

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 4-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on February 7, 2005, commencing at 3:35 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Staff

Part-time: Mr. Hunter, Acting Director, Seniors Services; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities.

Others: Mr. Papp, Program Manager, Opportunities Niagara.

PRESENTATION

27. **Welland Community Resources and Action Centre**

Gareth Mongrain, Project Chair, Shelter Committee and Sharon Kerr, Board Chair, Welland Community Resource and Action Centre, attended to speak on the provision of emergency hostel services to provide short-term emergency housing for women and men. Mr. Mongrain presented slides of the Welland Emergency Hostel facility, noting that it can accommodate 22 persons and is completely accessible. Committee was apprised of local pressures, such as plant closures, low rental vacancy rates, long waiting lists and a high number of clients who were homeless or at risk of being homeless that motivated the establishment of the shelter committee to address this issue. Mr. Mongrain thanked the Community Partners for their contributions to the shelter.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

28. Purchase of Service Agreement with the
Welland Community Resources and Action Centre
For the Provision of Emergency Hostel Services

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 17-2005, February 7, 2005, respecting Purchase of Service Agreement with the Welland Community Resources and Action Centre for the provision of Emergency Hostel Services, be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into a Purchase of Service Agreement with the Welland Community Resources and Action Centre to:

- a. Provide up to 22 emergency hostel beds for the provision of emergency hostel services.
- b. Compensate the Welland Community Resources and Action Centre \$39.14 per diem which will be cost shared between the Province and the Region on an 80/20 basis.

Carried.

29. Housing Update: The Strong Communities
Rent Supplement Program

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report COM 16-2005, February 7, 2005, respecting Housing Update: the Strong communities Rent Supplement Program, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff directions on page CSC 18.)

30. Niagara's Local Model for One-Stage Application Process

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 18-2005, February 5, 2005, respecting Niagara's Local Model for One-Stage Application Process, be received.

That the Niagara Region Implementation Plan for transition to a one-step Ontario Works application from a two-step application be approved;

That staff be authorized to work within the approved 2005 Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities (SAEO) budget to negotiate with the Province of Ontario.

That staff provide a follow-up report on final budgetary considerations after the Province of Ontario has approved the plan and negotiations are complete; and

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents related to this matter.

Carried.

31. Diagnostic & Medical Equipment Agreement with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 20-2005, February 7, 2005, respecting Diagnostic & Medical Equipment Agreement with the 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 Diagnostic & Medical Equipment Agreement with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) in order to receive the identified funds totaling \$500,027 for the replacement of diagnostic and medical equipment.

Carried.

32. Diagnostic & Medical Equipment Application and Agreement With the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) For Seniors Community Programs

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 21-2005, February 7, 2005, respecting Diagnostic & Medical Equipment Application and Agreement with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) for Seniors Community Programs, be received.

That the Regional Chairman and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the Diagnostic & Medical Equipment Application and Agreement with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) in order to receive the identified funds totaling approximately \$47,000 for home and community care equipment subject to approval by the Province.

Carried.

33.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Ventresca, Acting Commissioner, Community Services, advised that the Niagara Region's Community Services is hosting the 2005 OMSSA Learning Symposium which will be held at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls from June 1 to 3. He commented that 250 people from across the Province will be visiting the Niagara Region. Regional staff will be involved in the organization of the symposium. Regional Councillors are invited to attend and will be provided information on the workshops if interested.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Communication CSC 3-2005 from Dominic Ventresca, Acting Commissioner of Community Services, regarding 2005 Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) Learning Symposium June 1-3, 2005, Sheraton Fallsview, Niagara Falls, be received.

Carried.

ACCOUNTS

34. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ending December 31, 2004 in the amount of \$4,660,890.36, be approved.

Carried.

35. Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ending January 31, 2005 in the amount of \$3,879,467.31, be approved.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

36. Newspaper Article “Life on Workfare: A Revolving Door”

Councillor Hildreth, Committee Chair, circulated a newspaper article “Life on Workfare: A Revolving Door”, for information to Committee.

CLOSED SESSION

37. Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

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

Carried.

38. Niagara’s Local Model for One-Stage Application Process:
Human Resource Implications

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report COM 19-2004, February 7, 2005 (HR 08-2005, February 8, 2005) respecting Niagara’s Local Model for One-Stage Application Process: Human Resource Implications, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved and referred to Council for final approval.

Carried.

39. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Request Niagara Regional Housing to explore other sources of revenue funding to supplement MMAH funding. (Refer to minute 29.)
- (ii) Inquire as to the amount of rent supplement funding the City of Hamilton received. (Refer to minute 29.)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 4:05 p.m. to meet again on Monday, February 21, 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