

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 11-2008

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health and Social Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, 2201 St. David's Road, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, September 16, 2008 at 2:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Baty, Co-Chair; Casselman, Co-Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Cordiner; Goulbourne; Greenwood; Henderson; Katzman; Marshall; Rigby.

Councillors

Other: Councillor Saracino.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Other: Community Services: Ms. McBrain, Manager, Children's Services; Mr. Murphy, RNAAC staff liaison; Ms. O'Hagan-Todd, Director, Children's Services; Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Mr. Todd, Manager, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities.

Public Health: Ms. Bell, Manager, Healthy Babies\Healthy Children; Mr. Cunnane, Director, Emergency Services Division; Ms. Jugley, Manager, Community Mental Health Program; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services; Dr. Tran, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention.

Administration: Ms. Papaiz, Senior Manager, Corporate Communications.

Corporate Services: Mr. Moffatt, Manager, Properties Management; Mr. Pilon, Associate Director, Service Quality & Improvement.

Others: Ms. J. Gagne, Chair, Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee; Ms. D. Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator.

OTHER BUSINESS

170. Niagara Children's Water Festival

Councillor Baty apprised members of the Niagara Children's Water Festival taking place this week at Balls Falls. The festival promotes water conservation and preservation through various activities and events and class sessions to grade three students.

PRESENTATION

171. Ontarians with Disabilities Act/Access For Ontarians with Disabilities

Ms. Jocelyn Gagne, Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee, attended to provide a presentation on the 2008-2009 Accessibility Plan. Ms. Gagne apprised Committee of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001(ODA) and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) legislation and its objective to have an accessible Ontario by 2025. The AODA includes both the public and private sectors.

Ms. Gagne highlighted the following Customer Service Standards:

- Recognizes dignity, independence, integration and equality
- Persons with a disability should have equal access to goods and services
- Non-compliance penalties (Corporate fine \$100,000/day of offence)
- Compliance deadline
 - January 1, 2010 public sector
 - January 1, 2012 private sector

Customer Service Regulations came into effect on January 1, 2008 with a public sector organization compliance date of January 1, 2010.

Ms. Gagne outlined the activities of the Region's Accessibility Advisory Committee in preparing and implementing an annual accessibility plan, highlighting the successes achieved related to Audit training; Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS) (published by the Region and adopted by many area municipalities); Strobe fire alarms; Audible Pedestrian Traffic signals; and staff liaison and communication.

The presenter described six barriers as identified by the Province of Ontario:

- Attitudinal
- Policy/Practice
- Architectural
- Physical
- Information or Communication
- Technological

Accessibility training has been provided, through a partnership with the Ontario March of Dimes, to staff and Councillors with great success. The committee believes that continued focus on the identification of potential barriers and the underlying issues facing persons with disabilities will assist staff in identifying and removing barriers.

In asking "What does accessibility mean to the community and business?" the presenter stated:

- More customers
- More economic growth
- More community inclusion
- More community benefit
- More revenue

In conclusion, Ms. Gagne commented that "People with disabilities are still people. Disability does not change basic human needs and desires."

Ms. Gagne, on behalf of Niagara's Accessibility Advisory Committee, thanked Committee and council for their proactive support of accessibility.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

172. Ontarians with Disabilities Act/
Access for Ontarians with Disabilities Act
COM 49-2008

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report COM 49-2008, September 16, 2008, respecting Ontarians with Disabilities Act/Access for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, be received; and

That the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001, 2008-2009 Accessibility Plan be approved.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

173. Tobacco-free Sports and Recreation
Niagara IceDogs Partnership

Ms. Maria Brigantino, Health Promoter, apprised Committee of the new partnership with the Niagara IceDogs to address the goal of tobacco-free sports and recreation in Niagara. The "Send tobacco to the penalty box - pledge to be tobacco free" Initiative is an effort to encourage youth, players, coaches and spectators to make positive decisions about tobacco. Ms. Brigantino highlighted

the promotional items designed to encourage individuals to visit the Niagara Region website to pledge to be tobacco free, while learning more about tobacco-related issues. Regional Councillors are invited to attend the launch on September 27, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Jack Gatecliff Arena.

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That the presentation from Maria Brigantino, Health Promoter and the memorandum from Dr. R. Williams regarding "Send tobacco to the penalty box...pledge to be tobacco free" Initiative, be received.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION (continued)

174. Niagara Health System Hospital Improvement Plan –
The Public Health Interface
MOH 01-2008

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Casselman declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any matters relating to the Hospital Improvement Plan as submitted to the Local Health Integrated Network by the Niagara Health System as it has the potential to affect her husband's practice of Urology in St. Catharines, and she therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report MOH 01-2008, September 16, 2008, respecting Niagara Health System Hospital Improvement Plan – the Public Health Interface, be received for information and circulated to the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), their consultant Dr. Jack Kitts, and Niagara Health System.

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That the appropriate Regional staff be actively involved during the implementation of the Hospital Improvement Plan.

Carried.

Upon a vote being taken, the original motion, as amended, was carried.

175. Increasing Prosperity for Niagara Families Living in Poverty
COM 53-2008

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report COM 53-2008, September 16, 2008, respecting Increasing Prosperity for Niagara Families Living in Poverty, be received; and

That staff be authorized to reinvest the cost savings in social assistance of approximately \$1.5 million as a result of the implementation of the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) toward increasing prosperity for Niagara families living in poverty. The initiatives will be launched through a two year agreement with Opportunities Niagara and the Business Education Council.

Carried.

176. 5-2008 (AAC)

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report 5-2008 (AAC) being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians with Disabilities Act meeting of Tuesday, July 15, 2008, be received and approved.

Carried.

177. 6-2008 (AAC)

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report 6-2008 (AAC) being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians with Disabilities Act meeting of Tuesday, August 12, 2008, be received and approved.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (continued)

178. Liaisons/External Committees Inventory
For Niagara Region Public Health (NRPH)
PHD 44-2008

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 44-2008, September 16, 2008, respecting Liaisons/External Committees Inventory for Niagara Region Public Health (NRPH), be received for information.

Carried.

179. Ministry Approval of Public Health Department's
2008 Budget Funding
PHD 46-2008

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 46-2008, September 16, 2008, respecting Ministry Approval of Public Health Department's 2008 Budget Funding, be received for information.

Carried.

180. Wage Subsidy
COM 50-2008

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report COM 50-2008, September 16, 2008, respecting Wage Subsidy, be received for information.

Carried.

181. 2008 New Provincial Child Care Funding
COM 51-2008

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report COM 51-2008, September 16, 2008, respecting 2008 New Provincial Child Care Funding, be received for information.

Carried.

182. One-Time Health and Safety Funding
COM 52-2008

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report COM 52-2008, September 16, 2008, respecting One-Time Health and Safety Funding, be received for information.

Carried.

183. 5-2008 (JAC)

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report 5-2008 (JAC) being the minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee Wainfleet Water & Wastewater Servicing Project meeting of August 18, 2008, be received.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

184. Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That the following communications be received.

PHSS 46-2008 Pier Falotico, Director, Financial Management Branch, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, (August 11, 2008) regarding 2007 Long-Term Care Home Subsidy Calculation Worksheet.

PHSS 47-2008 Allison J. Stuart, A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (August 12, 2008) regarding Release of the 2008 Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic.

PHSS 48-2008 Susan Daniels, City Clerk, City of Thorold (August 15, 2008) regarding its Council's resolution re: Pizza Days

PHSS 49-2008 David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (August 14, 2008) regarding funding for mandatory and related programs.

PHSS 50-2008 M. R. Best, Minister of Health Promotion (August 26, 2008) advising that the province is providing the Niagara Region with \$946,720 for Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy programming for the period of January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008.

PHSS 51-2008 Sid Ryan, President, CUPE Ontario (August 25, 2008), asking that Wednesday, October 22nd, 2008 be proclaimed as Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS (continued)

185. Contraband Tobacco

Councillor Greenwood inquired as to whether any further information has come forward on the control of the sale of the contraband tobacco and asked what the responsibilities of Council and Public Health are should they become aware of such activities. Dr. Sider commented that the Tobacco Control Officers would channel any information regarding this matter to the appropriate Provincial and Federal authorities.

CLOSED SESSION

186. Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to the proposed acquisition of land by the municipality from the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Carried.

187. Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality
From the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Confidential PHD 45-2008 (CSD 122-2008)

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report PHD 45-2008, September 16, 2008 (CSD 122-2008, September 17, 2008) respecting Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality from the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved, subject to further information and approval of this report by the Corporate Services Committee.

Carried.

188. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

That staff:

- (i) Provide further financial information to the Corporate Services Committee (at its meeting of September 17th) regarding Confidential Report PHD 45-2008/CSD 122-2008. (Refer to minute 187.)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3:45 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Judy Casselman
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk