

Capital budget

Committee move blocked referred to council

A recommendation that would force Oakville, Burlington and Halton Hills to chop capital budgets by about 20 per cent received a hostile reception at Regional Council Wednesday.

The recommendation emanated from a special meeting of the region's Public Works Committee. At that meeting the committee planned regional sewer and water projects and agreed to ask the three area municipalities to make substantial cuts in their budgets. Milton was credited with presenting a budget that could not absorb any further cuts. The committee had recommended cuts of \$5,500,000 from the \$25,600,000 budget.

The administration committee members had agreed to send the budgets back to area councils for cuts, but made none themselves.

Usurping charge

During the council meeting Wednesday the Works Committee was charged with usurping the responsibility of the area municipalities and the administration committee.

Administration committee chairman Ric Morrow said the committee was arrogant, irresponsible and acted prematurely in cutting the budget. He said the works committee had overstepped its bounds.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett was one of the committee's most violent critics. He said he found it distasteful for the committee to consider commenting on anything other than water and sewers.

Councillors hammered away at the recommendation for more than an hour. Works chairman Jack Raftis and some of his committee members defended the action. He said cuts were necessary if the region was to maintain a favorable financial position.

Could hold back

He noted some of the projects were joint projects with both area councils and regional council involved in different phases of the work. He explained that some local projects would die as a result of the region delaying its portion of the project.

The basis of the dispute centres around the question of whether the region must raise debentures upon request of area councils or whether the region could refuse to debenture funds over and above a set amount.

Bill 151, the bill implementing regional government in Halton, is not specific on that point. Regional treasurer Don Farmer interprets an Ontario Municipal Board directive as giving the region power to cut debenture requests.

Farmer was asked to investigate that question further and report back. The budget was referred to next Wednesday's council meeting. All 25 council members will then have an opportunity to partake in budget proceedings.

62 houses proposed

Al Pilutti, Georgetown developer, plans to build 62 houses on 101 acres in Stewarttown, Mike Brodigan, of Windland Associates told the general administration committee of Halton Hills council Monday night.

The land on the road at the top of Stewarttown hill, where St. John's Anglican church stands, and runs down the hill to join 15 Sideroad.

Mr. Brodigan said the lots would be one acre with small neighborhood stores near the top of the hill, where the old school is situated.

He claimed the development was infilling of the hamlet, with only a portion lying outside. "A 17 acre passive park would be dedicated to the town," said Mr. Brodigan.

The lots would be serviced with their own internal water system and septic tanks. The consultants said the Halton

County Health Unit has tested the soil and given approval.

Howitt opposed.

"To be perfectly frank I would be opposed to this development," stated Councillor Dick Howitt. He said the land was prime agricultural land, and there were far too many lots.

Howitt said he understood "infilling" to mean filling in spaces between houses. "This is just wide open country," he added.

Mr. Brodigan asked that a mini-plan for Stewarttown and possibly all the hamlets should be prepared.

Chairman Roy Booth said it was only fair to give some kind of an answer, so applicants don't waste their money.

Planner Mario Venditti pointed out the official plan urges the hamlets be developed in depth, not in strips. He suggested this plan was in depth.

"But this goes beyond the hamlet," replied Howitt.

"The government wants us to provide land for houses," commented Booth.

"They also want us to retain good farmland," retorted Howitt.

The proposal was turned over to the planner and the planning advisory sub-committee for comment.



PARKING AREA for Acton O.P.P. was prepared last week beside the offices. The work is billed to the region, which now has responsibility for policing in all of Halton. Policemen parked their cars on the muddy grass previously.

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Two crashes here

Just two accidents in town this week—one on Thursday and one on Friday.

On Mill St. in the bank parking lot cars driven by Chester Henson, 8 Vimy St., and Kathy Gordon, 127 Wyndford Place, were in collision.

The next day at Queen and Churchill cars driven by Heather Homer, 127 Churchill Rd. S., and Daniel Hamilton, Norval, were in collision.

Estimated damages were to the Gordon car \$100, the Homer car \$50 and Hamilton car \$125.

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