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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 1-2004

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, January 12, 2004 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Almas; Bailey; Baty; Casselman; Gabriel; Marshall; Rigby.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Ms. Reid, Commissioner, Community Services; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Mr. McKay, Program/Cost Analyst; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.

Other: Councillor Saracino.

CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Structure of the Budget Review Committee (BRC)

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report CHR 01-2004, January 14, 2003, respecting Structure of the Budget Review committee (BRC), be received and that Councillor Rob Gabriel and Councillor George Marshall, with Councillor Almas as Alternate, be appointed to the Budget Review Committee.

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

2. Pharmaceutical Services – Long-Term Care Facilities
Reference Number F.082000-RFP-11

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report COM 01-2004, January 12, 2004, respecting Pharmaceutical Services – Long-Term Care Facilities Reference Number F.082000-RFP-11, be received; and

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that the Region exercise the option to renew the current agreement with Medical Pharmacy Limited for an additional two (2) years of pharmaceutical services to the residents of the Region's eight (8) long-term care facilities, on a professional fee basis, which is 100 percent paid to the Pharmacy by the Provincial Government's Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program.

Carried.

ADMINISTRATION

3. Shared Service Agreement
The Regional Municipality of Niagara
and Niagara Regional Housing

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report CAO 1-2004, January 14, 2004, respecting Shared Service Agreement, The Regional Municipality of Niagara and Niagara Regional Housing, be received for information.

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT (continued)

4. Long Term Care Facilities: Current Issues in the Provision
Of Quality Care and in the Management of Related Risks

Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services, provided a detailed overview of Report COM 02-2004 regarding Long Term Care Facilities: Current Issues in the Provision of Quality Care and in the Management of Related

Risks. This report addresses the concerns raised by Councillors, and members of the public, following the recent series of high profile articles that appeared in the Toronto Star, and in other media sources in December. Mr. Ventresca highlighted the relationship of the eight long-term care facilities operated by the Region of Niagara and summarized the Region's initiatives in staffing levels, staff education and training in nurturing a caring and accountable culture. Regional Council has supported its long-term care facilities by supplementing the Provincial funding formula for nursing and personal care and by contributing to facility redevelopment. This financial support, along with the support of the community through donations, volunteers and community partners, and the resourceful care initiatives of staff have contributed to the quality care in the Region's facilities, and the effective management of risks associated with long term care.

Councillor Hildreth, Committee Chair, together with members of Committee, commended Mr. Ventresca on his leadership and staff in the Region's Homes for providing quality care to Niagara's seniors.

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 02-2004, January 12, 2004, respecting Long Term Care Facilities: Current Issues in the Provision of Quality Care and in the Management of Related Risks, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff directions on pages CSC 4 and 5.)

5. Supports to Employment Program (STEP) Pilot Evaluation

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That Report COM 03-2004, January 12, 2003, respecting Supports to Employment Program (STEP) Pilot Evaluation be received and that staff continue with the STEP/Childcare initiative.

Carried.

ACCOUNTS

6. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ending November 30, 2003 in the following amount be approved:

Community Services \$3,412,311.65

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

7. "Theming" Future Meetings

Ms. Reid, Commissioner of Community Services, asked Committee if they would like the concept of "theming" future meeting agendae and suggested the following dates and themes:

| | |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 26 | Housing and Housing Supports (Hostels, Homelessness) |
| Feb. 9 | Children's Services |
| Feb. 23 | Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities |
| March 8 | Seniors Services |

It was also suggested that Committee meet in program sites.

Committee members commented that they would be receptive to this idea. Committee asked that program presentations include clarification of whether a program is mandatory or discretionary and a summary of the budget outlining expenditures and revenues. Committee also asked that sufficient time on the location of the meeting be provided to ensure that members can schedule their time accordingly.

STAFF DIRECTION

That staff be directed to:

- (1) Forward a copy of Report COM 02-2003 to the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and offer any information about Niagara's facilities that could help her in her review of the long term care system. (Refer to minute no. 4.)

- (ii) Forward copies of Report COM 02-2003 to Family Advisory Councils and Residents Councils for information. (Refer to minute no. 4.)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 4:25 p.m. to meet again on Monday, January 26, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. – Site to be advised.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Acting Regional Clerk