


To view related Council minutes, select the Adobe hand tool  and click on the link below.
<http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca/clerks/minutes/2001/cl/cl2-2001.pdf>

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 2-2001

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, January 22, 2001 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

- Committee: Councillors Adams, Chair; Zimmerman, Regional Chair; Bailey, Bentley, Brickell, Davidson, Eke, Forster, Gabriel, Harry, Hildreth, Konkle, Marshall, Redekop, Timms.
- Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Ms. Reid, Director, Community Services Dept.; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Gilroy, Acting Regional Clerk.
- Staff (Part-time): Messrs. Bacchus, Director, Corporate Services Department; Cunnane, Director of Public Safety, Public Health Department; Gatenby, Manager, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities Division; Ms. Golian, Assistant Director, Children's Services Division; Ms. Graham-Watson, Assistant Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities Division; Messrs. Hutchings, Assistant Director, Operational Support Services; Jones, Director of Administrative Services, Public Health Department; Papp, Transition Manager, Social Housing; Robson, Shared Services Development Manager; Ventresca, Assistant Director, Senior's Services Division;

PRESENTATION

9. Direct Payment of Rent to Landlords on Behalf of Social Assistance Recipients

Ms. Graham-Watson provided an overview of Report COM 3-2001, which outlines the current and proposed approach to direct payment of rent to Landlords on behalf of social assistance recipients. Ms. Graham-Watson noted that the current practices were reviewed to assist Landlords in Niagara in dealing with situations of defaulted payment of rent.

Mr. Angelo Cianflone, a Landlord in the Welland area, outlined his concerns, and the difficulties experienced by Landlords when Tenants default on their rent payments.

Following discussion, Committee dealt with Report COM 3-2001.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

10. Report COM 3-2001

Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report COM 3-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting Direct Payment of Rent to Landlords on Behalf of Social Assistance Recipients be received for information; and

That the recommendation of staff to implement Option i) as outlined in the report, be endorsed.

Carried.

ADMINISTRATION

11. Shared Service Agreement – Niagara Housing Corporation and Regional Municipality of Niagara

Mr. Patrick Robson, Shared Services Development Manager, was in attendance and responded to questions from Committee with respect to Report CAO 2-2001.

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report CAO 2-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting Shared Service Agreement – Niagara Housing Corporation and Regional Municipality of Niagara be received, and

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to sign the “Shared Services Agreement between the Niagara Housing Corporation and the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

12. Influenza – “Beat The Bug” Challenge

Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, highlighted the success of the “Beat the Bug” Challenge, which resulted in 27/28 Long Term Care Facilities and 9/9 Hospitals in Niagara participating. The average staff influenza vaccination coverage rate among the Long Term Care Facilities was 91%, an increase of 3% from the 1999 season; and among Hospitals was 66%, an increase of 8% from the 1999 season.

Councillor Adams, Committee Chair, and Dr. Williams, presented Certificates of Recognition to the Long Term Care Facilities and Hospital with the highest staff influenza immunization rate. Foyer Richelieu, Oakwood Park Lodge and Tufford Nursing Home achieved a rate of 100%, 10% above the Ministry of Health Guidelines. For the second year in a row, Douglas Memorial Hospital achieved the highest rate, with 93%, 3% above the Ministry of Health Guidelines, and a 10% increase over last year. The Long Term Care Facility with the most improved vaccination coverage rate was Eventide Home, with a rate of 95%, 17% higher than last year.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PHD 08-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting Influenza – “Beat The Bug: Challenge be received, and

That this Committee supports the Influenza "Beat The Bug" Challenge for Long Term Care Facilities and Hospitals sponsored by Regional Niagara Public Health Department in collaboration with Pasteur Merieux Connaught Laboratories.

Carried.

13. Response to Land Ambulance Presentation

Mr. Cunnane explained that Mr. George Rowbottom had attended the Community and Health Services Committee meeting of December 11, 2000, wherein he outlined potential revisions to Report PHD 64-2000 regarding land ambulance issues. He particularly noted concerns with respect to First Response/Paramedic Response Units, and expressed the desire for new stations or substations rather than station relocations. Committee then directed staff to review and respond to Mr. Rowbottom's recommendations. Mr. Cunnane provided an overview of Report PHD 12-2000, which comments on Mr. Rowbottom's suggested revisions, and recommends that no changes be made to Report PHD 64-2000.

Mr. George Rowbottom, reiterated his previous concerns, and questioned whether response times would improve if the Dispatch was Regionally operated.

Mr. Cunnane explained that an ongoing evaluation of response time would be included in Phase 2, and that the administration of Dispatch was a separate issue that was under review.

Following discussion, it was:

Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PHD 12-2001, January 22, 2001 respecting Response to Land Ambulance Presentation by George Rowbottom be received for information; and

That the recommendation of staff be endorsed.

Carried.

14. Revised Enhancements for Public Health
Department Budget – 2001

Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, advised that the presentation with respect to the Public Health Department Budget for 2001 included the reductions suggested at the Budget Review Committee meeting of January 17. She explained that the budget requirements over the past five years have been driven upwards by mandatory programs, and the implications of LSR, but at the same time, efforts continued to keep the net tax levy increase to 0%.

Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services, provided a brief overview of the Public Health Department Budget – 2001, outlining its key components, the 2001 enhancements for Land Ambulance issues and Public Health Mandatory Guideline requirements, and a summary of program changes.

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report MOH 01-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting Revised Enhancements for Public Health Department Budget – 2001, be received for information, and referred to the Committee of the Whole Budget meeting.

Carried.

15. Budget Pre-Approval – Land Ambulance
Enhanced Service

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report PHD 05-2001/CSD 12-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting Budget Pre-Approval – Land Ambulance Enhanced Service, be approved and

That the budget pre-approval request be granted for Enhanced Land Ambulance Service as outlined in Report PHD 64-2000 (Council approval Oct 5th, 2000) and the Public Health Department 2001 budget submission.

Carried.

16. Signage Requirements for Tobacco Vendors

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report PHD 7-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting Signage Requirements for Tobacco Vendors be received for information.

Carried.

17. Provincial Quit Smoking 2001 Contest

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report PHD 9-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting Provincial Quit Smoking 2001 Contest be received for information.

Carried.

18. A Summary of The Impact of Selected Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs on Youth Tobacco Use: A Comparative Analysis Document

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report PHD 10-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting A Summary of The Impact of Selected Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs On Youth Tobacco Use: A Comparative Analysis Document be received for information.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That the Province be urged to take meaningful action to deal with the increase in tobacco use among youth.

Carried.

19. Tobacco Advocacy Teaching Packages:
Grade 5, 6, 7 & 8

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report PHD 11-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting Tobacco Advocacy Teaching Packages: Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8 be received for information.

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

20. 2001 Current Budget for the
Community Services Department

Ms. Reid, Director, Community Services Department, introduced Mr. Brian Hutchings, Assistant Director, Operational Support Services, who provided a brief overview of the 2001 Current Budget for the Community Services Department. The presentation outlined the Objectives, Fiscal Overview, Program Developments, and Fiscal Challenges for the Seniors Services, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, Children's Services, and Social Housing Divisions of the Department.

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report COM 6-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting the 2001 Current Budget for the Community Services Department be submitted and received for information, and referred to the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Carried.

21. 2001 Capital Budget for the
Community Services Department

Mr. Brian Hutchings, Assistant Director, Operational Support Services, and Mr. Dominic Ventresca, Assistant Director, Senior Services Division, provided a brief overview of the 2001 Capital Budget for the Community Services Department. Mr. Ventresca then provided additional details with respect to the redevelopment of long term care beds, and a comparison of current levy and debt charges for Seniors Services for the years 1995 to 2004.

Moved by Regional Chair Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report COM 12-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting the 2001 Capital Budget for the Community Services Department be submitted and received for information, and referred to the Committee of the Whole meeting, subject to a review of further financing options.

Carried.

22. PRESENTATION

Mr. Shafee Bacchus, Director of Corporate Services, provided a recap of the minutes of the Budget Review Committee on January 17, 2001. He explained that staff was asked to review the budget and provide recommendations on how to achieve a 0% increase in the tax levy burden, outlining the risks and opportunities. The Corporate Management Committee met on several occasions to develop recommendations in three areas: annualized costs and other adjustments, possible reductions to base budget, and mandatory program changes to base budget. Mr. Bacchus outlined the following three scenarios and the approximate dollar values:

1. additional revenues - by reviewing the surplus position again, as well as benefit calculations (GEAC allocation models allow exact calculations of amount paid to the benefit provider for each union group), and use of a portion of the contingency reserve (\$1.8 million)
2. additions to staffing – savings can be derived from the additions to staffing that will be delayed until the budget is approved, particularly in Community Services: tobacco enforcement and social housing (\$1.4 million)
3. base budget – look at areas where the base budget can be reduced

Mr. Bacchus advised that the third scenario was not recommended because of the consequences, and that the Budget Review Committee agreed that scenario one and two were the most likely to be reduced from the budget. These reductions, combined with potential Community Reinvestment Funding, could result in a tax burden impact of 0.89%. Mr. Bacchus pointed out, however, that this percentage represented the departmental budgets only: the Police Services Budget was not reflected in these calculations. He noted that the Police Services Board is meeting again on January 25 to consider further budget reductions.

Mr. Bacchus reviewed the Revised Budget Timetable, highlighting the following dates:

Budget Review Committee To review Niagara Regional Police Budget	January 31
Corporate and Financial Services Committee Niagara Regional Police Budget	February 7
Corporate and Financial Services Committee Receives Budget Estimates Current, Capital And Tax Impact	February 21
Special Committee of the Whole To consider budget estimates and tax policy	March 1, 4:00 p.m.
Final budget approval Regional Council	March 1, 7:00 p.m.
Tax Levy By-law	April 5

Mr. Bacchus concluded his presentation by explaining tax ratios, and noted that transition ratios will not be received until late March.

23. Report 5-2001

Budget Review Committee

Moved by Councillor Konkle
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report 5-2001, being the minutes of the Budget Review Committee of Wednesday, January 17, 2001, be approved and adopted.

Carried.

24. Revised Budget Timetable

Moved by Councillor Konkle
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That the Revised Budget Timetable be received.

Carried.

(Note: Report 5-2001 of the Budget Review Committee and the Revised Budget Timetable are attached to the CFS minutes.)

25. Homelessness Funding and the Homelessness Outreach Initiative in Niagara

Ms. Graham-Watson provided highlights of Report COM 4-2001, including a status report on the Niagara Homelessness Outreach Initiative, and new funding for homelessness initiatives announced by the Federal and Provincial Governments. She noted that the department supports the development of a community plan for homelessness to help guide program and funding decisions in the future. To ensure continuation of existing services during the interim period, a six-month extension to the contract for the Homelessness Outreach initiative was recommended.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report COM 4-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting Homelessness Funding and the Homelessness Outreach Initiative in Niagara be received for information, and

That the Region extend the contract for the Niagara Homelessness Outreach Initiative under the same terms and conditions until February 16, 2001, and

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents for a new Purchase of Service Agreement with a revised Consortium effective February 17, 2001 to June 30, 2001.

Carried.

26. Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities
Division 2000 Year-End Report

Ms. Graham-Watson provided highlights of Report COM 5-2001, and responded to questions from Committee, noting that the Division has completed 94% of its target for Community Placements as of December 31, 2000 (Target is for the period ending March 31, 2001).

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 5-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities Division – 2000 Year-End Report be received for information.

Carried.

27. Children's Services Division –
2000 Third Quarter Report

Ms. Golian, Assistant Director, Children's Services Division, provided highlights of Report COM 7-2001, and responded to questions from Committee. She advised that expenditure and service levels are on target for the third quarter, but only because of additional 100% funding from the National Child Benefit savings, and noted the strategies developed to deal with the growing demand for supports.

Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Report COM 7-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting Children's Services Division – 2000 Third Quarter Report be received for information.

Carried.

28. Seniors Services Division Quality Improvement Report
Fourth Quarter Report – October 1, 2000 – December 31, 2000

Mr. Ventresca, Assistant Director, Senior Services Division, provided an overview of Report COM 8-2001, noting that Committee will receive these reports on a quarterly basis. He advised that the report outlines Committee's role in directing and monitoring the quality of the Seniors Division including Accreditation and Ministry of Health Long Term Care Compliance Reviews. Mr. Ventresca also outlined the Rehabilitation Program Project, the implementation of the "I Can Do That" initiative, and spotlighted the ongoing work and projects of the Division's Resident Care Team, one of the Division's Functional Teams.

Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Konkle

That Report COM 8-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting Seniors Services Division Quality Improvement Report, Fourth Quarter Report – October 1, 2000 – December 31, 2000 be received for information.

Carried.

29. Veterans' Affairs Priority Access Long Term Care Beds

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report COM 9-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting Veteran's' Affairs Priority Access Long Term Care Beds be received for information.

Carried.

30. Strategy for the Future Seniors Services Management Organizational Structure

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report COM10-2001, January 22, 2001, respecting Strategy for the Future Seniors Services Management Organizational Structure be received for information.

Carried.

31.

CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the following correspondence be received and endorsed:

CHS 9-2001 Gerald A. Thompson, Chief Administrative Officer,
(December 212, 2000) to The Honourable John Baird,
Minister of Community and Social Services regarding
Mandatory Drug Treatment Initiative.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the following correspondence be received:

CHS 10-2001 Scott McLeod, Director of Fire Services, Town of
Pelham (December 8, 2000) to Frank Adamson,
Director Emergency Medical Services, regarding
Ambulance Dispatch audit.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Konkle
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That the following correspondence be received and endorsed:

CHS 11-2001 Dr. R. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, (January
22, 2001) to the Chair and Members of the
Community and Health Services Committee,
providing information on a new Early Years project,
which will make available a "Challenge Fund" of up to
\$30 million annually by 2001-2002 to communities
across Ontario.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

32. Moved by Councillor Konkle
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to a personnel matter.

Carried.

33. Implementation of a Revised Seniors Services
Management Organizational Structure

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Brickell

That Report COM 11-2000, January 22, 2001 respecting Implementation of a Revised Seniors Services Management Organizational Structure be received for information.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

Staff was directed to:

- include miscellaneous general, or specific, cost implications in reports to Committee (all staff)
- provide a list of Social Housing stock in Lincoln to Councillor Konkle (P. Papp)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 6:12 p.m. to meet again on Monday, February 5, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

T. Roy Adams
Chair

Pam Gilroy
Acting Regional Clerk