affects their quality of life is a challenge, but one that requires engagement and **communiations**.
- Standing up for and learning about innovation, best practices, community engagement and accountability are keys for elected municipal officials in committing to and **achiving** goals.
- Poverty reduction and wealth creation is a fundamental undercurrent of FCM's work. Housing, nutrition, jobs, safety, education and health are all key in developing policy and initiatives.
- The optics of the Federal crime agenda are interesting. On one hand we have a government who is not willing to deal with cities and communities directly. On the other hand we see police officers being used as part of the crime agenda. The problem as I see it is that these people are employees of municipalities, paid by property taxes. In Niagara our officers have additional duties in patrolling the borders. Who pays? Is it fair?
- I have strongly suggested that if only for optics that FCM bring together all the heads of national associations of municipal employees and officials. In contrast to the above point this shows the reach and the impact of local government. If FCM includes the leaders of groups, companies and programs that receive revenues from property taxes it would be impressive.
- An investment in infrastructure improves the way Canada competes. Not only can it boost performance, it makes our communities safer and lowers the stress on emergency services. It improves the quality of life because better community services makes people healthier, reduce **risks, increase literacy rates and improve design, the responsiveness and efficiency of local services**. At the same time an increased investment in infrastructure reduces crime, decreases the costs of running municipal operations and related stress on local services.

Over the long run, a community like **Welland** that has contributed so much in terms of Federal income tax and wealth creation for all those highly productive years in manufacturing. Now, as the economy changes and we want to renew infrastructure, rehabilitate brownfields and make investments in the next generation of growth, who should our partners be?

- Councillors can look at the details of my past reports, but in summary I continue my ask for a better prep and debriefing procedure for anyone who goes to meetings so that the information

and results are integrated and measured on the strategic direction of the City. Otherwise, why go?



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AGENDA BLOCK

1. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES, PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND OTHER ITEMS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL FOR DISCUSSION**

02-1 60 Gen. Mgr., Communications, Council and Legislative Services/
City Clerk, C. Stirtzinger – Memorandum – Revision to
Committees Subject to Closed Meeting Investigator.

Recommendation:

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND revises
Schedule "A" (Boards and Committees subject to Closed Meeting
Investigator) to By-law 2007-178 being the Procedural By-law for
the Corporation, to exclude the Accessibility Advisory Committee
and Heritage Welland from Schedule "A".

2. **COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

1. **Business Arising from Committee of the Whole (closed)**

2. **General Committee Report (NIL)**

3. **Staff Reports**

4 **02-133** Gen. Mgr., Planning and Development Services, D. Thorpe –
The Big Deal – The NBA Brownfields Conference, October 16-17,
Chicago, Illinois.

7 **04-126** Gen. Mgr., Planning and Development Services, D. Thorpe –
New Dog Control and Licensing By-law.

27 **06-22** Gen. Mgr. Engineering, Public Works & Transp. Serv./City
Engineer D. Shantz – Downtown Infrastructure Improvements update.



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4. New Business

- 53 **07-I 52** City of Welland and Town of Pelham Joint Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2007.
- Recommendation:**
THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND receives for information the Minutes from the City of Welland and Town of Pelham – Joint Meeting dated October 20, 2007.
- 59 **07-I 53** Dean Iorfida, City Clerk, City of Niagara Falls – Surplus tax dollars.
- Recommendation:**
THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND endorses the resolution from the Niagara Falls City Council urging the Federal Government to share its surplus with Canadian Municipalities for infrastructure and quality of life for its citizens.
- 60 **07-I 54** Susan Daniels, Deputy City Clerk, City of Thorold – Municipal Representation at Regional Council.
- Recommendation:**
THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND receives for information the resolution from the City of Thorold confirming its continued support of the current composition, and representation, of the Regional Municipality of Niagara with a Regional Chair and thirty (30) Regional Councillors from the area municipalities.
- 62 **07-I 5** Robert Fulton, Senior Surveyor, Ministry of Transportation – Order-In-Council – 132/2006 – City of Welland Hwy. 406 – P5064-0031.
- Recommendation:**
THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND receives for information the Order-In-Council – 132/2006 – from the Ministry of Transportation regarding the transfer of part of Woodlawn Road to the Regional Municipality of Niagara; and part of Brown Road to the City of Welland.
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5. BY-LAWS

MAY BE VIEWED AT THE CLERK'S DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO THE MEETING IF DESIRED.

2000-43

2000-83

A By-law to establish and adopt a municipal standards manual for development of properties with the City of Welland.

05-87

A By-law to exempt certain lands from Part-Lot Control – located on Cardinal Crescent and Falcon Drive, in the Webber Estates Subdivision (Plan 59M-359), City of Welland.

06-1 56

A By-law to provide for the Licensing, Control and Regulation of Dogs.

07-1 48

A By-law to permit an Encroachment onto the Santone Avenue Road allowance to benefit the owners from time to time of the property known municipally 403 Broadway.

07-1

A By-law to adopt, ratify and confirm proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the City of Welland at its meeting held on the 18th day of December, 2007.
