

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 4-2009

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health and Social Services Committee held in Council Chambers, Regional Municipal Building, 2201 St. David's Road, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, March 23, 2009 at 2:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Baty, Co-Chair; Casselman, Co-Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; 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. Pilon, Deputy Clerk; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Other: Community Services: Ms. O'Hagan-Todd, Director, Children Services; Mr. Pelette, Manager, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.

Public Health: Ms. Burciul, Manager, Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention; Mr. Lorenzo, Manager, Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention.

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

Corporate Services: Ms. Casement, Manager, Employee Relations; Mr. Diakow, Director, IT Solutions; Ms. Elliott, Director, Human Resources; Ms. McCutcheon, IT Web Services Administrator.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

43. Youth Access to Tobacco
PHD 09-2009

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 09-2009, March 23, 2009, Youth Access to Tobacco, be received for information, ***as amended***;

That the Regional Chairman discuss the contraband tobacco issue and its effects on the health of Niagara residents with the Federal Minister of Justice;

That the Regional Chairman write a letter of support regarding private member's motion (M-152), which would hinder contraband tobacco production and distribution; and

That the report be circulated to Local M.P.P.s.

Carried.

44. Redevelopment of Deer Park Villa Long-Term Care Home
Grimsby: Initiation of Capital Project ZSC0809
COM 13-2009 (CSD 51-2009)

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report COM 13-2009 (CSD 51-2009), March 23, 2009, respecting Redevelopment of Deer Park Villa Long-Term Care Home, Grimsby: Initiation of Capital Project ZSC0809, be received.

That approval be given to the recommended option outlined in this report, for redeveloping the Deer Park Villa long-term care home, with the corresponding funding plan, up to the amount of \$7.9 million.

That an exception to the Capital Management Policy be granted and that approval be given to increase the gross and net budget for Project ZSC0809 Deer Park Villa in the amount of \$2.4 million (consisting of \$1.6 million Long Term Debt financing and of \$800,000 from the Seniors Services Building Reserve Fund), raising the project total from \$5.5 million (2008 Capital Budget) to \$7.9 million.

That the additional Long Term Debt financing amount of \$1.6 million be funded by the Province through per diem subsidies over 25 years as outlined in this report.

That the approval be given to initiate \$7.9 million of the Capital Budget for ZSC0809 Deer Park Villa, with revised total Long Term Financing (20 years) of \$7.1 million and \$800,000 from the Seniors Services Building Reserve Fund. (Appendix A)

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

That staff be authorized to communicate Niagara Region's intention to proceed with the redevelopment of Deer Park Villa to the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) and the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

Carried.

(Please note that Report COM 13-2009 (CSD 51-2009) can be found behind the Joint Reports Blue Book Tab)

45. Extension of Homelessness Partnership Strategy to 2011
COM 14-2009

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report COM 14-2009, March 23, 2009, respecting Extension of Homelessness Partnership Strategy to 2011, be received.

That Community Services be authorized to submit an application to Service Canada to extend Community entity status related to federal homelessness prevention initiatives to March 31, 2011; and

That the Regional Chair correspond with Service Canada urging for an increased allotment of Homelessness Partnership Strategy (HPS) funding for Niagara.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

46. Increased Demand for Social Assistance
– Additional Staff Required
COM 15-2009

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report COM 15-2009, March 23, 2009, respecting Increased Demand for Social Assistance – Additional Staff Required, be received.

That Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities (SAEO) use funding from the Social Assistance Reserve Fund to hire an additional four front line full-time equivalent staff (FTE's) to support the increased demand for social assistance.

Carried.

47. Initiation of 2009 Community Services Capital Program
COM 16-2009 (CSD 49-2009)

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 16-2009 (CSD 49-2009), March 23, 2009, respecting Initiation of 2009 Community Services Capital Program, be received.

That a capital budget allocation in the gross and net amount of \$750,000 be approved for the Community Services Capital program as submitted in the 2009 Capital Budget and summarized in Appendix I. (Attached)

That approval be given to fund the projects with \$750,000 from the Capital Levy Reserve Fund.

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

Carried.

(Please note that Report COM 16-2009 (CSD 49-2009) can be found behind the Joint Reports Blue Book Tab)

48. Municipal Immigration Information On-line Program, Phase II Funding
COM 19-2009 (CSD 54-2009)

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report COM 19-2009 (CSD 54-2009), March 23, 2009, respecting Municipal Immigration Information On-line Program, Phase II Funding, be received.

That, upon conditional approval from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI), the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to enter into an agreement to receive Phase II funding for the Municipal Immigration Information On-line Program, to improve the content of the Niagara Immigration Portal www.niagaraimmigration.ca.

That this report be distributed to local Niagara municipalities and economic development agencies.

Carried.

(Please note that Report COM 19-2009 (CSD 54-2009) can be found behind the Joint Reports Blue Book Tab)

49. Service Accountability Agreement
For Seniors Community Programs 2009-2011
COM 21-2009

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report COM 21-2009, March 23, 2009, respecting Service Accountability Agreement for Seniors Community Programs 2009-2011, be received for information.

That pursuant to the Region's document execution bylaw, staff be authorized to execute the Service Accountability Agreement with the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN) in order to receive the identified funding for 2009 to 2011 for community support services delivered by Seniors Services.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

50. Closure of Capital Projects
CSD 28-2009

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report CSD 38-2009, March 23, 2009, respecting Closure of Capital Projects, be received for information purposes only.

Carried.

51. The Health Story of Niagara – Update
PHD 10-2009

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report PHD 10-2009, March 23, 2009, respecting The Health Story of Niagara – Update, be received for information.

Carried.

52. French Language Services Act
COM 17-2009

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report COM 17-2009, March 23, 2009, respecting French Language Services Act, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

53. ProKids Program – Providing Recreational/Cultural Opportunities for Children/Youth 2008 Year End Report
COM 18-2009

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report COM 18-2009, March 17, 2009, respecting ProKids Program – Providing Recreational/Cultural Opportunities for Children/Youth 2008 Year End Report, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

MINUTES

54. Joint Advisory Committee on Wainfleet
Water & Wastewater Servicing Project
2-2009 (JAC)

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report 2-2009 (JAC) being the minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee Wainfleet Water & Wastewater Servicing Project meeting of February 23, 2009, be received for information.

Carried.

(Please note that Report 2-2009 (JAC) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab.)

CORRESPONDENCE

55. Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That the following items of correspondence be received for information:

PHSS 10-2009 Ron Sapsford, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care and Cynthia Morton, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health Promotion (February 13, 2009) regarding Expenditure Restraints.

PHSS 11-2009 Dennis Roughley, Chair, Board of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (February 189, 2008) regarding Request for Continued 100% Funding for Small Drinking Water Systems.

Carried

OTHER BUSINESS

56. Niagara Health System
Hospital Improvement Plan
Non-Emergency Transfers – EMS

Committee members inquired as to how the Niagara Health System Hospital Improvement Plan will impact Emergency Medical Services and non-emergency transfers. Dr. Williams advised that they will be bringing forward a report on the impact of the Hospital Improvement Plan noting that as there are some complex issues to be dealt with and that staff will be working with a consultant's group to assist them with this review.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

CLOSED SESSION

57. Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to a Matter of Labour Relations Ratification of Collective Agreement CUPE 1263; and Oral Reports from Dr. Williams, M.O.H. and Mike Trojan, C.A.O. regarding Human Resources and Labour Relations matters.

Carried.

58. A Matter of Labour Relations Ratification of
Collective Agreement CUPE 1263 (Long Term Care Homes)
Community Services Department
CSD 55-2009

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That the Oral Report regarding Report CSD 55-2009, A Matter of Labour Relations Ratification of Collective Agreement CUPE 1263 (Long Term Care Homes) Community Services Department, be received for information.

Carried.

Councillor Timms wished to be recorded as opposed to the foregoing motion.

59. Dr. Williams, M.O.H.
Human Resources Matter

Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, provided an oral report regarding a Human Resources matter.

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That the Oral Report from Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, regarding a Human Resources matter, be received.

Carried.

60. Mike Trojan, C.A.O.
Labour Relations Matter

Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer, provided an oral report on a Labour Relations matter.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That the Oral Report from Mike Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer, regarding a Labour Relations matter, be received.

Carried.

61. Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

62. 2008 Physician Services Agreement

Mr. Trojan apprised Committee of the memorandum from Allison J. Stuart, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (March 16, 2009) regarding 2008 Physician Services Agreement.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That the Oral Report by Mr. Trojan, C.A.O. and the memorandum regarding the 2008 Physician Services Agreement be referred for consideration, pending further information, to the Council meeting of Thursday, March 26, 2009.

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

That staff be requested to:

- (i) Investigate a fairer funding distribution formula – what are the benefits from being classed as rural. (Greenwood) (Refer to minute 45.)
- (ii) Meet with the appropriate Ministry staff for further discussions and information re: French Language Services Act issues. (Casselman) (Refer to minute 52.)

- (iii) Email to Councillors information on how the public can access this Pro-Kids program and examine a method/ tool to get this message out to the public. (Goulbourne) (Refer to minute 53.)
- (iv) Share the HIP impact report with PHSS and NHA-TIP Committees and local municipalities. (Timms) (Refer to minute 56.)

NEXT MEETING

The Committee adjourned at p.m. to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Judy Casselman
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk