

Clause No. 30 in Report No. 12 of the Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on June 26, 2014.

30
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated June 12, 2014 from the Regional Chair, with recommendations 5 and 6 amended as follows:

- 5. A Chair and Vice Chair be appointed to preside over each section of the Committee of the Whole meeting.**
- 6. The quorum for Committee of the Whole be the majority of the Members of Council.**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Council continue with the Committee of the Whole structure.
2. The Committee of the Whole meet on Thursdays, generally in the first two weeks of the three-week monthly cycle, at 9:30 a.m.
3. The Committee of the Whole Agenda continue to be divided into sections that reflect the Region's Commissions.
4. Deputations and presentations continue to be heard at the beginning of each Committee of the Whole meeting.
5. The Regional Chair preside over the meetings of the Committee of the Whole.
6. The quorum for Committee of the Whole remain at 11 Members.
7. Audit Committee, Housing York Inc., the York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, Accessibility Advisory Committee, the Debenture Committee and the Human Services Planning Board continue to meet separately.

8. The Regional Clerk prepare pertinent Procedure Bylaw amendments for consideration at Council's meeting of September 11, 2014.
9. A schedule of meetings for 2015 be brought forward for Council's consideration at its September 11, 2014 meeting.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's approval for continuing with the Committee of the Whole structure.

3. BACKGROUND

Regional Council has successfully conducted a Committee of the Whole pilot project over the past 10 months

At its meeting of June 27, 2013, Regional Council approved a recommendation that it pilot a Committee of the Whole process from September 2013 to September 2014 with a review in June 2014.

The pilot was intended to give an opportunity to all Members of Council to participate fully in Committee meetings. It would also give the Mayors who were their local municipality's sole representative on Regional Council the ability to attend all Committee meetings and ensure representation for their municipality. Another purpose was to bring more consistency between the Region and the local municipalities who all employ a system comprised of all Members sitting in Committee.

The purpose of the June 2014 review was to gauge the effectiveness of the Committee of the Whole process over several months.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Members of Council have held 20 Committee of the Whole meetings

Council started using Committee of the Whole in September 2013 and continued for ten months. By the end of June 2014 there will have been 20 meetings of Committee of the Whole and consideration of over 300 reports.

The Committee of the Whole structure offers various advantages

The Committee of the Whole structure offers various advantages. It comprises all 21 Members of Council. All Members can participate fully. This is in contrast to Standing

Committees that typically have five or seven Members, with the Regional Chair as an *ex officio* Member.

Presentations and deputations are heard by all Members of Council

As a result, all Members of Council can hear the deputations and presentations, participate fully in the discussion and vote on all recommendations to Council. This was very helpful throughout the pilot period, including during consideration of the 2014 Operating and Capital Business Plans and Budget. It lends itself to a Council meeting that can be dedicated to review of Committee of the Whole recommendations and other items. The level of engagement from Members of Council has been very high, attendance has been strong and there have been no issues meeting the quorum of 11 members.

There is also a clear benefit for members of the public. They gain by having the opportunity to address all Members rather than a smaller group of Standing Committee Members. This allows their deputations to be considered in conjunction with a recommendation to Council that is made by all Members of Council forming the Committee of the Whole. Having deputations near the beginning of the meeting has also freed up deputants to attend to other matters once their deputation has been heard.

The structure provides flexibility to call Special Council Meetings if required

Having all Members scheduled to attend a meeting on a particular Thursday enhances the ability to call a Special Meeting of Council on very short notice for time sensitive matters. Examples that occurred during the pilot were the ice storm funding application to the Province and the Markham Official Plan.

Rotating Chairs during the meeting affects the flow of the meeting

On the other hand, moving Chairs and Commissions back and forth during the meeting affects the flow of the meeting and has been somewhat unwieldy. Having one person chair the entire meeting ensures continuity and consistency. As a result I have recommended that the Regional Chair preside over the meetings of the Committee of the Whole.

The Committee of the Whole offers various logistical advantages

There have been a few other logistical advantages to the Committee of the Whole process. It allows for easier scheduling, with Members and the public being able to rely on the fact that meetings will occur only on Thursdays, rather than having to ascertain whether the pertinent meeting is on a Wednesday or Thursday as was the case with Standing Committees. This also frees up the Members to be available in their local municipalities for both regional and local business for an additional day on Wednesday.

There have also been benefits to staff from the Committee of the Whole. Splitting the Committee of the Whole into particular sections mirroring Regional Commissions and related subject matter facilitates structured Agendas and has generally been very effective. The Committee of the Whole system can be modified from time to time to reflect the Region's organizational structure and priorities of Council.

The use of a Consent Agenda has also allowed Regional staff to attend to other business once items in which they are interested have been approved. There has also been less paper and duplication due to the fact that staff reports that are referred to in Committee of the Whole recommendations are no longer re-printed for Council. This is because all Members have had a chance to review them prior to Committee of the Whole. Printing costs have been reduced by just under \$10,000 during the course of the pilot.

The Seminar Room has been effective for Committee of the Whole meetings. It provides a less formal setting than the Council Chambers and is more conducive to informal discussion. If it is used for these meetings in the future there would need to be changes to improve the audio video and to accommodate more space for Members of Council and the public.

The Regional Committee of the Whole process is consistent with practices in the local municipalities

All local municipalities in York Region, with the exception of Markham, operate under the Committee of the Whole system. Markham has both a Committee of the Whole and a Development Services Committee that include all Members of Council. In essence, both act like a Committee of the Whole since they include all Members.

Continuation of a Regional Committee of the Whole process would continue a practice that is consistent with all the other local municipalities.

Some Committees and Boards will continue as they are

The Audit Committee, Debenture Committee and the Boards of Housing York Inc. and York Region Rapid Transit Corporation will continue to meet separately. Also continuing as before will be the Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Human Services Planning Board.

Link to key Council-approved plans

Piloting a Committee of the Whole system responds to the Open and Responsive Governance goal in *Vision 2051*. Specifically it continues to ensure the Region sets high standards for transparency and accountability.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications attached to the adoption of this report.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There is no local municipal impact attached to the adoption of this report.

7. CONCLUSION

The Committee of the Whole pilot has been successfully piloted. Continuing with a Committee of the Whole structure allows all Members of Council to more easily attend meetings and stay apprised of deputations, communications, presentations and reports. It allows members of the public to address all Members in one forum. It also creates various logistical advantages that make it beneficial to continue with the Committee of the Whole.