

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 12-2009

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, September 22, 2009 at 2:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Baty, Co-Chair; Casselman, Co-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; Mr. Bain, Regional Clerk; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Other: Community Services: Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services; Ms. Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities.
Public Health: Ms. Burciul, Manager, Chronic Disease; Mr. Christensen, Director, Environmental Health; Mr. Cunnane, Director, EMS; Dr. Hopkins, Community Medicine Resident; Mr. Kaas, Financial Services Manager; Mr. Lorenzo, Manager, Chronic Disease and Early Prevention; Mr. McKay, Associate Director, NEMS; Mr. McQueen, Operating Officer; Ms. Peacefull, Director, Community Development and Surveillance.
Corporate Services: Ms. Elliott, Director, Human Resources; Ms. Fitzgerald, Total Rewards Advisor; Ms. Yeomans, Manager, Total Compensation and Reward.

Others: Ms. Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing (NRH); Ms. MacLellan, Manager, Community Programs (NRH); Ms. Fearnside, Manager, Housing Program (NRH).

PRESENTATION

168. Request for a Public Health Survey of all Tributaries
And Main Branch of Shriners Creek, Niagara Falls
PHSS 37-2009

Ms. Jean Grandoni, Resident, Niagara Falls, attended to request that staff of the Public Health Department carry out a Health Survey of all Tributaries and main Branch of Shriners Creek as soon as possible, with emphasis on E-Coli Counts and that the results be made public through a report back to the Public Health and Social Services Committee, Regional Council and the City of Niagara Falls Council.

(Refer to Communication PHSS 37-2009 and supplementary page attached to PHSS minutes.)

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That the presentation by Ms. Jean Grandoni, Resident, Niagara Falls, regarding her request for a Public Health Survey of all Tributaries and the main Branch of Shriners Creek in Niagara Falls, be received and that Communication PHSS 37-2009 including supplementary background information regarding this matter, be forwarded to the Ministry of Environment for response .

Carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

169. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Provincial Rent Bank Program
COM 39-2009

The following motion was distributed to Committee for discussion:

WHEREAS, since 2001, the Regional Municipality of Niagara has been designated as a Service Manager under the Social Housing Reform Act;

WHEREAS, in December, 2001, the Regional Municipality of Niagara appointed Niagara Regional Housing to perform the duties and powers of an administrator under s.15 of the Social Housing Reform Act;

WHEREAS, by resolution dated October 21, 2004, Regional Council expanded Niagara Regional Housing's powers to "establish, fund and administer programs for the provision of residential accommodation" and "undertake all activities in connection with cost-shared federal-provincial or provincial housing programs";

WHEREAS, relying on these authorities, Niagara Regional Housing has entered into agreements with Federal and Provincial governments;

AND WHEREAS, in the interests of clarification, Regional Council hereby resolves that:

Notwithstanding Council's October 21, 2004 resolution, this resolution confirms that the Regional Municipality of Niagara is the primary signing authority for all agreements with Federal and Provincial governments, crown corporations and similar agencies related to the provision of residential accommodation and housing programs and grants.

Following discussion of the above motion, it was:

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That the last paragraph of the motion be **amended** as follows:

Notwithstanding Council's October 21, 2004 resolution, this resolution confirms **the change of practice** that the Regional Municipality of Niagara is the primary signing authority for all agreements with Federal and Provincial governments, crown corporations and similar agencies related to the provision of residential accommodation and housing programs and grants.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That the following motion, be approved, **as amended**, and to read as follows:

WHEREAS, since 2001, the Regional Municipality of Niagara has been designated as a Service Manager under the Social Housing Reform Act;

WHEREAS, in December, 2001, the Regional Municipality of Niagara appointed Niagara Regional Housing to perform the duties and powers of an administrator under s.15 of the Social Housing Reform Act;

WHEREAS, by resolution dated October 21, 2004, Regional Council expanded Niagara Regional Housing's powers to "establish, fund and administer programs for the provision of residential accommodation" and "undertake all activities in connection with cost-shared federal-provincial or provincial housing programs";

WHEREAS, relying on these authorities, Niagara Regional Housing has entered into agreements with Federal and Provincial governments;

AND WHEREAS, in the interests of clarification, Regional Council hereby resolves that:

Notwithstanding Council's October 21, 2004 resolution, this resolution confirms ***the change of practice*** that the Regional Municipality of Niagara is the primary signing authority for all agreements with Federal and Provincial governments, crown corporations and similar agencies related to the provision of residential accommodation and housing programs and grants.

Carried.

170. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Communication PHSS 40-2009 from Brian Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services (September 8, 2009), regarding COM 39-2009, July 21, 2009 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Provincial Rent Bank Program, Response to Council Deferral, be received for information.

Carried.

171. Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report COM 39-2009, July 21, 2009, respecting Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Provincial Rent Bank Program, be received for information and the following recommendations approved:

- (i) Receive and transfer funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) to administer the Provincial Rent Bank Program and ensure compliance with all associated requirements; and
- (ii) Execute the contract between the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Niagara Region as the Service Manager.

Carried.

172. Appointing Niagara Region's Ontario Works Administrator
COM 49-2009

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report COM 49-2009, September 22, 2009, respecting Appointing Niagara Region's Ontario Works Administrator, be received.

That the Ontario Works Administrator be appointed on an acting basis for a period of September 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010 to Ms. Lori Watson to replace Ms. Sarah Pennisi during her leave of absence; and

That this recommendation be sent to the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS).

Carried.

173. Enhanced Employment Services
COM 51-2009

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 51-2009, September 22, 2009, respecting Enhanced Employment Services, be received.

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that Community Services be authorized to receive funds in the amount of \$848,816 per year, (100%) from the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), to participate in Enhanced Employment Services for Vulnerable Persons (EES) until March 31, 2011.

Carried.

174. Niagara Emergency Medical Services
Cross Border (Municipal) Billing (CBB)
PHD 27-2009 (CSD 101-2009)

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 27-2009, September 22, 2009, (CSD 101-2009, September 23, 2009) respecting Niagara Emergency Medical Services Cross Border (Municipal) Billing (CBB), be received and approved, ***as amended***.

That the Regional Treasurer on behalf of Niagara Region be permitted to receive payment in the amount of \$401,742, executed by the City of Hamilton;

That the Regional Chairman and Regional Clerk be authorized to sign the Mutual Release in the format attached and forward to the City of Hamilton in due course;

That the respective amount be transferred to the Region's Contingency Reserve;

That, if necessary, Niagara Region Emergency Medical Services (NEMS) will see authorization to utilize the Region's Contingency Reserve in order to offset future Cross Border Billing (CBB) charges by other municipalities; and

That a further report be prepared to Committee and Council with the final reconciliation of Cross Border billing.

Carried.

(A copy of Report PHD 27-2009 (CSD 101-2009) can be found behind the Joint Reports Tab in the Blue Book.)

175. Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program, 2009 Extension
Recommended Projects – September Submission
COM 52-2009

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report COM 52-2009, September 22, 2009, respecting Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program, 2009 Extension Recommended Projects – September Submission, be received.

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that the “Prioritized List of Recommended Projects” (Appendix A) under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program, 2009 Extension be approved and submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval.

Carried.

176. Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit Program (SHRRP) –
Recommended List of Housing Provider Projects
COM 53-2009

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report COM 53-2009, September 22, 2009, respecting Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit Program (SHRRP) – Recommended List of Housing Provider Projects, be received for information and the following be approved:

- (i) For the “List of Housing Provider Projects” and the “Owned Units Projects” funding under the Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit Program (SHRRP) (contained in Appendix A); and
- (ii) To Execute the contract between the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Niagara Region as the Service Manager to receive and transfer the notional allocation of \$17,140,735, and
- (iii) To receive and transfer funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) to administer the Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit Program (SHRRP) and ensure compliance with all associated requirements.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

177. Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report
January 2009 to June 2009
COM 50-2009

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report COM 50-2009, September 22, 2009, respecting Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report January 2009 to June 2009, be received for information.

Carried.

178. Annual Tobacco Enforcement Compliance Report
PHD 42-2009

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PHD 42-2009, September 22, 2009, respecting Annual Tobacco Enforcement Compliance Report, be received for information.

Carried.

179. Niagara Region Public Health Accreditation 2010
PHD 43-2009

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report PHD 43-2009, September 22, 2009, being an update on the Niagara Region Public Health Accreditation 2010, be received for information.

Carried.

180. Liaisons/External Committees Inventory for
Niagara Region Public Health (NRPH)
PHD 44-2009

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PHD 44-2009, September 22, 2009, respecting Liaisons/External Committees Inventory for Niagara Region Public Health (NRPH), be received for information.

Carried.

181. Niagara Region Public Health (NRPH)
Update Report re: H1N1 Planning

Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, introduced Dr. Valerie Jaegar, Associate Medical Officer of Health and Physician Lead for the H1N1 Planning.

Dr. Williams distributed a NRPH Update Report commenting that the NRPH continues to prepare for its busy and unusual flu season with Planning at "Status Quo" pending an announcement expected in the next few weeks with respect to Immunization. A Communications Plan is underway with a Public Sector Communicators group which includes communication staff from Niagara Region (including Agencies, Boards, and Commissions); School Boards, Brock University, Niagara College, Niagara Region Police Services, Municipalities, and Hospitals.

(Refer to Niagara Region Public Health Update Report re: H1N1 Planning attached to minutes.)

182. Forecast of Public Health Year-End Results
And Budget to Actual Comparison for the
Month Ended June 30, 2009
PHD 45-2009

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report PHD 45-2009, September 22, 2009, respecting Forecast of Public Health Year-End Results and Budget to Actual Comparison for the Month Ended June 30, 2009, be received for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

183. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That the following communications be received:

PHSS 38-2009

Karen Murray, Chair, Niagara Regional Housing (September 3, 2009) regarding Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report April 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009.

- PHSS 39-2009 Nancy Bozzato, Town Deputy Clerk, Town of Pelham (August 27, 2009) to The Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long Term Care (August 27, 2009) respecting Pelham Council's resolution respecting Impacts on Regional Niagara EMS of Emergency Room conversions as part of the Niagara Health System – Hospital Emergency Plan.
- PHSS 41-2009 Nancy Bozzato, Town Deputy Clerk, Town of Pelham (August 27, 2009) regarding Pelham Council's resolution respecting Support of Moratorium Call by Ontario Medical Association to Halt Major Health Care Restructuring Decisions.
- PHSS 42-2009 Denis Gertler, Director, Smoke-Free Ontario, Ministry of Health Promotion (August 25, 2009) respecting revised allocation letter for the 2009 Enforcement Allocation.
- PHSS 43-2009 Angela Longo, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health Promotion (August 6, 2009) respecting Enforcement Funding Allocations for 2009-2010.
- PHSS 44-2009 Dalton McGuinty, The Premier of Ontario (August 20, 2009) respecting Early Childhood Education.
- PHSS 45-2009 The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister, Ministry of Community and Social Services (August 13, 2009) respecting the Regional Municipality of Niagara's response to the increase of Ontario Works caseloads and requests for assistance.
- PHSS 46-2009 The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development (August 21, 2009) respecting Niagara's report, The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in the Niagara Region.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

184. Welcoming Immigration Portal

Councillor Baty apprised the Committee of the Welcoming Immigration Portal established in Niagara Falls. This portal will assist immigrants in settlement and integration.

185. Local Immigrant Partnership Funding

Councillor Baty advised that Mr. Dykstra, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and M.P. for St. Catharines, will be making a presentation regarding Local Immigrant Partnership funding on September 23rd in the Atrium at Regional Headquarters, Campbell East, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

186. Video - Early Learning in Ontario

Mr. Baty advised that he will be participating in the Video being prepared regarding Early Learning in Ontario. He commented that the introduction of Early Years Learning in Ontario could be as significant as former Premier of Ontario William Davis' legislation creating the community college system in the 1960s.

187. Liaisons/External Committees Inventory for Niagara Region

Councillor Goulbourne, in reference to Report PHD 44-2009 regarding the development of partnerships, through liaisons and external committees, as a strategy for the delivery of services and programs, commended the Niagara Region for its very impressive development of community connections.

188. Police Long Term Accommodations

Councillor Timms expressed his concerns regarding the allocation of \$750,000 for the Police Long Term Accommodation and requested information on how this will be budgeted. The Committee suggested that this matter be dealt with at the Corporate Services Committee.

CLOSED SESSION

189. 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 Personal Matters About Identifiable Individuals and Matters of Labour/Employee Relations – MOH/AMOH Compensation Agreement.

Carried.

190. Personal Matters About Identifiable Individuals
And Matters of Labour/Employee Relations
MOH/AMOH Compensation Agreement
Confidential CSD 125-2009

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Confidential Report CSD 125-2009, September 23, 2009, relating to Personal Matters About Identifiable Individuals and Matters of Labour/Employee Relations – MOH/AMOH Compensation Agreement, be received for information.

Carried.

191. Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee adjourned at 3:30 p.m. to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Judy Casselman
Co-Chair

Kevin Bain
Regional Clerk