Committee of the Whole
REPORT 08-035

9:30 a.m.
December 5, 2008
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
100 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario

Present:
Mayor F. Eisenberger
Councillors B. Bratina, B. Clark, C. Collins, S. Duvall,
T. Jackson, L. Ferguson, M. McCarthy, B. McHattie,
S. Merulla, B. Morelli, R. Pasuta, D. Mitchell,
M. Pearson, R. Powers, T. Whitehead

Also Present:
J. Rinaldo, Acting City Manager
P. Barkwell, Acting General Manager, Finance and
Corporate Services
S. Stewart, General Manager, Public Works
M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator, Council and Committee of the
Whole/Budgets

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PRESENTS REPORT 08-035 AND
RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

Card (PW08134) (Item 8.1)

That the Hamilton Water and Wastewater Operations Contract Annual Report be received.

2. 2009 Recommended Water, Wastewater and Storm Water Budget
(PW08135/FCS08108) (Item 8.2)

(a) That the metered water rate effective January 1, 2009, be increased by 4.5% from $0.994 to $1.0387 per cubic meter;
(b) That the monthly and bi-monthly water basic charge effective January 1, 2009, be increased by 4.5%;

(c) That the metered sanitary sewer rates effective January 1, 2009, remain 100% of the water charge;

(d) That the combined “non-metered” water and wastewater services charge effective January 1, 2009, be increased by 4.5% from the fixed rate of $725.57 to $758.26 per annum;

(e) That the 2009 Water and Wastewater Proposed User Fees and Charges be approved as per Appendix “E” to FCS08108/PW08135;

(f) That the 2009 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Management Rate Supported Operating Budget in the amount of $160,482,510 be approved as per Appendix “A” to FCS08108/PW08135;

(g) That the long-term financing plan for the Water, Wastewater and Stormwater programs and related rate increases required to meet sustainable financing, as identified in the 2009-2018 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Management Rate Supported Operating Budget forecast (Appendix “C” to FCS08108/PW08135) be deferred until detailed plans come forward.

(h) That the 2009 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Management Rate Supported Capital Budget and Financing Plan in the amount of $551,760,000 be approved as per Appendix “F” to FCS08108/PW08135;

(i) That the 2009-2018 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Management Rate Supported Capital Budget forecast and financing plan (Appendix “G” to FCS08108/PW08135) be approved;

(j) That the interest earned on the rate capital program in the amount of $9 million be used to reduce pre-2009 outstanding debenture requirements as reflected in the 2009-2018 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Management Rate Supported Capital Budget forecast and financing plan (Appendix “G” to FCS08108/PW08135) be approved;

(k) That staff not substantially complete the Wastewater Investment Needs projects, which support the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan, until such time as the Federal and Provincial Government(s) have committed to support these projects for a
minimum of $198,000,000 including a sustainable financial plan given the economic climate

(l) That staff be directed to report to Council in 2009, on the feasibility of introducing a stormwater utility rate, effective January 2010, in an effort to try to capture associated user fees from all beneficiaries;

(m) That staff be directed to return to Council in 2009 for authority to proceed with the development of a new Development Charges By-Law, so as to incorporate the impact of updated infrastructure master plans; and

(n) That the City Solicitor and Corporate Counsel be authorized and directed to prepare all necessary by-laws, for Council approval, respecting the 2009 water and wastewater user fees and charges set out in recommendations (a) through (e) of report FCS08108/PW08135.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA
The agenda was adopted as presented.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

(c) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 November 14, 2008

The Minutes of November 14, 2008 were adopted as presented.

(d) PRESENTATIONS

(i) Hamilton Water and Wastewater Operations Contract – Annual Report Card (Item 6.1)
(ii) 2009 Recommended Water, Wastewater and Storm Water Budget (Item 6.2)

Jim Harnum, Mike Zegarac and Joe Rinaldo provided an overview by power point:

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Services Overview

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- Water and Wastewater Strategic Plan
- Annual Report Card of WW Key Performance Indicators
- Overview of the Issues Facing Water
- Overview of Issues Facing Wastewater
- Overview of the Operating Budget Successes
- Recommended 2009 Rates
- Operating Overview
- Rate Comparison
- 2008 and 2009 Consumption Overview
- Financial Sustainability Strategy
- Pressures and Risks to the Plan
- Sustainability Measures

The presentation was received.

(e) NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor McCarthy put forward a Notice of Motion respecting an interim control bylaw to address priority setting for development. Details of the motion to be finalized by the Councillor and staff.

Councillor Bratina put forward the following Notice of Motion:

(a) That staff meet as soon as possible with the proponent of an unsolicited offer to provide the city’s accommodation requirements at the city Centre and/or other downtown properties

(b) That staff report to council in a timely manner as to whether significant cost savings might accrue to the city as compared with our current City Hall renovations strategy by negotiating with the proponent for required accommodation space

(c) That Options regarding our accommodation needs be presented to council to include suspension of the City Hall Renovation Project until such time as the impacts of the current economic crisis on municipal finances is better known.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Mayor F. Eisenberger

M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator
Committee of the Whole
December 5, 2008