



**CITY OF VAUGHAN
SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2005**

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CITY OF VAUGHAN

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2005

MINUTES

2:30 P.M.

Michael Di Biase, Mayor, declared that a Special Council meeting would be convened in the Councillors' Boardroom in Vaughan, Ontario at 2:30 p.m. for which notice had not been given for the purpose of adopting the recommendation of the Budget Committee, Report No. 3, Item 14, GREATER TORONTO AREA POOLING SOCIAL SERVICES COSTS.

The following members were present:

Mayor Michael Di Biase, Chair
Regional Councillor Mario F. Ferri
Regional Councillor Linda D. Jackson
Councillor Tony Carella
Councillor Bernie Di Vona
Councillor Peter Meffe

MOVED by Councillor Di Vona
seconded by Councillor Carella

THAT Section 4.2 of Procedural By-law 400-2002 be waived with respect to 48 hours written notice for a Special meeting of Council.

CARRIED

MOVED by Councillor Di Vona
seconded by Councillor Carella

That Section 3.13 of Procedural By-Law 400-2002 be waived to permit the meeting to be held in the Councillors' Boardroom.

CARRIED

40. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

MOVED by Councillor Di Vona
seconded by Councillor Carella

THAT the agenda be confirmed.

CARRIED

41. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There was no disclosure of interest by any member.

42. GREATER TORONTO AREA POOLING SOCIAL SERVICES COSTS
(Item 14, Budget Committee Report No. 3)

MOVED by Councillor Di Vona
seconded by Councillor Carella

That the resolution contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Finance & Corporate Services, dated February 16, 2005, be adopted; and

That the confidential memorandum from the Commissioner of Finance & Corporate Services, dated February 16, 2005, be received.

CARRIED

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Finance & Corporate Services recommends:

That the following resolution be adopted.

Whereas the City of Vaughan and other municipalities in the GTA are also experiencing significant budgetary pressures;

And Whereas GTA Pooling amounts to taxation without representation on the property owners of the City of Vaughan;

And Whereas the Regional Municipality of York, Region of Durham, Region of Halton and the Region of Peel all forward significant funds to the Province to fund social service costs in Toronto through GTA pooling;

And Whereas GTA pooling represents twenty-four (24) municipalities within these four (4) Regions who are required to collect local property tax dollars and forward them to the Province for use by the City of Toronto;

And Whereas Social Housing and Social Assistance costs should be more appropriately funded by the Province and not through property taxation;

Now Therefore be it resolved that the City of Vaughan supports in principle the actions of the Town of Richmond Hill to draw attention to the GTA pooling issue;

That the Province of Ontario, through consultation with the local and regional GTA municipalities eliminate GTA Pooling;

That the Province take further steps to remove funding for the implementation of provincial social policies from property taxation.

And that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario Dalton McGuinty, the Honourable Greg Sorbara, Minister of Finance, the Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Regional Municipalities of York, Peel, Durham and Halton and all local GTA municipalities.

Purpose

To provide Council with a resolution regarding the discontinuance of GTA pooling and the removal of funding for the implementation of provincial social policies from property taxation.

Background - Analysis and Options

At the February 14, 2005 Council meeting staff were requested to draft a resolution requesting the Province of Ontario to discontinue GTA Pooling.

In 1998 Greater Toronto Area pooling was introduced as a measure to reduce the burden of the local services realignment on the City of Toronto. The services involved are Social Assistance Social Housing. Every year the Province provides the funding requirement from each GTA Region as an estimate for their share of the pooling cost for inclusion in their operating budget.

Since the introduction of GTA pooling, up to and including 2005, York Region will have collected from local municipalities and forwarded \$654.4 million to the Province to fund Toronto Social Services. Of this amount \$194.7 million was collected within the City of Vaughan. In 2005 approximately 31.3% of this funding for GTA pooling is collected in the City of Vaughan.

Conclusion

This resolution recognizes that GTA pooling amounts to taxation without representation, that other municipalities like Toronto have budgetary issues and the funding for the implementation of provincial social policy issues should not be funded from property taxation.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Richmond Hill Resolution

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

43. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

MOVED by Regional Councillor Ferri
seconded by Councillor Meffe

THAT By-law Number 52 -2005, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting on February 16, 2005, be read a First, Second and Third time and enacted.

CARRIED

44. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Regional Councillor Jackson
seconded by Councillor Di Vona

THAT the meeting adjourn at 2:32 p.m.

CARRIED

Michael Di Biase, Mayor

Sybil Fernandes, Deputy City Clerk