

Annual housing target policy to be prepared

Halton Regional Planning and Development Committee dealt with a staff report setting out current servicing patterns and interim regional objectives, at the meeting last week.

The report indicates two servicing areas in the region. What is referred to as the Lakeshore Servicing Area serves Oakville and Burlington. The two southern towns rely on Lake Ontario for water and for a catchment and dispersion basin for their treated sewage.

The report indicates an adequate supply of water for the future and indicates programs are underway to provide for the transportation of water.

Plans of subdivision have been held up because pollution control plants have been deemed as incapable of more sewage.

Contradictory The Ministry of the Environment regulations contradict the most recent policy announced by the Ministry of Housing, by which large numbers of homes would be built in a short time.

That problem is constant throughout the region. Georgetown, Acton and Milton have no immediate problems with water, the report claims, but notes the Ministry of the Environment is very conscious of the type of effluent being released into the 16 Mile Creek and the Credit River.

The report is one of several being dealt with in order to develop interim planning policies for the region.

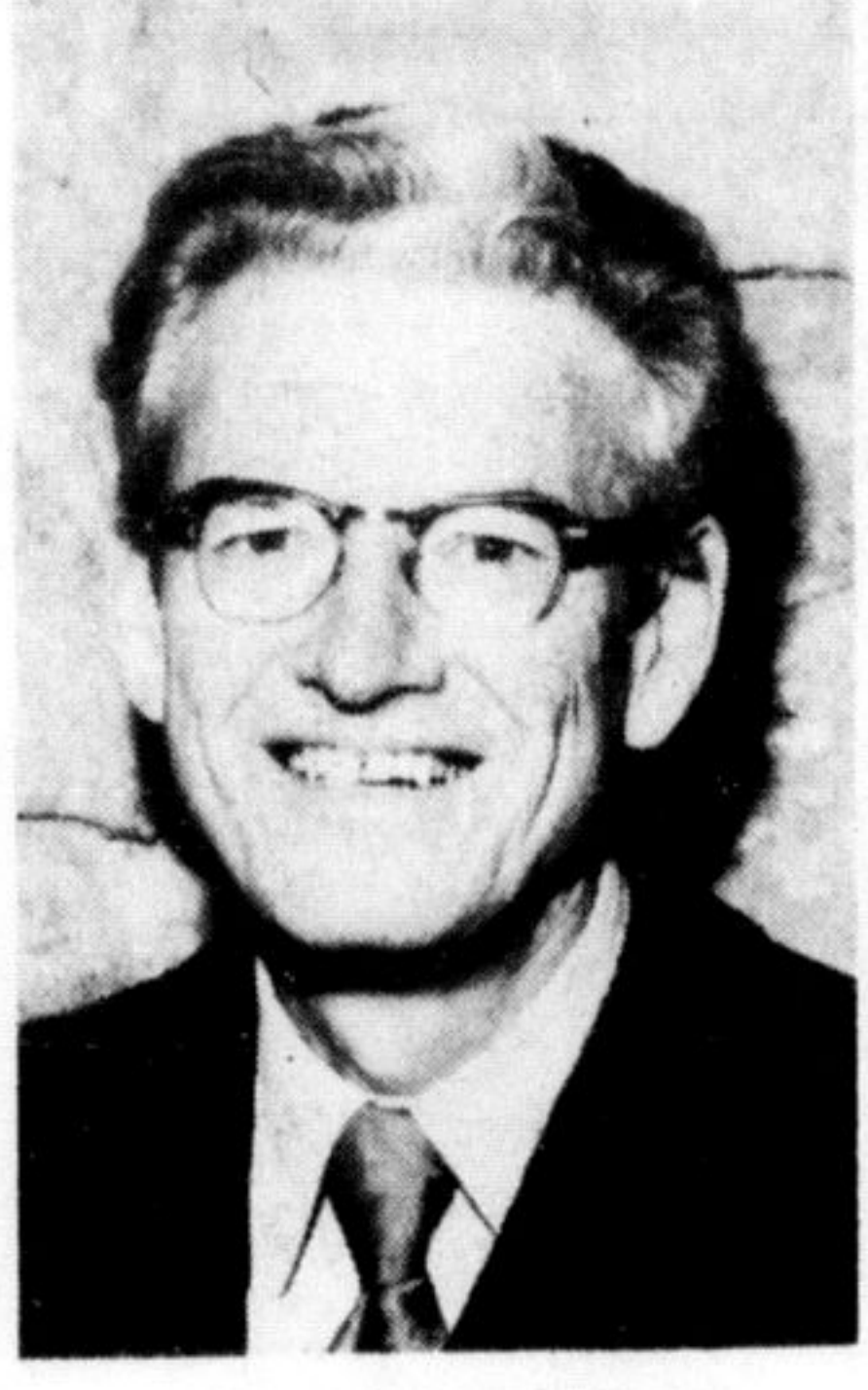
According to the report, the region will actively pursue a policy directed towards the expansion and upgrading of existing sewage treatment facilities and services to facilitate development in urban areas consistent with the ability of the area municipality's ability to support services.

Standard approach Other objectives include consolidating a regional servicing subdivision policies.

The report suggests hard services be limited in the rural areas to individual or communal wells and sewage systems.

During the meeting the committee agreed to prepare a policy concerning annual housing targets. That policy would be developed in consultation with the area councils.

The committee also agreed to advise the Minister of Housing of Halton's problems in setting housing production targets. The Ministry of the Environment's position on sewage treatment has left some doubt with the region as to which projects can logically be expected to be completed.



MAC ANDERSON

"Smacks of big rip-off"

Regional Councillors should not be involved in the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System pension plan, Oakville Councillor Mac Anderson told the region's Administration Committee, Wednesday.

Anderson said the matter should be received and filed. "It smacks of the big rip-off."

The matter was filed at the committee level and unless regional council reverses the action, no pension for councillors will be initiated.

\$1,000,000 job Committee split on Stewarttown contract

Halton Regional Council is expected to award a contract for the construction of parts of the Seventh Line and the extension of Maple Ave. at Stewarttown. The job will cost close to a million dollars before it is completed. It includes a new bridge, storm sewers and the provision of retaining walls.

During a meeting of the Regional Public Works Committee Wednesday, members wrestled with the problem of recommending a contractor for the job.

Both the consulting engineers Phillips Planning and Engineering and regional engineer Bob Baillie recommended the second low tender for the job.

\$7,000 difference Folco Construction Equipment Limited submitted a bid of \$970,783.15 while Armbr Materials and Construction Limited was second with a bid of \$977,838—just \$7,000 higher.

The committee expressed concern about the lack of experience in North Halton, the extensive use of subcontractors and the lack of equipment in connection with the Folco bid.

Folco rents all of its equipment, rather than buying it. During the discussion Bud Raney of Folco said it didn't matter how much equipment or what equipment you have, it never seems to be just right for the job.

He and Folco president Bud Raney said they had had no problems in securing rented equipment or working with subcontractors.

Raney explained that Fraser had one company and he another but the two worked as partners.

Consulting engineer Don Tefft advised the committee to award the contract to Armbr. "Although the Folco tender has been properly documented we feel that corporate experience and corporate equipment is a prime consideration in the selection of a contractor. On this basis, the tender of Armbr Materials and Construction Limited is recommended for acceptance over that of Folco Construction and Equipment Ltd."

er, we would like to point out that they have the financial ability to perform the work and their general superintendent Paul Fraser has an excellent reputation in the construction industry. His qualifications were verified by several independent studies.

The problem the committee faces is whether or not there is sufficient grounds to reject the low tender.

Chairman Jack Raftis expressed concern about the number of subcontractors and noted the job was a complex one. Tefft said it was the first time in 10 years he had recommended anyone but the low tenderer.

Several members were

impressed with the fact that Folco's president Fraser would supervise the job. Fraser told the committee his firm had only a few minor jobs to complete and could start work immediately. Baillie told the committee the ministry would only subsidize up to the amount to the low tender.

Committee Chairman Jack Raftis asked the staff to investigate a number of considerations not answered at the meeting and have the answers for a short meeting prior to the council meeting today (Wednesday).

The committee appeared to be split on the matter. No formal vote was taken.

Need help badly says treasurer

Halton Regional Treasurer Don Farmer is looking for more help in his department and according to Farmer, his staff is in "desperate" need of help.

Farmer said some of the girls in his office were working 10 hours a day but had no hope of ever catching up on the workload.

Farmer explained the region had taken over water and sewers but the Public Utilities Commission retained its staff. He noted only one of 12 employees doing that job in Oakville and Burlington had been released to join the regional staff.

Temporary The committee agreed to have temporary help for the department and in the meantime, seek some justification from the PUC's about why more staffers can't be transferred to the region.

Farmer claims about 40 per cent of the PUC workload now rests with the region.

Try again for sound system

Noting some sort of sound system is absolutely necessary, Halton Region's

Administration and Finance Committee agreed to recommend regional council approve \$3,589 for the purchase of 16 microphones for use in the council chambers.

Since the region moved to headquarters in Burlington in April, there have been continuous complaints about the poor acoustics and seating arrangements in the council chambers.

During the last meeting of council that proposal was rejected when Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett said the sound system should have been part of the lease.

Oh no, not another special committee!

"We're being committed to death," Regional Chairman Allan Masson told Halton's Public Works Committee during a meeting Wednesday.

The committee had been asked to endorse a recommendation that would have established a committee of staff and elected people to work with the Ministry of the Environment.

The committee rejected that proposal but agreed to have the four standing committee chairmen meet with the ministry at the initial meeting and then develop a stand after that meeting.

Deal with group involved Administration Chairman Ric Morrow opposed the creation of subcommittees. He felt the people from the ministry should deal with the committee that happened to be involved with the particular subject at any time.

P. G. Cokburn, director of the central region of the Ministry of the Environment told the committee in a letter that the ministry had been reorganized and decentralized.

No thanks committee tells firm

Gardner and Associates were unsuccessful in convincing Halton Region Administration Committee Wednesday of the value of an insert in a tourist-type publication. The four-page insert would help promote the International Plowing Match in Halton this fall.

John Gardner presented a number of schemes costing from \$1,925 and down. Acton area Councillor Pat McKenzie said the region could rely on local press to promote the match.

One member suggested the publication would be geared more for tourists than Halton people. The representative of the Gardner firm said the insert could be used to explain regional government as well as to promote the plowing match.

Regional budget ready soon

A first draft of the regional budget is expected to be prepared within the next week, according to Halton Regional treasurer Don Farmer.

Farmer told the Administration and Finance Committee Wednesday he had all but the police and Halton Centennial Manor budget—and was expecting those soon.

The committee agreed to go to Queen's Park with a list of start-up costs. Committee chairman Ric Morrow said elected officials should make the initial approach at the provincial level.

Duties defined

One step closer to administrator

Halton region moved one step closer to hiring an administrator last Wednesday when the administration committee recommended a by-law defining the duties and responsibilities of the chief administrative officer.

Under the provisions of the by-law, the chief administrative officer would be responsible for administering all departments in the region and advising council and its committees on the feasibility, cost and other pertinent factors related to goals, policies and programs under consideration.

The administrator will attend all meetings of council and committees. He or she would be responsible for dealing with aspects of employee contracts with the region and appoint, promote, demote, suspend and dismiss

all employees except department heads, but only after consultation with the heads.

Do or get done The by-law provides for a great many tasks to be carried out or supervised by the administrator.

After long and heated debates, the region agreed to hire an administrator in the hope of getting the region to work as a smooth and cohesive unit. Many problems that have cropped up in the past have been attributed to the lack of co-ordination at the regional level.

Oakville Councillor Gord Brown wanted assurance that the administrator's office wouldn't become another large department.

Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur suggested the administrator could use one of Chairman Masson's two secretaries. Masson agreed.

Confused

Who are members?

Halton's Administration and Finance Committee wants to know which members are on the committee.

Member Paul Preston said people come and go and vote on items they are interested in. He claimed councillors should declare which committee they are members of.

During the last regional council meeting, council agreed members could sit on a second committee on a voluntary basis. The matter was referred to the next council meeting.

Regional briefs

Okay leisure room

During the regular meeting of the Regional Administration and Finance Committee Wednesday the committee:

—Recommended a leisure room be provided at regional headquarters for staff members. The expense is to be shared by the region and the department heads.

—Granted permission to the Land Division Committee to hold its meetings in the regional council chambers.

—Were advised the proposed budget for the legal department is estimated at \$78,811.

—Learned the estimated cost of operating an emergency measures department had dropped from \$19,700 to \$10,850 this year. EMO Director Bill McCreary now serves a dual function at the region, working as a committee secretary as well as EMO Director.

—Have you checked to make sure your name is on the voters' list? This is the last week for changes to be made.

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