

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 3-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on January 24, 2005, 2004, commencing at 3:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Staff

Part-time: Mr. Bousfield, Mgr, Property & Facilities Management; Mr. Hunter, Acting Director, Seniors Services; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; Mr. Pelette, Manager, Housing, Hostels and Homelessness.

Others: Councillor Timms.

PRESENTATION

14. Family Violence Initiative

Sgt. James Baskerville, Niagara Regional Police, together with Ms. Gay Douglas Broerse, Project Manager, attended to address the issue of Family Violence. Ms. Gillian Dooley, Executive Director, Women's Place, was also in attendance. Sgt. Baskerville advised that the Domestic Violence Unit of Niagara Regional Police and Women's Place of St. Catharines and North Niagara have worked collaboratively and served many of the same victims of violence. The partners have focused their attention on a two-pronged initiative: a multi-year strategy to educate the community about the impacts of family violence and to create a "Made in Niagara" prevention plan. Domestic violence, he commented is "Everybody's Business: and a public health, safety and economic issue. Phase One is an educational summit for community leaders to build a collaborative understanding approach to the issue of family violence. The conference is scheduled for April 27th, 2005 at the Quality Parkway Conference Centre, Ontario St. in St. Catharines, and will feature a slate of outstanding speakers. Phase Two – September 2005 to February 2006 is to build on the success and outcomes of Phase One and to develop and create educational tools. An

enhanced website is proposed with downloadable materials, “train the trainer” workshops and educational resources, including training manuals and videos. A registration web site is now accessible at www.everybodysbusiness.ca. Registration can also be made by contacting the project manager at 905-714-4307.

Councillor Hildreth, Committee Chair, thanked Sgt. Baskerville for his most informative presentation.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the presentation by Sgt. James Baskerville, Niagara Regional Police, regarding the Family Violence Initiative, be received.

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

15. Seniors Services Accreditation Award

Mr. Ventresca, Acting Commissioner, Community Service, provided an overview of the process and results of the 2004 Accreditation Survey of the eight Regional long-term care homes conducted by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation. The survey recommendations will be incorporated into the specific home’s strategic objectives and lead to further quality improvement in care and service to the residents.

Mr. Ventresca commented that the success in achieving Accreditation status is the result of Regional Council’s support and the team effort of staff and volunteers in all homes, with the support of the residents, families and the broader community. Regional Council will be recognizing the Accreditation Award at its meeting of February 3, 2005.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 09-2005, January 24, 2005, respecting Seniors Services Accreditation Award, be received for information.

Carried.

16. Future Directions for legislation Governing Long-Term Care

Mr. Hunter provided committee with a summary of the response from the Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors (OANHSS) to the provincial government regarding the government's intent to introduce new long-term care Legislation. Mr. Hunter highlighted the four key elements: Resident/Consumer Rights; Not-for-Profit Delivery; Accountability and Funding and System Performance. The OANHSS is cautioning the government that the legislation should provide a balance between ensuring accountability for care and allowing high quality, flexible and innovative care.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 10-2005, January 24, 2005, respecting Future Directions for Legislation Governing Long-Term Care, be received for information.

Carried.

17. Addressing Increased Need for Complex Care
In Long-Term Care Homes

Mr. Hunter highlighted Report COM 11-1005, providing information on how Seniors Services is addressing the increased need for complex care for residents in the long-term care homes.

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 11-2005, January 24, 2005, respecting Addressing Increased Need for Complex Care in Long-Term Care Homes, be received for information.

Carried.

18. Lift Initiative Agreement with the
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 12-2005, January 24, 2005, respecting Lift Initiative Agreement with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), be received: and

That the Regional Chairman and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the Lift Initiative Agreement with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) in order to receive the identified funds totaling \$501,799 for resident mechanical lifts and the implementation of educational programs.

Carried.

19. Two-Stage Application Process for Social Assistance:
Elimination of the Intake Screening Unit

Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities, provided details of the elimination of the two-stage application process for Ontario Works and the timeline for preparation of the implementation Business Plan and transition funding plan. Once, the one-step application service delivery model for the intake of Social Assistance is completed, it will be forwarded to the Province for approval following Council's approval.

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 13-2005, January 24, 2005, respecting Two-Stage Application Process for Social Assistance: Elimination of the Intake Screening Unit, be received for information.

Carried.

20. Hostel and Homelessness Service Operations in Niagara:
A Status Report

Mr. Hutchings provided a status report on the hostel and homelessness service operations in Niagara, the current environment in which they operate and staff involvement in future plans.

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 14-2005, January 24, 2005, respecting Hostel and Homelessness Service Operations in Niagara: A Status Report, be received for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

21. Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Communication CSC 1-2005 from Kevin Constante, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community and Social Services (January 7, 2005) thanking the Regional Municipality of Niagara for the involvement and assistance in responding to the refugee sheltering emergency that occurred in December 2004, be received for information.

Carried.

22. Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Communication CSC 2-2005 from Carolyn Downs, City Clerk, City of Kingston (Dec. 15, 2004) seeking support for its Council's resolution regarding "Stop the National Child Benefit Supplement Claw Back, be received and supported.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

23. Recognition of Community Volunteers – Refugee Matter

Mr. Ventresca advised that an informal reception with light refreshments will be held in the cafeteria at regional headquarters between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to extend appreciation to the community agencies and volunteers, who dealt with the emergency situation of settling refugees entering at the Fort Erie Border. Following this, a certificate presentation to the representatives of the community agencies will take place at the Council meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

24. Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Baty

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

Carried.

25. Lease –Dr. Fingland Centre
From the Corporation of the City of Niagara Falls
City of Niagara Falls

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 15-2005, January 24, 2005 (PWA 18-2005, January 25, 2005), respecting Lease – Dr. Fingland Centre from the Corporation of the City of Niagara Falls, City of Niagara Falls, be received and approved and forwarded to Regional Council for final approval.

Carried.

26. Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 5:10 p.m. to meet again on Monday, February 7, 2005, at 3:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters Building.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk
/Associate Director of Corporate Strategy