

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 11-2004

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on July 12, 2004, commencing at 3:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Staff

Part-time: Ms. Biggs, Casemanager; Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Ms. Horner, Manager, Children's Services; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; Ms. McBrain, Manager, Children's Services; Mr. Pelette, Manager, Housing, Hostels and Homelessness; Mr. Smith, Coordinator, Policy, Planning and Research; Ms. Stevenson, Manager, Community Services.

Others: Councillor Timms; Eleanor Dolan.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

83. Transportation Services for Adult Day Program
Our Reference F.08#2004-RFP-04-Award of Contract

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 45-2004, July 12, 2004, respecting Transportation Services for Adult Day Program, Our Reference F.08#2004-RFP-04-Award of Contract, be received.

That a contract be awarded for Request for Proposal #2004-RFP-04, covering the Transportation Services for Adult Day Programs, for the period commencing August 2, 2004 and expiring August 1, 2009 (60

months), to the low bidder meeting the specified requirements, Laidlaw Transit Ltd., Burlington, Ontario, at a total estimated cost, including 3% Net G.S.T. of \$1,961,007.81 (100% Provincially funded).

Carried.

84. Update on the City of St. Catharines Homelessness Situation

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Report COM 46-2004, July 12, 2004, respecting Update on the City of St. Catharines Homelessness Situation, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CSC 53.)

85. Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
Staff Direction – COM 37-2004

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report COM 47-2004, July 12, 2004, respecting Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Staff Direction COM 37-2004, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CSC 53.)

86. Newcomer Caseload Information

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report COM 48-2004, July 12, 2004, respecting Newcomer Caseload Information, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CSC 53.)

87. Impact to Niagara Region of
Provincial Budget Announcement – Vision Care

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 49-2004, July 12, 2004, respecting Impact to Niagara Region of Provincial Budget Announcement – Vision Care, be received for information.

That a letter be sent to Minister Papatello, Minister of Community and Social Services (MCSS) to provide clarity on the financial impact to the Niagara Region of this decision.

Carried.

88. 2004 Rate Increases for
Community Child Care Service Providers

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 50-2004, July 12, 2004, respecting 2004 Rate Increases for Community Child Care Services Providers, be received.

That per diem market rates for child care service providers who have active purchase of service agreements with the Region be increased to reflect the Service Providers market rates.

That costs associated with the per diem market rate increases be managed within Children's Services 2004 operating budget.

That retroactive per diem market rate allowances to January 2004 be authorized for all child care service providers with an active purchase of service agreement based on agencies approved 2004 budget submission.

Carried.

89. Seniors Community Programs Funding Contract 2004

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Report COM 51-2004, July 12, 2004, respecting Seniors Community Programs Funding Contract 2004, be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2004 Seniors Community Programs Funding contract with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) (Provincial = \$2,790,035; Net Regional Expenditure = \$99,902).

Carried.

90. Oral Report: Increase in Social Assistance and O.D.S.P.

Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, provided an update on the proposed rate increases for Social Assistance and O.D.S.P. Due to computer adjustments, clients will receive the increases in their monthly payments, effective February 28th, 2005 for O.D.S.P. and March 31st, 2005 for Ontario Works. They will receive lump payments for the increase on October 1st, 2004 and December 1st, 2004. Mr. Hutchings advised that, while the details are still unknown, the Province is changing its funding formula with respect to the Employment Assistance funding module. The impact of these changes on the budget is not known at this time. A report will be presented in August providing details on this matter.

CORRESPONDENCE

91. Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Communication CSC 4-2004, respecting Report CSD 85-2004, June 9, 2004, Closure of Capital Projects, be received.

Carried.

ACCOUNTS

92. Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the Period Ending May 31, 2004 in the amount of \$2,875,994.40, be approved.

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the Period Ending June 30, 2004 in the amount of \$3,150,067.33, be approved.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

93. Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to a personnel matter.

Carried.

94. Moved by Councillor Mastroianni
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That this Committee do now rise without report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

That staff be directed to:

- (i) provide status memorandums for circulation to Committee Members on the Homelessness and other contentious issues. (Refer to minute item 84.)
- (ii) provide further information if available on why the Niagara ODSP caseload is growing at a rate greater than the provincial average. (Refer to minute item 85.)
- (iii) provide further information on research studies being done with respect to Newcomers in Niagara and examine a costs/benefits analysis. (Refer to minute item 86.)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 4:50 p.m. to meet again on Monday, August 9, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters Building.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Acting Regional Clerk