

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 2-2009

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, February 3, 2009 at 2:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Staff

Other: Community Services: Ms. O'Hagan-Todd, Director Children Services; Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Ms. Gartner, Manager Children Services; Mr. Todd, Manager Community Services; Ms. Biggs, Ontario Works Case Manager.

Public Health: Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner, Medical Division; Mr. Jones, Director Administrative Services; Ms. Biscaro, Director, Family Health; Ms. Gordon, Manager Dental Program;

Administration: Mr. Roberts, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair; Ms. Kennedy, Co-op Student Policy Assistant

EMS: Mr. Cunnane, Director Emergency Services; Mr. Van Valkenburg, Associate Director EMS.

Communications: Mr. Neufeld, Communications Specialist.

Others: Ms. Thompson, Niagara Regional Housing.

PRESENTATIONS

19. Provincial Municipal Fiscal Service Delivery Review - Service Delivery

Mr. Brian Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services provided Committee members with a presentation entitled, "Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Service Delivery Review – Service Delivery (PMFSDR)".

Mr. Hutchings stated that the PMFSDR had been announced in August 2006 and that it was a partnership amongst Provincial government of Ontario, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the City of Toronto.

Mr. Hutchings further stated that the purpose of the PMFSDR was to conduct a review of the provincial-municipal relationship focusing on identifying a new fiscal and service delivery partnership for the 21st century.

A summary of additional slides were, in part, as follows:

- History
 - Main goal
 - Guiding principles
 - Political table
 - Coordinating table
 - Service Delivery and Accountability table

- Review findings
 - Fiscal fairness
 - Service delivery
 - Reaffirmed local Ontario Works service (Administration)
 - Consolidation of housing and homelessness programs into a service managed at the municipal level
 - Shared Accountability Human Service Plan
 - Commitment to simplify and modernize delivery of employment related supports
 - Continue with current land ambulance arrangements and explore integration of dispatch service, subject to the results of the Niagara model.
 - Unresolved issues
 - Clarity on children's service system management
 - Dr. Charles E. Pascal, Education Learning Advisor, (report forthcoming)
http://www.ontario.ca/en/communities/education/STEL01_139326

In closing Mr. Hutchings stated that in addition to fiscal savings, the Review will impact Ontario Works, homelessness programs, housing programs, child development programs and land ambulance by reforming accountability arrangements and creating a requirement for a Human Service Plan.

Moved by Councillor Greenwood

Seconded by Councillor Forster

That the presentation respecting Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Service Delivery Review – Service Delivery (PMFSDR), be received for information.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

20. **Provincial Municipal Fiscal Service Delivery – Service Delivery**
COM 07-2009

Moved by Councillor Cordiner

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report COM 07-2009, February 3, 2009, respecting Provincial Municipal Fiscal Service Delivery – Service Delivery, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

21. **Initiation of Public Health Capital Project ZGR0901**
Ambulance and Related Equipment
PHD 05-2009(CSD 24-2009)

Moved by Councillor Forster

Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report PHD 05-2009(CSD 24-2009), February 3, 2009, respecting Initiation of Public Health Capital Project ZGR0901 be received for information; and

That financing in the amount of \$910,000 gross and net be initiated and approved from the Public Health Capital Program and be allocated to ZGR0901 – Ambulance and Related Equipment;

That approval be given to fund ZGR0901 – Ambulance and Related Equipment with financing consisting of \$910,000 from the Ambulance Replacement Reserve Fund; and

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws be prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

Please note that Report PHD 05-2009(CSD 24-2009) can be found behind the Joint Reports Blue Book Tab)

22. Debbie Zimmerman Early Years Niagara Literary Award
PHD 07-2009

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report PHD 07-2009, February 3, 2009, respecting Debbie Zimmerman Early Years Niagara Literary Award, be received; and

That the Debbie Zimmerman Early Years Niagara Literary Award Planning Committee be instructed to change the name of the award in 2009 and beyond to *Regional Chair Early Years Niagara Literary Award*.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (continued)

23. The State of Canada's Early Learning and Care System
COM 06-2009

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report COM 06-2009, February 3, 2009, respecting The State of Canada's Early Learning and Care System, be received for information.

Carried.

Following a lengthy discussion, regarding the importance and need for advocacy surrounding the subject of the state of Canada's Early Learning and Care System, it was:

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That staff forward a copy of Report (COM 06-2009) respecting The State of Canada's Early Learning and Care System to Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament; and

That staff request that Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament provide a written response respecting The State of Canada's Early Learning and Care System.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

24. Update on "Increasing Prosperity for Families Living in Poverty"
COM 08-2009

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report COM 08-2009, February 3, 2009, respecting Update on "Increasing Prosperity for Families Living in Poverty", be received for information.

Carried.

25. Expansion of the Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) Dental Program
PHD 06-2009

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 06-2009, February 3, 2009, respecting Expansion of the Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) Dental Program, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

OTHER BUSINESS

26. Correspondence (dated February 3, 2009)
Re: Niagara Health System Takes Immediate Steps
to Balance Budget by 2012-2013

Councillor Forster advised Committee members that she had requested that this correspondence be circulated for Committee's information and asked Dr. Williams what, if any, impact there would be to Regional Staff and Regional Services (e.g. closure of beds / impact to off loading delays, closure of ante-natal clinics / impact to Family Health programs).

Dr. Williams stated that she didn't have the specifics but that this announcement was an "in house" story and had been ordered by the Liberal Government. She further stated that staff continue to work with transitional teams via TIP and that the Emergency Management Systems Strategic Plan will address any impact to offloading delays.

27. Applications – Wainfleet Septic Fields

Councillor Timms asked when staff would be issuing notices respecting Wainfleet Septic fields not performing properly; for example, when cottage owners will be notified, and where we stand on Big Pipe process.

Councillor Henderson suggested that the above inquiry be addressed at the Integrated Community Planning and Public Works Committee meeting; as the Public Works Department had recently been appointed the responsibility of carrying out duties associated with Part 8 the Ontario Building Code.

28. Northwest Quadrant Lands
City of Niagara Falls

Councillor Casselman asked staff if a report respecting the Northwest Quadrant Lands (City of Niagara Falls) would be coming forward to this Committee for information.

Dr. Sider stated that staff are gathering relevant reports and studies and will be coordinating discussions amongst the Public Health, Public Works and Integrated Community Planning Departments to address the issues raised at the Committee of the Whole session.

29. Funds Saved Due to Uploading

Councillor Goulbourne inquired as to whether a report would be issued from Community Services respecting “here is the money we saved due to uploading services” and “here is where the money will be spent”.

Mr. Trojan stated that, the Corporate Management Team needs to consider a range of options respecting investment opportunities (e.g. range infrastructure and service investments, tax payers’ relief) and that the area municipal Councils should be involved in the discussion as well.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

30. Community Services Presentations to Local Council

Councillor Baty commended Commissioner Brian Hutchings on taking Community Services initiatives presentations to local Councils.

31. Article re: Ambulance Response Times

Councillor Baty commended Emergency Service staff on the glowing report card advertised in the February 3, 2009 article in the St. Catharines Standard. The article stated that the 2007 stats show Niagara EMS service among the fastest and cheapest in Ontario.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

Staff were asked to:

- i) Continue to provide updates to Public Health and Social Services Committee members respecting expected changes (how, when, what) during the implementation stage of the PMFSDR so they can properly communicate and respond to local agencies (Councillor Goulbourne) (Refer to Minute Item #20)
- ii) Provide suggestions about how to make Niagara unique with respect to Early Learning and Care funding options (Councillor Goulbourne) (Refer to Minute #23).
- iii) Include discussions regarding estimated savings by the end of the upload process, as detailed in Appendix 1 (COM 07-2009), during a Council Business Planning session (Councillor Cordiner) (Refer to Minute Item #23)
- iv) Provide suggestions respecting utilization of funds designated for CINOT Program and how best to advocate (Councillor Casselman) (Refer to Minute Item #25)
- v) Schedule a mid year discussion group to develop a subsequent report surrounding savings from uploading and intended infrastructure investments planned (Councillor Goulbourne) (Refer to Minute Item #29)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3:40 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Judy Casselman
Co-Chair

Lisa Ricci
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk