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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 2-2004

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, January 26, 2004 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Marshall, Vice-Chair presiding; Partington, Regional Chair; Almas; Bailey; Baty; Casselman; Gabriel; Katzman; Mastroianni; Rigby.

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

Staff

Part-time: Community Services: Ms. Child, Cost Analyst; Ms. Horner, Manager, Children's Services; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Ms. Irish, Program/Cost Analyst; Mr. Packham, Program/Cost Analyst; Ms. Reger, Program/Cost Analyst; Ms. Stevenson, Manager, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services; Ms. Watson, Manager, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities.
Corporate Services: Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Ms. Murphy, Manager, Current and Capital Budgets.

Other: Councillor Saracino.

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET PRESENTATION

8. Community Services Department 2004 Current Budget

Ms. Reid, Commissioner, Community Services, introduced members of the department's budget team, commenting that the budget is developed by a number of staff who have worked diligently behind the scenes to prepare the budget presented today. The Commissioner commented that, while a review of the core services has taken place, it is not reflected in the budget but will be subject to a future presentation. However, there will be suggestions in a couple of areas where there is room for some adjustments on how the department provides its services.

Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities, highlighted the elements from Council's Vision, Goals and Objectives and outlined the Community Services Goals and how they link to Council's 2003-2006 Business Plan.

Mr. Hutchings advised that the 2004 current budget is proposed at \$56.2 million (net) reflecting a net expenditure increase of \$2,293,983 or 4.26% over the 2003 budget.

The Director highlighted the challenges and priorities of the Department as:

- Increase demands in service areas
- Pressures on Cost of Administration (SA&EO, Children's)
- Provincially operated program cost increases
- Variable economic climate
- Lack of affordable housing
- Opening of new long term care facility in Welland/Pelham

Mr. Hutchings provided an overview of the department's three divisions: Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; Children's Services and Seniors Services, detailing the program objectives, fiscal overview, program developments and fiscal challenges of each.

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That the presentation by Ms. Reid, Commissioner, Community Services and Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, respecting the Community Services Department 2004 Current Budget be received and referred to the Budget Review Committee for consideration with the 2004 Consolidated Budget.

Carried.

9. 2004 Capital Budget

Mr. Hutchings apprised Committee of the Community Services Department 2004 Capital Budget in the amount of \$499,500. The Capital Budget consists of:

• Roof repairs	\$123,000
• Repairs and Redecorating	98,000
• Resident Care Equipment	162,500
• Operating Equipment	42,000
• Bed Replacement	<u>74,000</u>
Total	\$ 499,500

10. 2004 Capital Program – Final Report

Moved by Councillor Mastroianni
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That Report CSD 153-2003, October 29, 2003, respecting 2004 Capital program – Final Report, be received and referred to the Budget Review Committee for consideration with the 2004 Consolidated Budget.

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

11. Amended 2002 Ontario Works Service Contract
Ministry of Community and Social Services

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 04-2004, January 26, 2004, respecting Amended 2002 Ontario Works Service Contract, Ministry of Community and Social Services, be received.

That the Regional Chairman and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2002 Ontario Works Service Contract Amendment 8-1 with the Ministry of Community and Social Services (Provincial Subsidy = \$200,000/Regional Levy = \$100,000).

Carried.

12. 2004 Long-Term Care Facility Service Agreements
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Report COM 05-2004, January 26, 2004, respecting 2004 Long-Term Care Facility Service Agreements Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), be received.

That the Regional Chairman and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2004 Long-Term Care Facility Service Agreements with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Provincial subsidy is based on the latest Subsidy Calculation Worksheet for 2002 subject to changes in the levels of care funding.

Estimated 2004: Provincial subsidy = \$26,000,000
Regional Levy = \$ 3,700,000

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

13. The Niagara Summit on Human Development
Conference Information

The Committee was provided with information on a conference being sponsored by Early Years Niagara, Early Childhood Community Development, Niagara College, Niagara Region and Youth Lifestyle Choices.

Councillors Katzman and Bailey noted their interest in attending the conference and they were instructed to contact Ms. Reid's office to complete their registration.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 4:40 p.m. to meet again on Monday, February 9, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at the St. Catharines Child Care Centre at 179 Carlton Street, St. Catharines.

George Marshall
Vice-Chair presiding

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Janet Pilon
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Acting Regional Clerk