

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 13-2008

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, November 18, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Councillors

Other: Councillor Puttick.

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

Staff

Other: Community Services: Ms. Bellows, Supervisor, Child Care Centre; Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services; Ms. Martin, Manager, Children's Services; Ms. O'Hagan-Todd, Director, Children's Services; Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.

Public Health: Mr. Christensen, Director, Environmental Health; Mr. Cunnane, Director, E.M.S.; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Ms. Jugley, Manager, Community Mental Health; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Ms. Levay, Manager, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Ms. Loewen, Manager, Sexual Health Program; Ms. Sequin, Health Promoter; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Smith, Associate Director, E.M.S.; Mr. Spencer, Manager, Sexual Health Program; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services; Dr. Tran, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Van Valkenburg, Associate Director, E.M.S.; Mr. Young, Manager, Environmental Health.

Administration: Mr. Roberts, Executive Officer to Regional Chair.

Corporate Services: Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services.

Human Resources: Mr. Miron, Manager, Workforce Planning.

OTHER BUSINESS

205. Niagara Immigration Portal

Councillor Baty, Co-Chair, apprised Committee of the launching of the Niagara Immigration Portal held on November 13, 2008 in the Atrium of Campbell East. The web portal www.niagaraimmigration.ca is a single point of access to provide information about Niagara for prospective immigrants from around the world.

PRESENTATION

206. 2009 Corporate Budget

Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services, presented an overview of the 2009 Corporate Budget. The Commissioner defined "Affordability" as "Living Within Niagara Taxpayers' Means". This would require that increases in rates and taxes be less than increases in householders' income. Capital Budget impacts would need to be consistent with Current Budget guidelines.

A chart was provided detailing employment growth for the period 2003 to 2008 for Waterloo Region, Oshawa, London, Toronto, Windsor, Hamilton and St. Catharines-Niagara. Statistics indicate Waterloo Region had the highest percentage employment growth at 13.6% and St. Catharines-Niagara the lowest at 3.5%. The average percentage change for this period is 8.3%.

BMA statistics presented for these areas, as well as Ottawa-Gatineau, indicate St. Catharines-Niagara had lower average incomes and a higher share of seniors which contribute to Niagara's lower than average household incomes.

Information was provided on the net average income; property taxes and rate programs; consumption taxes and income and employment taxes for a typical taxpayer household for the years 2004 to 2008 which indicates an average of approximately 6% of those monies go to taxes.

Charts were provided depicting Excess of Regional Annual Increase over Taxpayer Income Growth and Real Assessment Growth for 2007, 2008 and 2009. In 2009, the five year average Region increase is 4.6% with real assessment growth and taxpayer income growth 3.4%. This would leave an affordability gap of 1.2%. The budget target of 3.4% attributes to a levy increase of \$9.3 million; rate supported increase of \$4.3 million, for a total increase of \$13.6 million.

Capital Budget goals were described as developing an affordable 10 year Capital Plan while maintaining credit rating and controlling debt within Policy for Annual Repayment Limit (ARL).

“Capital Cash Demand” over 10 years was shown as approximately \$1.6 billion, based on plans for all departments, Agencies Boards and Commissions and roads, water and wastewater needs. Approximately half of the Region’s 10 year capital spending requests are for sewer and water infrastructure, with another \$416 million requested for roads. Also included in the \$1.6 billion of requests is a proposed \$100 million Police Accommodations Plan.

A demand of \$1.6 billion was presented for Capital Programs over the next 10 years. The best estimate for Capital Affordability over this period is \$1.3 billion with an affordability gap of \$300 million.

In conclusion, Mr. Hutchings provided the following comments:

- Can’t do everything
- Prioritization/allocation necessary
- Levers to be managed (DCS/Transfers)
- Relieve annual 1%↑ from levy
- Affordable 10 Year Capital Plan
- Maintain Credit Rating
- Control Debt within Policy for Annual Repayment Limit (ARL)

(Please note that the 2009 Corporate Budget can be found behind the CSC Blue Book Tab)

207. 2009 Community Services Budget

Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services, provided an overview of the proposed 2009 Community Services Budget noting the total clients served by the department as 53,341. Ms. Cousins highlighted the challenges and priorities of the Community Services Department that include:

- Community planning mechanism
- Child poverty
- Sustaining of early learning and child care
- Increase level of care for seniors

The proposed 2009 Community Services Budget totals gross expenditures of \$320,404,511 and net expenditures of \$59,889,836. This represents an increase in gross expenditures of \$6,258,650 or 1.99% and a decrease in net expenditures of \$1,223,947 or -2.00%. Provincially operated programs decreased 7.90%. Ms. Cousins provided a breakdown of the net impact and changes on the department’s programs and services.

An organization chart and breakdown of FTEs by Divisions for a total of 1,041.6 FTEs was highlighted indicating a 0.0 variance over 2008.

Provincially Operated Programs

Ms. Cousins highlighted the Provincially Operated Programs objectives and fiscal challenges. The proposed 2009 Provincially Operated Programs Budget totals gross expenditures of \$140,530,764 and net expenditures of \$28,196,403 representing a net change of (\$2,419,724). Provincial Uploading of ODSP Administration resulted in decreased expenditures to support Provincially Operated Programs of \$705,148 gross/\$2,419,724 net.

Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities (SAEO)

Ms. Cousins provided an overview of program developments and fiscal challenges for the Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities Division. The proposed 2009 SAEO Budget totals gross expenditures of \$82,899,072 and net expenditures of \$20,236,278, representing a net change of \$885,215. Ms. Cousins briefly described the SAEO Division quality highlights and key outcome indicators.

Children's Services

Ms. Cousins provided an overview of program developments and fiscal challenges for the Children's Services Division. The proposed 2009 Children's Services Budget totals gross expenditures of \$30,463,308 and net expenditures of \$5,455,011 representing a net change of \$129,653. Ms. Cousins briefly described the Children's Services quality highlights and key outcome indicators.

Seniors Services

Ms. Cousins provided an overview of program developments and fiscal challenges for the Seniors Services Division. The proposed 2009 Seniors Services Budget totals gross expenditures of \$65,855,175 and net expenditures of \$5,912,144 representing a net change of \$179,291. A chart was presented illustrating that total net Regional expenditures for Operating and Capital Budgets for Seniors Services has remained below the 1995 level from 1996 to 2009. The Director briefly described the Seniors Services quality highlights and key outcome indicators.

2009 Budget Summary

- Uploading of Administration of Provincially Operated Programs net of increased caseload for ODSP allowance and benefits attributes to a reduction of \$2,419,724 on the Community Services budget from 2008.
- Meet increased care needs and expectations in long term care homes when inflation exceeds base funding increases
- Increased costs for salaries, benefits and operating expenditures not being met by increases in Provincial revenues

Community Services 2009 Economic Contingencies

The Community Services Budget is a status quo budget.

Risks:

- Increased demand for child care subsidy
- Bad debt expenses in Seniors and Children's
- Increased caseload growth in SAEO
- Increased demand for employment/training programs in SAEO
- Increased homelessness

Mitigation Strategies:

- Social Assistance Reserve Fund is available to support a deficit in SAEO
- Child Care subsidy wait list

Community Services 2009 Capital Budget

The proposed 2009 Community Services Capital Budget was presented as follows:

Seniors Services:

Roof repairs	\$ 29,000
Capital Improvements/Repairs	\$ 216,500
Resident Care Equipment	\$ 232,500
Machinery & Equipment	\$ 182,000
Bed Replacement	\$ 90,000

Children's Services:

Child Care Centres	\$ 100,000
Child Care Facility	<u>\$ 650,000</u>

Total \$1,500,000

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That the 2009 Community Services Budget be received and referred for consideration to the Budget Review Committee of the Whole.

Carried.

208. 2009 Public Health Budget

Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health highlighted the Public Health Department's 2009 Budget priorities as follows:

- Ensure robust 2009 PHD strategic planning process;
- Shape PHD programs and services according to Program Standards and Protocols to be announced;
- Support departmental, corporate and community initiatives contributing to a reduction in rates of overweight/obesity;
- Develop and recommend strategies that mitigate and/or capitalize on potential future climate change;
- Continue the development of sound retention, recruitment, and student strategies, to ensure a robust public health workforce for Niagara;
- Jointly develop an evaluation tool and continue refinement of the tool to meet the requirements of the Ambulance Dispatch contract with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services, provided information on the 2009 Public Health Department's FTEs noting 635.5 FTEs for 2009, representing an increase of 0.3 FTEs over 2008 approved FTEs of 635.2.

The proposed 2009 Public Health Budget totals gross expenditures of \$64,427,358 and net expenditures of \$19,888,706, representing a gross expenditures increase of \$2,687,786 (4.35%) and a net expenditures increase of \$1,079,034 (5.74%) over the 2008 approved budget. Mr. Jones briefly described the 2009 Public Health Department Budget challenges and issues.

Mandatory (General) Programs

The proposed 2009 Budget for Mandatory (General) Programs totals gross expenditures of \$24,858,565 and net expenditures of \$6,515,413. This represents a gross expenditures increase of \$1,020,804 or 4.28% and a net expenditures increase of \$155,190 or 2.44% over the 2008 approved budget. Mr. Jones highlighted the Mandatory (General) Programs 2009 Budget challenges.

Vector Borne Diseases (VBD)

The proposed 2009 Budget for Vector-Borne Programs totals gross expenditures of \$1,295,335 and net expenditures of \$258,259. This represents a gross expenditures increase of \$287,147 or 2.85% and a net expenditures increase of \$6,211 or 2.50% over the 2008 approved budget. Mr. Jones highlighted the Vector Borne Disease 2009 program challenges.

100% Funded Programs

The proposed 2009 Budget for 100% Funded Programs totals gross expenditures of \$7,808,584 which represents a gross expenditures increase of \$375,493 or 4.59% over the 2008 approved budget (net expenditures increase – 0%). Mr. Jones highlighted the 100% Funded Programs 2009 budget challenges.

Emergency Services Division

Mr. Van Valkenberg, Associate Director, Emergency Services Division, provided an overview of the Emergency Services Division program objectives and performance measures. The proposed 2009 Budget for Emergency Services Division totals gross expenditures of \$25,465,288 and net expenditures of \$13,115,036. This represents a gross expenditures increase of \$1,159,797 or 4.77% and a net expenditures increase of \$917,635 or 7.52% over the 2008 approved budget. Mr. Van Valkenberg highlighted the Division's 2009 budget challenges.

Ambulance Communications

The proposed 2009 Budget for Ambulance Communications totals gross expenditures of \$4,999,586 and net expenditures of \$0. This represents an increase in gross expenditures of \$595,531 or 13.52% over the 2008 approved budget. This program is 100% funded through contract with Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Mr. Van Valkenberg highlighted the program's 2009 budget challenges.

Public Health 2009 Capital Budget

The Public Health 2009 Capital Budget was presented as follows:

Welland PH Satellite Office (Renovations & maintenance)	\$2,600,000
Emergency Services - Vehicles & Equipment	<u>\$ 910,000</u>
Total 2009 Capital Budget	\$3,510,000

- Welland satellite office new location – renovations. One-time funding request – MOHLTC
- Future capital projects – Other satellite office requirements
- EMS – ongoing vehicle and equipment costs
 - \$455,000 funded by MOHLTC
 - \$455,000 funded by Region

Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That the 2009 Public Health Budget be received and referred for consideration to the Budget Review Committee of the Whole.

Carried

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

209. Safe Water Program – Public Bathing Beaches
PHD 56-2008

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 56-2008, November 18, 2008, respecting Safe Water Program – Public Bathing Beaches, be received.

That this Committee recommend to Regional Council that Niagara Region Public Health be supported in its initiatives to improve and strengthen the beach monitoring program, in an effort to be more responsible to public needs and more proactive in the protection of the health of beach users.

Carried.

210. By-Law Creation for Acceptance of Funding Initiative
to Hire an Offload Nurse – Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Memorandum of Agreement
PHD 60-2008

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 60-2008, November 18, 2008, respecting By-Law Creation for Acceptance of Funding Initiative to Hire an Offload Nurse – Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Memorandum of Agreement, be received.

That Regional Council create a By-law as requested in the funding template document from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re: Offload ER Nurse, as per section 2.2(b) of the attached report;

That funding be allowed to be received by the Region of Niagara and distributed to Niagara Health System (NHS) for payment of services received from the Offload delay nurse program as per section 4.4 of the attached report; and

That Senior Management for Emergency Medical Services be allowed to enter into an agreement with NHS for the hiring of a nurse to address offload delay in the St. Catharines General Hospital, as per the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Agreement and the subsequent negotiated contract between NHS and Niagara EMS.

Carried.

211. 2008 Seniors Services Amending Agreements
Between Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB)
Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and Niagara Region
For Personal Support Worker (PSW) Initial
COM 58-2008

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 58-2008, November 18, 2008, respecting 2008 Seniors Services Amending Agreements between Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and Niagara Region for Personal Support Worker (PSW) Initiative, be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into a 2008 Amending Agreement for each of the eight long-term care homes with Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) for the receipt of base funding of \$456,057 (annualized) for creating up to 7.7 Personal Support Worker (PSW) positions.

Carried.

212. Recruitment and Educational Incentives for Registered Nursing Staffing in Seniors Services
COM 59-2008 (CSD 152-2008)

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report COM 59-2008, November 18, 2008 (CSD 152-2008, November 19, 2008) respecting Recruitment and Educational Incentives for Registered Nursing Staffing in Seniors Services, be received; and

That staff:

- a) Introduce for a trial period of one year, an employee referral award program to complement the recruitment efforts for Registered Nurses (RNs) and Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs) in Seniors Services; and
- b) Explore educational incentives to develop existing nursing staff to RN and RPN status accompanied by subsequent time-defined work commitments.

Carried.

(Please note that Report CSD 152-2008 (COM 59-2008) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

213. Migrant Farm Worker Housing Inspections
PHD 53-2008

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PHD 53-2008, November 18, 2008, respecting Migrant Farm Worker Housing Inspections, be received for information.

Carried.

214. Sexual Health Program – Update 2007
PHD 54-2008

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report PHD 54-2008, November 18, 2008, respecting Sexual Health Program – Update 2007, be received for information.

Carried.

215. Be a Breast Friend Hair Salon Pilot Project – Evaluation Results
PHD 55-2008

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 55-2008, November 18, 2008, respecting “Be a Breast Friend Hair Salon Pilot Project – Evaluation Results”, be received for information.

Carried.

216. Forecast of Year-end Results and Budget to Actual Comparison for the Month Ended September 30, 2008
PHD 58-2008

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PHD 58-2008, November 18, 2008, respecting Forecast of Year-End Results and Budget to Actual Comparison for the Month Ended September 30, 2008, be received for information.

Carried.

217. Community Mental Health Program 2009 – 2011 Community annual Planning Submission (CAPS)
PHD 59-2008

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PHD 59-2008, November 18, 2008, respecting Community Mental Health Program – 2009-2011 Community Annual Planning Submission (CAPS), be received for information.

Carried.

218. Safe Water Program – Bottled Water
PHD 57-2008

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PHD 57-2008, November 18, 2008, respecting Safe Water Program – Bottled Water, be received for information and to advise Committee and Regional Council of municipal and public concerns related to the use of bottled water.

Carried.

219. Community Services Variance Analysis and
Program Update for the Third Quarter 2008
COM 60-2008

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report COM 60-2008, November 18, 2008, respecting Community Services Variance Analysis and Program Update for the Third Quarter 2008, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

220. College of Early Childhood Educators
COM 61-2008

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report COM 61-2008, November 18, 2008, respecting College of Early Childhood Educators, be received for information.

Carried.

221. Selection of Way to Grow Daycare Inc., St. Catharines
To Operate St. Martin Catholic Elementary School
Best Start Child Care Site, West Lincoln
COM 62-2008

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 62-2008, November 18, 2008, respecting Selection of Way to Grow Daycare Inc., St. Catharines to Operate St. Martin Catholic Elementary School Best Start Child Care Site, West Lincoln, be received for information.

Carried.

222. Council Business Plan Bursary Program to Support Youth in
Low Income Households to Access Post-secondary Education Update
COM 63-2008

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report COM 63-2008, November 18, 2008, respecting Council Business Plan Bursary Program to Support Youth in Low Income Households to access Post-Secondary Education Update, be received for information.

Carried.

223. Emergency Energy Fund
COM 64-2008

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report COM 64-2008, November 18, 2008, respecting Emergency Energy Fund, be received for information.

Carried.

MINUTES

224. 6-2008 (JAC)

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report 6-2008 being the minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee Wainfleet Water & Wastewater Servicing Project meeting of Monday, September 22, 2008, be received.

Carried.

225. 7-2008 (AAC)

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report 7-2008 being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians with Disabilities Act meeting of Monday, September 23, 2008, be received.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

226. Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That the following communications be received.

PHSS 53-2008 aLPHa Resolutions for Consideration at October 2008
Public Health Summit, Niagara Falls

PHSS 54-2008 Susan Daniels, City Clerk, Thorold (October 9, 2008)
respecting Resolution: Niagara Health System –
Hospital Improvement Plan.

- PHSS 55-2008 Susan Daniels, City Clerk, Thorold (October 9, 2008) respecting Resolution: Election of Hospital Boards
- PHSS 56-2008 Dennis Roughley, Chair, Board of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (October 15, 2008) regarding Nutritious Food Basket and Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- PHSS 57-2008 Jim Cressos, Manager, Financial Policy and Analysis, Ministry of Affairs and Housing (October 20, 2008) regarding the Social Housing Technology and Financial Management Survey.

Carried.

227. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That the following communications be received:

- PHSS 58-2008 Rosemary Martin, Manager, Children's Services (November 18, 2008) respecting Sharing Success at Welland Regional Child Care Centre regarding the first Autism Service Dog.
- PHSS 59-2008 Rosemary Martin, Manager, Children's Services (November 18, 2008) respecting Sharing Success at Welland Regional Child Care Centre regarding the Centre's receipt of the 15th Annual Horticultural Society Award for their gardening and greening contribution to the community.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

That staff:

- (1) Send letters to the appropriate individuals regarding the matter of Temporary Care Assistance to ensure they are aware of what the Niagara Region and Province are doing with respect to this matter and that the appropriate media communications be developed and distributed as required. (Goulbourne/Timms) Refer to minute item 219.
- (ii) Communicate the successes of the Welland Regional Child Care Centres using the appropriate media tool (CKTB). (D. Goulbourne) Refer to minute item 227.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 4:45 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Judy Casselman
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk