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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 24-2001

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, December 10, 2001 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Vice-Chair presiding; Zimmerman, Regional Chair; Bailey; Eke; Forster; Gabriel; Harry; Timms.

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

Staff
(Part-time): Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Ms. Chudzik, Director, Population Health; Ms. Elliott, Director, Organizational Development & Compensation Services; Ms. Golian, Director, Children's Services; Ms. Graham-Watson, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; Mr. Hagar, Employee Relations Manager; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Operational Support Services; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services, P.H.; Mr. Kaas, Acting Manager of Budgets & Reporting; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Public Health; Mr. Papp, Social Housing Transition Manager; Ms. Stewart, Manager, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.

QUORUM

There being a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Chair determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced

to 5 members, pursuant to Part 11, Section 11.7 of the Procedural By-law 7174-93.

PRESENTATION

227. Overview 2002 Consolidated Budget

Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services, highlighted the timetable for the 2002 Budget Process. He commented that the budget process is on schedule and it is anticipated that the budget will be presented to Committee of the Whole for approval on January 17, 2002. Mr. Bacchus cautioned that the only difficulty that could develop would be with the Police Budget.

Mr. Bacchus provided an overview of the proposed 2002 Consolidated Budget, noting that the information presented does not include the Police Budget. Proposed 2002 net expenditures are estimated at \$147,368,046. This represents a change of \$7,203,240 or 5.14% over 2001. 2002 proposed revenue is estimated at \$10,539,596, which represents a revenue loss of \$3,518,121 over the 2001 budget. Mr. Bacchus highlighted the contributing factors to the budget increase of \$10,721,361. This amount, he commented was adjusted for the Budget Review Committee recommendation to add \$320,000 to the Community Services Budget. The Net Tax Levy Burden to the taxpayer for Regional Departmental Services is \$9,208,076 or 7.30% after assessment growth of 1.2%.

Mr. Bacchus advised that the Corporate Management Team (CMT) met and following review of each department's budget, developed a proposal for a reduction of expenditures in the amount of \$2,865,500. A review of revenues also provided for an additional \$1,710,000. These reductions were accepted by the Budget Review Committee at its meeting of December 5, 2001.

The revised net levy impact (excluding Police), if reductions are approved, would then represent an increase of \$4,632,576 or 3.67%.

A discussion ensued regarding the delay in the receipt of the Niagara Regional Police Services Budget and it was:

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board be requested to submit its Police Budget to the Region's Corporate Services Department by December 1st.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the presentation from Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services, regarding an overview of the 2002 Consolidated Budget, be received.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

228. Presentation – Public Health Department 2002 Budget

Dr. Robin Williams, Medical Officer of Health, advised that the Public Health Department Budget is driven by many of the programs and services mandated by the Province of Ontario. Many of the issues which make up the costs in the 2002 budget are in response to the significant public and media attention and scrutiny given their overall impact on population health and public safety.

Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services, highlighted some of the programs and issues that impact the budget as follows:

- Land Ambulance
- Terrorism/Bio-Terrorism
- Emerging Diseases
- Smoking Bylaw
- Early Years
- Physician Manpower Shortage
- Public & Media Concerns
- Port Colborne Soil Contamination
- Post-Walkerton Water concerns
- Mandatory Program Compliance

The Public Health Budget consists of the following major components:

- General or Mandatory Programs
- Public Safety
- 100% Funded Programs
- Special Initiatives

Mr. Jones also provided a brief overview of the risks that could impact the budget such as contract negotiations for Ambulance Paramedics,

ONA and CUPE; Litigation – Fort Erie Water and Port Colborne Soil Contamination; Bio-Terrorism and EMO operations.

Dr. Williams commented that the department has not yet received official approval from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for its 2001 budget request and that while the grant has historically been 50%, there is the risk that it could be 48% or 49%. She commented that they are anticipating approval from the Ministry for the 2001 budget in the near future.

Mr., Jones highlighted the two largest components of the Budget noting net increases in expenditures over 2001 of \$1,088,297 for mandatory programs and \$807,549 for Public Safety.

The following reductions were made to the budget, following reviews by the Corporate Management Team and Budget Review Committee:

• Annualized Savings of costs due to positions being filled later in the year	\$179,010
• Reductions in costs associated with the Smoke-free By-law	41,323
• Anticipated additional revenue re ONA 9 Pay Equity Related Costs	<u>123,100</u>
Total	\$343,433

Taking into consideration the above reductions, the increase in net expenditures for the Public Health Department is estimated at \$1,687,480 or 12% over the 2001 budget.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

229. Presentation - Community Services Department 2002 Budget

Ms. Reid, Commissioner, Community Services, advised that the budget represents a collaborated effort of the Department Management Team. The Community Services Department is large in that it consists of 180 costs centres, several cost analysts and 45 to 50 Managers who all contributed to the development of the budget, led by Brian Hutchings, Director of Corporate Services.

Mr. Hutchings provided an overview of the Department's Budget, highlighting the program objectives, fiscal overview, program developments and fiscal challenges for each of the following Divisions: Seniors Services; Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; Children's Services; and Social Housing.

The following summarizes the proposed net expenditures for each Division:

Seniors Services Division

The Seniors Services Budget consists of programs for Long Term Care Facilities and Community Support Services.

Total next expenditures are estimated at \$4.1 million which represents a decrease of \$179,980 over the 2001 budget. This is a decrease of \$2.0 million in next expenditures since 1995 and a decrease in Regional share of costs from 17% in 1995 to 9% in 2002.

Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities Division

The Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities Budget includes Program Management; Benefits/Allowances and Provincially Operated Programs.

Total net expenditures are estimated at \$42.4 million which represents an increase of \$578,037 over the 2001 budget.

Children's Services Division

The Children's Services Budget includes the following programs: Fee Subsidy OW & Child Care; Special Needs; Wage Subsidy; Family Resource Centres and Systems Management.

Total net expenditures are estimated at \$4.5 million which represents an increase of \$315,095 over the 2001 budget.

Social Housing Division

The Social Housing Budget includes Program Management; Program Costs; Supports to Daily Living and Community Partners Program.

Total net expenditures are estimated at \$21.8 million which represents a net change of \$0 over the 2001 budget.

The overall proposed 2002 Community Services Department Budget expenditures are estimated at \$283.8 million gross and \$73.1 million net. Gross expenditures represent an increase of \$17.9 million and net expenditures represent an increase of \$1,058,476 or 1.47% over the 2001 budget.

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the Community Services Department and Public Health Department proposed 2002 Budgets and Report PHD 100-2001, respecting 2002 Budget Update, be received and referred for consideration with the overall budget at the Committee of the Whole meeting of January 17, 2002.

Carried.

230. Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities Division:
Contingency Plan for an Economic Downturn

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report COM 93-2001, December 10, 2001 (CSD 127-2001) respecting Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities Division: Contingency Plan for an Economic Downturn, be received.

That this report be received for information on the possible impacts of a downturn in the economy on the social assistance caseload.

That the impact of the economy on the social assistance caseload be considered when assessing the allocation of year-end surplus funds.

Carried.

231. Mandatory Literacy Testing
And Training Implementation Plan

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report COM 94-2001, December 10, 2001, respecting Mandatory Literacy Testing and Training Initiative Implementation Plan, be endorsed.

Carried.

Oral Reports

232. Francophone Seniors Day Program

Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services, presented an oral report regarding the Francophone Day Program. The Francophone Program is operated in partnership with Foyer Richelieu in Welland since April 1999 and is 100% funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The program is administered by staff from Sunset Haven as a three day per week program which is offered at Foyer Richelieu, a Francophone non-profit long-term care facility.

Mr. Ventresca advised that it is recommended that the program be relocated to Sunset Haven for three months where it will be integrated with a comprehensive Day Program due to decreased demand and occupancy levels well below capacity. This will provide an opportunity for 6 day access, including extended hours on selected days. Francophone staff will remain available but operating costs can be reduced from current levels. The MOHLTC, Foyer Richelieu and Community Advisory Committee is aware of occupancy challenges and proposed change. An assessment in three months time will be conducted to determine longer term plan for this program.

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That the oral report from Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services, regarding the Francophone Seniors Day Program, be received.

Carried.

233. Accreditation by the Canadian Council
On Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA)

Mr. Ventresca presented an oral report regarding the Accreditation by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA). The CCHSA is a non-profit national organization that establishes national standards for all health services such as hospitals and long-term care facilities covering organizational development, continuous quality improvement and quality client outcomes.

The accreditation process promotes self-assessment, qualified surveyor assessment and validations of assessments with community partners, families and residents and front-line staff. The current focus is on "AIM" which promotes the "Achievement of Improved

Measurement" through the use of outcome measures and a higher level of sophistication in continuous quality improvement. Since 1993 costs are fully funded by the MOHLTC, once Accreditation status is achieved.

Mr. Ventresca highlighted Niagara's experience with Accreditation. The Niagara Region's long-term care facilities were the first in Canada in 1977 to be surveyed and to achieve Accreditation status, latest of which is three years ago. Three year status is the highest achievement, and inherent to a quality improvement process, recommendations for improvement are always provided for in the organization's follow-up before the subsequent survey. Over the past year, over 100 staff from all levels in the Seniors Services Division have been engaged in Accreditation teams to conduct the applicable self-assessments and to prepare all the documentation required for the survey. The Regional Chair, Chair and Vice-Chair of CHSC, CAO, Commissioner of Community Services Division, and selected family members, and Corporate Services and Human resources Department staff have been involved in the Accreditation teams. From November 19th to November 27th two surveyors devoted the equivalent of 14 "surveyor days" to visit each long-term care facility, review the operations and interview many stakeholders in the facilities and in the community.

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the oral report from Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services, regarding Accreditation by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA), be received.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT (continued)

234. Public Health Department Accreditation

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Chair Zimmerman

That Report PHD 99-2001, December 10, 2001, respecting Public Health Department Accreditation, be received for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

235. Moved by Chair Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the following communications be received for information.

- CHS 73-2001 Debbie M. Zimmerman, Regional Chair (November 22, 2001) to The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, expressing concerns regarding the need to enhance resources for Long Term Care Facility residents and to increase integration and improve utilization of health care resources at the local Long-Term Care Facility/Hospital level.
- CHS 74-2001 Chris Hodgson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (November 14, 2001) to Debbie M. Zimmerman, Regional Chair, regarding the ability of the Regional Municipality of Niagara to fund public housing over the long term.
- CHS 75-2001 A. Lynn Noseworthy, President, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), (December 5, 2001) to Members of the Health Unit, regarding the possible need to raise membership fees in June 2002 due to the Ministry's inability to commit to providing a supporting grant to alPHa at the present time.
- CHS 76-2001 Debbie M. Zimmerman, Regional Chair, to the Honourable Minister Tony Clement, Minister of Health and Long Term Care, regarding review of ambulance dispatch services.

Carried.

ACCOUNTS

236. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ending November 30, 2001 in the following amounts be approved:

Community Services	\$2,978,963.92
Public Health	\$1,460,402.45

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

237. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Eke

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

Carried.

238. Seniors Services Division Restructuring Plan

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the oral report from Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services, regarding the Seniors Services Division Restructuring Plan be received and endorsed in principle; and

That implementation options be reviewed and a further report be presented to Committee.

Carried.

239. Personnel Issue
Public Health Department

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the oral report from Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health and Ms. Chudzik, Director, Population Health, regarding a Personnel Issue, be received and that staff be authorized to proceed as per the terms and conditions set out in the employment agreement.

Carried.

240. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 5:45 p.m. to meet again on Monday, January 14, 2002, at 3:00 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Jill Hildreth
Vice-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick
Regional Clerk