

SETTLEMENT REACHED BETWEEN REGION AND CITY OF OSHAWA IN TRANSIT MATTER

Whitby, Ontario – The Region of Durham and the City of Oshawa reached a resolution on litigation arising from the amalgamation of Durham Region Transit (DRT) services in 2006. This agreement resolves outstanding issues regarding benefits for retired Oshawa Transit Commission employees.

With this settlement, the Region and the City of Oshawa avoided an expensive arbitration hearing that was scheduled for April 2.

“The late Regional Chair

Roger Anderson expressed great appreciation to Oshawa Mayor John Henry for his efforts to facilitate this positive outcome,” said Chief Administrative Officer Garry Cubitt. “Chair Anderson recognized the strong partnership that exists between our two municipalities and the collaborative efforts and eagerness of both parties that went into finding a solution.”

The DRT Commission was established as a municipal services board on January 1, 2006. It is an integrated transit system that serves all com-

munities within Durham Region (Ajax, Pickering, Whitby, Oshawa, Clarington, Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge), providing conventional transit routes, specialized services for people with disabilities and on-demand transit.

– The Regional Municipality of Durham has had its Triple “A” credit rating with stable outlook reconfirmed once again by S&P Global Ratings (S&P), one of only seven municipalities in Canada to receive this designation. This accreditation reflects the Region’s strong financial management,

budgetary performance and low and manageable debt burden.

“This achievement is indicative of Regional Council’s strong commitment to long-term financial planning and policies,” said Gerri Lynn O’Connor, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer. “It supports Durham’s solid reputation as a leader in fiscal responsibility and lets our residents know that we are managing their tax dollars responsibly.”

As part of their assessment,

S&P recognized the experience of regional administration and their work with Regional Council to create and implement policies and long-term financial planning that has allowed the Region to remain fiscally sustainable. The Region’s strong and consistent financial management practices have resulted in a favourable budgetary performance, while keeping debt levels relatively low.

“This S&P rating reflects the Region’s robust financial planning process, and a municipality that is forward-looking

and financially stable,” said Jim Clapp, Commissioner of Finance. “Our disciplined approach to financial planning gives us flexibility to manage risk and uncertainty, and allows us to identify and accommodate program challenges and pressures proactively.”

This S&P rating complements the Triple “A” credit rating affirmed by Moody’s Investors Service earlier this year.

Regional Council to return to Standing Committee governance structure for the 2018 to 2022 Council term

On April 11, Regional Council approved a return to the Standing Committee governance structure for the 2018 to 2022 Council term. In September 2016, Regional Council began a pilot project using the Committee of the Whole governance structure, which will continue until the end of the current Council term in November 2018.

During the pilot program, all items that would have typically been deliberated at the Region’s Standing Committees, or joint committees, were instead considered at monthly Committee of the Whole meetings. The return to the Standing Committee structure will result in a number of benefits, including:

- Providing more flexibility in the scheduling of Advisory Committee meetings and special events.
- More time to research and prepare information in response to Council and committee inquiries.

The change to the Committee of the Whole governance structure was in response to meeting the current and future needs of the Durham community through leadership, co-operation, innovation and service excellence. In order to proceed with planning for the next term of Council, which will begin on December 1, 2018 and end on November 14, 2022, it was necessary to review the Committee of the Whole governance structure to establish a meeting schedule for the next four-year Council term.

Beginning in December 2018, Regional Council will revert back to the four previous Standing Committees—Finance & Administration, Health & Social Services, Planning & Economic Development and Works. However, Joint Committee meetings will be replaced with a Committee of the Whole meeting. The December 2018 meetings will operate on a condensed two-week schedule due to the inaugural Regional Council meeting on December 5, 2018.

Regional Council will keep the Council Information Package. In August 2016, the Region’s Legislative Services Division implemented the Council Information Package, which includes information reports, staff correspondence and items of correspondence received by the Regional Clerk. Circulated to Council members every Friday, this package has streamlined the process for correspondence and provides another avenue for members of the public to be kept

up to date on regional business. The Council Information Package can be found at durham.ca/en/regional-governance/council-information-package.aspx.

Responsibility for the preparation and issuance of agendas will remain with the Regional Clerk. Each Standing Committee will be comprised of seven appointed Regional Council members. The Regional Chair is an ex-officio member on all of these Standing Committees. Prior to September

2016, this structure had been in place since the Region of Durham’s inception in 1974.

Standing Committee meetings for the 2018 to 2022 Council term will be scheduled on a monthly basis, starting on the first Tuesday of each month, beginning in January 2019. This will result in 10 regularly scheduled meetings for each Standing Committee.



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