

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 19, 2006

MAINTAINING PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF OUR WATER

Recommendation

Councillor Tony Carella recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

That the attached correspondence sent to the City of Vaughan from the Ontario Municipal Water Association (OMWA) be received; and

That the City of Vaughan supports the position of the OMWA, that water must remain under public ownership and control; and

That the Government of Ontario must make a commitment to the people of Ontario to keep water under public ownership and control by enshrining it in legislation; and further

That a copy of this motion be sent to Premier Dalton McGuinty; the Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal, the Honourable David Caplan; the Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Laura Broten; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable John Gerretsen; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and the Ontario Municipal Water Association.

Economic Impact

Nil

Purpose

To indicate the City of Vaughan's resolve in maintaining public ownership of water resources.

Background - Analysis and Options

The provincial government recently appointed a so-called Water Expert Panel, to make recommendations with respect to the future delivery of water via publicly-owned infrastructure. The report of the panel, entitled *Watertight*, contains recommendations which, it is believed, would result in the transfer of control of such infrastructure from municipalities to local water companies, to be governed by boards of directors, two-thirds of whose members would be drawn from the public sector.

In the view of Ontario Municipal Water Association, of which the City of Vaughan is a member municipality, these recommendations have the potential to "privatize" water delivery, by putting the means of its delivery into other than public hands, making water a commodity for sale and purchase rather than an entitlement----for which there is a cost, but should not be a profit.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

Council of the City of Vaughan believes that the public ownership of water resources should be maintained.

Attachments

Letter of Douglas R. Parker, Executive Director, OMWA, dated June 10, 2006

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella

Respectfully submitted,

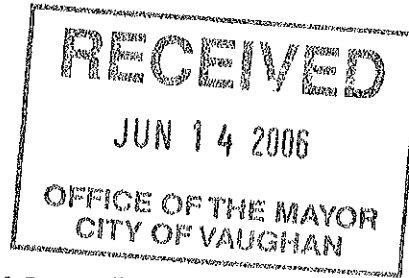
Tony Carella
Councillor – Ward 2



Ontario
Municipal Water
Association

156 Max Becker Drive
Kitchener, Ontario
N2E 4G1

Douglas R. Parker CMA, Executive Director



June 10, 2006

The Mayor and Members of Council:

The Ontario Municipal Water Association (OMWA) represents publicly-owned water supply systems throughout the province. Established in 1967, the Association's approximately 200 members provide safe and secure tap water to more than seven million people in Ontario.

The Association is concerned that recommendations made in Watertight, a report by the government-appointed Water Expert Panel, will, if adopted, transfer control of water assets from municipalities to local water companies. These water companies are to be governed by Boards, with two-thirds of the Board members to be drawn from the private sector.

We see this proposed restructuring as the first step in dismantling public ownership.

The Association believes that the Government of Ontario must make a commitment to the people of Ontario to keep water under public ownership and control by enshrining it in legislation.

OMWA is seeking your support to keep our water under public ownership and control and ask you to pass the following resolution at your next meeting of council:

"That the correspondence received from the Ontario Municipal Water Association (OMWA), concerning the recommendations made in Watertight, by the government-appointed Water Expert Panel, will, if adopted, transfer control of water assets from municipalities to local water companies. These water companies are to be governed by Boards, with two-thirds of Board members to be drawn from the private sector which OMWA views as the first step in dismantling public ownership be received and

That the municipality of _____ supports the position of the Ontario Municipal Water Association that water must remain under public ownership and control and

THAT the Government of Ontario must make a commitment to the people of Ontario to keep water under public ownership and control by enshrining it in legislation and further

THAT a copy of this motion be sent to Premier Dalton McGuinty, The Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal the Hon. David Caplan, the Minister of the Environment, the Hon. Laurel Broten, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Hon John Gerretson, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Ontario Municipal Water Association.

It is important to respond as soon as possible with the province moving toward issuing a White Paper.

As per the Board of Directors.



Douglas R. Parker CMA
Executive Director

Cc: Clerk of the Municipality

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