

# Regional Municipality of Waterloo

## Strategic Planning and Budget Public Input Committee

### Agenda



Date: Wednesday, November 27, 2024

Closed Session: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers/Electronic

Should you require an alternative format please contact the Regional Clerk at Tel.: 519-575-4400, TTY: 519-575-4605, or [regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca)

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#### Pages

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Land Acknowledgement**
3. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest under the “Municipal Conflict of Interest Act”**
4. **Delegations**
  - 4.1 **Mark Egers, Waterloo Regional Police Association**  
Re: The 2025 Police Services budget.
  - 4.2 **Natasha Page, Kitchener**  
Re: Living conditions at the 100 Vic Encampment and the 2025 Regional Budget.
  - 4.3 **Ed Edwards, Kitchener**  
Re: Working with people at the 100 Vic encampment and the 2025 Regional Budget.
  - 4.4 **Cory Bonipart, Kitchener**  
Re: Community Housing and the 2025 Regional Budget.
  - 4.5 **John McVicar, Kitchener**  
Re: a sport based in Waterloo County during the 40s to 60s that will disappear with the Boomer generation if not saved.
  - 4.6 **Clare Wagner, House of Friendship**  
Re: Update on the impact of the Regionally-funded Family Outreach Program operated by the House of Friendship.
  - 4.7 **Jordan Baker, The Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation**  
Re: The relaunch of the Foundation's funding streams for our communities, as well as requesting that Regional financial support for the Foundation continue.
  - 4.8 **Kathy Eckert, Kitchener**  
Re: Police Funding Mental Health Support.

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- 4.9 Robyn Schwarz, Cambridge**  
Re: Speaking in support of Upstream Fund and Community Capacity Building Fund.
- 4.10 Andrew Reeves, Kitchener**  
Re: House of Friendship Whistleblower Report and the 2025 Regional Budget.
- 4.11 Kim Wilhelm, The Food Bank of Waterloo Region**  
Re: The rise of food insecurity in Waterloo Region.
- 4.12 Sidney MacDonald, Kitchener**  
Re: 2025 Regional Budget and PECH.
- 4.13 Pete Dahmer, Kitchener**  
Re: Taxation, the half billion dollar tax increase.
- 4.14 Sarah Shafiq, Coalition of Muslim Women**  
Re: CMW's services and programs.
- 4.15 Rachel Van Zeumeren, Kitchener**  
Re: The police budget and request that the increase in funding is not approved and instead invested into the community, supportive housing, and mental health services.
- 4.16 Eddy Grignon, Kitchener**  
Re: Conditions at 100 Vic.
- 4.17 Michael Parkinson, Waterloo Region Drug Action Team**  
Re: Consumption and Treatment Services.
- 4.18 Sara Escobar, Peregrine Outreach Waterloo Region**  
Re: Consumption and Treatments Services.
- 4.19 Ben Bogias, North Dumfries**  
Re: Grand River Transit 2025-2030 Business Plan.
- 4.20 Sejal Goel and Jenna Versteeg, University of Waterloo's Planning Students' Association**  
Re: Grand River Transit 2025-2030 Business Plan.
- 4.21 Jonathan Lin, Waterloo**  
Re: GRT Business Plan 2025.
- 4.22 Bruno Bustos Alegria, Waterloo**  
Re: Grand River Transit 2025-2030 Business Plan.
- 4.23 Zack Red, Waterloo**  
Re: Transit Funding & Road Safety.
- 4.24 Craig Sloss, Waterloo**  
Re: Budget Input.
- 4.25 Zekiel Foncardas, Waterloo**  
Re: Grand River Transit 2025-2030 Business Plan.

- 5. **Call for Delegations**
- 6. **Communications**
  - 6.1 **Gina Georgiou** 8  
Re: 2025 Budget Thoughts.
  - 6.2 **Lanny Noble, Cambridge** 11  
Re: Rethinking Budget Priorities.
- 7. **Other Business**
- 8. **Adjourn**  
**Recommended Motion:**  
That the meeting adjourn at x:xx x.m.

Learn how you can  
help preserve our  
community for  
future  
generations

# TIPPY

Harold R. - "We played Tippy in Victoria Park in the 40s."

Randy F. - "at Empire School at recess."

Sandra K.P.W. - "Love playing tippy 4 people so much fun. . . . Cherry Street."

Wayne S. - "Grew up playing Tippy on Earl St. and Belmont before the stores."

Dennis S. - "Yes at Carmichael."

Randy C. - "at Westmount School in the late 60's."

Mark S. - "I played Tippy with my cousins on my grandfather's farm. Homer Watson runs through where the farm was by the Musuem."

**25 Thresholds Homes and Supports Inc. (a.k.a. Waterloo Regional Homes for Mental Health Inc.) and Centurion Property Associates Inc. v. [Tenant] (22 December 2017; Love), File No. SWL-81318-15**

Tenant had mental disorders including depression and schizoaffective disorder, which cause difficulties with planning, concentration, and memory

Tenant's inability to keep unit at level of ordinary cleanliness had impeded ability to do cockroach treatments and resulted in undue damage to carpets, flooring, a faucet, and the toilet

Tenant had received notices but made clear he did not understand the notices or how to comply

Landlord's level of support to the tenant had diminished over time. Landlord had not fully engaged with tenant in an attempt to create an accommodation plan

There was not enough evidence that the tenant had caused undue damage and that fixtures in the unit needed to be replaced

Landlord required to provide tenant with 30 large plastic totes for storage of items in unit.

Parties, in collaboration with tenant's medical professionals, must develop an accommodation plan of steps to be taken by landlord to assist tenant in complying with conditions imposed in order.

Tenant must prepare his unit for pest control treatment. Tenant must maintain state of cleanliness in unit for at least 3 years

Landlords must reinstate regular in-home cleaning supports after pest control treatment

Landlord right to inspect every three months to ensure compliance

s.78 application for ex parte termination order upon breach

Supportive housing provided by mental health agency renting unit from private landlord

The LTB "simply did not agree" with the landlord's submission that entering into a previous mediated agreement with the tenant was accommodation for his disabilities.

The tenant's cancellation of 25 appointments with support workers over 7 years was not evidence of a lack of cooperation as this was typical of a person with his mental disorders

## 6.1

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**Subject:** 2025 Budget thoughts

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**From:** Gina Georgiou [REDACTED]

**Sent:** November 15, 2024 3:55 PM

**To:** Regional Clerk <[RegionalClerk@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:RegionalClerk@regionofwaterloo.ca)>; Sustainable Waterloo Region <[info@sustainablewaterlooregion.ca](mailto:info@sustainablewaterlooregion.ca)>; Joe Nowak <[JoNowak@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:JoNowak@regionofwaterloo.ca)>; Rob Deutschmann <[RDeutschmann@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:RDeutschmann@regionofwaterloo.ca)>; Sandy Shantz <[SShantz@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:SShantz@regionofwaterloo.ca)>; Jim Erb <[JErb@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:JErb@regionofwaterloo.ca)>; Michael Harris <[MHarris@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:MHarris@regionofwaterloo.ca)>; Doug Craig <[DougCraig@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:DougCraig@regionofwaterloo.ca)>; Dorothy McCabe <[DMcCabe@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:DMcCabe@regionofwaterloo.ca)>; Jan Liggett <[JLiggett@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:JLiggett@regionofwaterloo.ca)>; Kari Williams <[KariWilliams@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:KariWilliams@regionofwaterloo.ca)>; Karen Redman <[KRedman@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:KRedman@regionofwaterloo.ca)>; Natasha Salonen <[NSalonen@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:NSalonen@regionofwaterloo.ca)>; Chantal Huinink <[CHuinink@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:CHuinink@regionofwaterloo.ca)>; Colleen James <[CJames@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:CJames@regionofwaterloo.ca)>

**Subject:** 2025 Budget thoughts

Good Morning All

In listening to the last budget meeting, I wish to enter 2 topics for consideration. I would also like to acknowledge and agree that continual tax increases in this region is not sustainable and help from Provincial and Federal is needed to alleviate some of the stressors (which I am aware has already been asked from our local MP's and MPP's).

1. Capital funding for shelters:

I think that capital funding IS needed for next year's budget. We need supportive housing. It's been said time and again that Supportive Housing has been a successful strategy. "Shelter beds cost three times as much," said Tinker. "Hospital beds are \$13,500 a month, and correctional facilities, it's over \$4,000 whereas supportive housing is just over \$600." As Peter Sweeney mentioned previously, a lot of the "homeless" have all three of the following: brain injuries, addictions and mental health issues. They do not have the ability to make sound decisions, thus why they refuse treatment. Instead they roam from shelter to shelter, get their monthly tax funded cheque, and disturbing neighbourhoods & using up resources that we have nothing to show for in the end, and there are no repercussions for them. We're just throwing money at it and hoping something good comes out of it. They are not homeless, they are mentally ill, and need to be treated as such, instead of using up resources (fire, police, ambulances etc) which is not cheap to support (thus the increase in the police budget), we get the people the help they need, us being of sound mind acting on their behalf, so that they will not cause more harm to themselves or others.

The Region has purchased the building on Frederick street, however, only women/or those identifying as, are allowed there. Councillor Deutchman asked Peter Sweeney several times during the meeting where are the men supposed to go. There was no satisfactory response given. That is a SERIOUS concern that needs to be addressed. The Mancini's are handing out tents to everyone, but where are they expecting them to pitch them up? It's a waste of money. Waste of money to buy the tents (whose ever pocket it is coming out of), it's a waste of money for the Bylaw call center to answer the calls of reported illegally set up tents, it's a waste of money to get a Bylaw officer to go check it out and remove the tent. There's just waste everywhere. Would it not be cheaper, and more fiscally responsible,



to buy a place (ie the former Marten's Furniture Wonderland, which is already close to the other affordable housing where people are already being serviced there)? The King St Shelter has been in place for over 2 years, and a place to move these people along to has not been found. The Plan To End Chronic Homelessness is a plan in theory only. If an actual business was putting a plan together, they'd have all resources listed, how many people would be needed, how much money each section would require. In this budget, do they include money for security services? Police services? EMS services? Has this been calculated from the events at the King St Shelter? Because I guarantee, as those same people move around, the same problems will follow.

This was the breakdown stated on City News:

The Emergency Shelter system is not a viable solution and as per Peter Sweeney, another Emergency Shelter is not scheduled any time soon.

Innocent people, who are truly homeless (do not have brain injuries, addictions or mental health issues), who can sustain living on their own, deserve to have a safe place to stay. Those people do not feel safe at shelters, and I beg you to answer if you stay at the shelter overnight, would you feel safe? I hope that the Region has learnt a huge lesson from this Emergency Shelter model and will not repeat itself, at least with this present "structure". I am aware that the emergency shelter on King st, has no rules, and from some sources, wanted criminals have sought refuge there because of the "confidentiality" that the Mancini's chosen to have. Which, could potentially put residents of the shelter, and neighbourhoods around the shelter, in danger. No wonder so many "homeless people" have stated they do not want to stay there, and I do not blame them. This structure has caused destruction around the Region, which the tax payers have had to pay for to replace/repair City property (ie. Rockway Gardens) or residents themselves having to fix/repurchase stolen goods (ie. \$10,000 worth of damages caused by a mattress set on fire at 1522 King St E; The damages caused to Frenzi's; The damages cause to Seniors apartment buildings at 1420 King St E at a cost of approx \$36,298+HST, not to include the extra money they have spent on adding additional safety glass and other features).

If a future, Temporary shelter is opened, to house some temporarily until they are assessed and sent off to where they need to go (triaged), here are some rules that Sanctioned encampments should use (based off of London Homeless encampment rules):

Just like every other human on this planet, we all have rules, and there should be no exceptions. Here are some rules they listed:

#### Encampment Safety Protocols

- b. No more than six tents/shelters per encampment
- c. No open fires or combustibles
- d. Minors under 16 years old will be reported to Children's Aid Society (CAS)
- e. No used or uncapped needles around the site
- f. Pets must be on a leash when outside a tent
- g. A muzzle is required if a pet is known to be violent
- h. Human trafficking is not tolerated and will be reported

- i. Intimidation, physical violence, or threats towards neighboring tents, community residents, or staff providing services will not be tolerated
- j. Brandishing weapons will not be tolerated
- k. No large amounts of garbage, food waste, or hoarding
- l. Tents can't be near a playground, pathway, open area of play, or on a flood plain, river embankments, roadways, private property, side walks, or bus shelters

2) 172 New employees - this is absurd. It's great that there is a need to hire, hopefully local, residents, but is this needed? Just like any business out there, they need to prove a case for each body requested. A thorough review of each current employee must be conducted to find deficiencies. You cannot tell me, in this age of technology, there are no inefficiencies. Especially since many of you stated that 8% is not sustainable each year. This should be postponed until 2026 to give the City/Region time to assess every department. 172 Employees @ \$19/hour x 40 hours x 50 weeks = \$6.5 million dollars. I'm sure residents would rather allow their tax dollars be spent to hire a private firm to assess all roles during the next year than hire 172 employees who may not all be needed, and hire who is left in 2026.

You have been doing an excellent job of thinking of tax payers during your meetings, and also thinking of the neighbourhood impacts when you consider the shelter situation. These are not easy things to do, so I thank you all for doing better this year. I know Kitchener has not seen the amount of growth we have seen this fast and the need for new housing, but we must consider the future as we build. We cannot build for the today, we have to think of the longevity & functionality of each item we invest/build.

Sincerely,  
Gina

## 6.2

Regional Council

Rethinking Budget Priorities:

Spending Ineffectiveness: Current government spending strategies are failing to address critical issues, as evidenced by the rising rates of homelessness year after year.

Urgency for Change: It is clear that the existing approach is not working. We need innovative, efficient solutions that tackle root causes rather than temporary fixes.

Economic Strain on Citizens: Canadians are struggling under the weight of economic pressures, and it's imperative to prioritize budgets in ways that directly alleviate these burdens and promote sustainable community well-being.

Thanks again for allowing me to speak,

Lanny Noble

A Canadian reluctantly standing up.