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**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**  
**COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**REPORT 9-2001**

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Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, April 23, 2001 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Councillors Adams, Chair; Zimmerman, Regional Chair; Bailey, Bentley, Brickell, Davidson, Eke, Forster, Gabriel, Harry, Hildreth, Marshall, Redekop, Timms.

Staff: Ms. Reid, Director of Community Services; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Reilly, Committee Secretary.

Staff (Part-time): Mr. Banting, Assistant Director, Legal Services; Mr. Christensen, Director of Health Protection & Promotion; Ms. Decou, Epidemiologist; Dr. Klooz, Assistant Department Director, P.H; Mr. McQueen, Supervisor, Tobacco Program; Ms. Rix, Executive Assistant; Mr. Ventresca, Assistant Director, Seniors Services Division; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention.

**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

119. Results of the Public Opinion Survey on  
Attitudes Towards Smoke-free Public Places

Mr. McQueen, Supervisor, Tobacco Program, provided a brief overview of the key findings of the recently completed Public Opinion Survey on Attitudes Towards Smoke-free Public Places. The survey is a method of consulting Niagara residents regarding the strengthening of the Regional Smoke-free Public Places By-law. The survey indicates that the majority (62%) of respondents supported 100% smoke-free public places and workplaces as compared to 50% in the 1996 survey.

The Executive Summary highlighted the three local municipalities that had the largest proportion of respondents in favour of making public places 100% smoke-free, those being Lincoln (72.7%), followed by Pelham (70.8%) and Grimsby (67.9%). The smallest proportion of respondents in favour of making public places 100% smoke-free were Wainfleet (40.0%), followed by Fort Erie (55.1%) and Niagara Falls (59.2%). Committee requested further information on how the remainder of the local municipalities responded.

Moved by Councillor Forster  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 37-2001, April 23, 2001, regarding Results of the Public Opinion survey on Attitudes Towards Smoke-free Public Places, be received.

Carried.

120. Proposal for Strengthening the Regional  
Smoke-free Public Places and Workplaces By-law

Mr. McQueen highlighted Report PHD 38-2001 which recommends a plan for implementation of a 100% smoke-free public places and workplaces by-law to be presented to Committee and Council in Fall 2001. He commented that the intent of the existing bylaw was to meet the Ontario Tobacco Strategy criteria for providing health protection from the harmful effects of environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). From a health perspective, the existing bylaw does not provide an adequate level of health protection from ETS smoke in public places and workplaces.

Members of Committee expressed the following concerns and comments with respect to a strengthened Regional Smoke-free Public Places and Workplaces By-law:

- What are financial implications of strengthening by-law?
- Enforcement of an Industrial Workplace By-law with respect to smoking areas – similar industries may not enforce by-law or provide designated smoking areas - not consistent – how is this being monitored?
- Taxes collected on cigarettes – how much is being used for youth education and awareness of health hazards?
- Enforcement of By-law in Malls and restaurants in Malls – what is being enforced with respect to positive and negative air flows – proper ventilation?
- Hypocrisy – Provincial government wants to raise taxes on cigarettes for educating youth on health hazards of smoking but gave \$20 million to tobacco industry - where are revenues from taxes going?

- What about rights of individual bar or restaurant owners – e.g. Cigar bars – a strengthened by-law may put them out of business?
- Niagara is unique with its Tourism Industry and Casino – Many foreign visitors smoke (e.g. Japan) – what kind of impact will a strengthened by-law have?
- Plan to implement Smoke-free By-law for May 2002 is too aggressive.

Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Brickell

That Report PHD 38-2001, April 23, 2001, regarding Proposal for Strengthening the Regional Smoke-free Public Places and Workplaces By-law, be received for information; and

That staff prepare a report and strengthened smoke-free public places and workplaces by-law, based on the concerns and comments expressed by Committee, and presented to Committee and Council in Fall 2001.

Carried.

121. Tobacco Control Report Card Issued by the Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco (OCAT)

Moved by Councillor Hildreth  
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report PHD 39-2001, April 23, 2001, regarding Tobacco Control Report Card Issued by the Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco (OCAT), be received for information.

Carried.

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

122. Long Term Health Care: Public Perception and Increasing Funding Requirements

Moved by Councillor Gabriel  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report COM 35-2001, April 23, 2001, respecting Long Term Health Care: Public Perception and Increasing Funding Requirements, be received for information.

That the Regional Chair request a meeting with the Minister to address issues of long term care funding and copies of this letter be forwarded to the Premier, Minister of Health, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and local Members of Provincial Parliament.

Carried.

123. Conflict of Interest

Councillor Marshall declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the Alternate Food Service Plan for the Port Colborne Redevelopment Project, as he is an employee of the Niagara Health System and he therefore took no part in the discussion of or voting on this matter.

124. Memorandum – Alternate Food Service Plan  
For the Port Colborne Redevelopment Project

As an addendum to meeting minutes, Committee received a summary of the presentation made at the joint meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Redevelopment of Long Term Care Facility Beds and the Community and Health Services Committee on April 19, 2001 regarding an Alternate Food Service Plan for the Port Colborne Redevelopment Project. The summary also highlights the main points made in previous presentations at the sub-Committee meetings of March 26 and April 9, 2001.

Moved by Councillor Hildreth  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the memorandum from Dominic Ventresca, Assistant Director, Seniors Services Division, being a written summary of the oral report presented at the Joint Community and Health Services and Sub-Committee on the Redevelopment of Long Term Care Facility Beds meeting of April 19, 2001, regarding Alternate Food Service Plan for the Port Colborne Redevelopment Project, be received as an addendum to the minutes.

Carried.

125. Committee of the Whole Council Meeting  
Scheduled for May 10, 2001  
Regarding Social Housing

Ms. Reid, Director of Community Services, reminded Committee of an important Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 10, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. in Regional Council Chambers with respect to Social Housing. She advised that an additional briefing package will be distributed to Councillors with a revised Committee of the Whole Council

agenda on Friday, April 27, with their regular courier package. Ms. Reid advised that an overview of the business components of the Social Housing Joint Local Transfer Plan will be held in open session at this meeting, followed by the closed session related to the Social Housing Transfer Governance Model. Committee was advised that the briefing package will also contain a summary of "The Social Housing Stakeholder Sessions" and a "Timeline for the Social Housing Joint Local Transfer Plan Approval".

Committee was apprised of the very tight timeframe in which to develop a Joint Local Transfer Plan which must be approved by Regional Council on May 17, 2001 and then submitted to the Ministry for approval. She advised that the Ministry would not accept any Joint Local Transfer Plans after the end of May.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

126. Moved by Councillor Davidson  
Seconded by Councillor Brickell

That Communication CHS 31-2001, from Debbie M. Zimmerman, Regional Chair to Alderman Mary Dinga, Township of West Lincoln (March 27, 2001) regarding Exotic Pets & Venomous Snakes, be received and referred to the Medical Officer of Health.

Carried.

#### **ACCOUNTS**

127. Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the Period ending March 31, 2001, in the following amounts, be approved:

Community Services	\$2,709,150.70
Public Health	1,228,653.79

Carried.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

128. Certification of Foreign Doctors

Councillor Eke distributed information to Dr. Robin Williams related to the discussions at the last Council meeting with respect to physician recruitment and the request to the Niagara Health District Council to speed up the process for certification of foreign doctors.

**CLOSED SESSION**

129. Moved by Councillor Bentley  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for the purpose of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to personnel, property and legal matters.

Carried.

130. Conflict of Interest

Councillor Redekop declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the Awarding of Contract for Rodney Street Community Health Study as he has a client that lives in the Rodney Street area and he therefore vacated the committee room and took no part in the discussion of or voting on this matter.

131. Oral Report – Tobacco Issues

Mr. Banting, Assistant Director, Legal Services, provided an oral report on various Tobacco related issues.

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That the oral report from Bruce Banting, Assistant Director, Legal Services, on various Tobacco related issues be received; and

That additional information regarding by-law enforcement, be provided in a further report.

Carried.

132. Awarding of Contract for Rodney Street Community Health Study

Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That report PHD 40-2001, April 23, 2001, regarding Awarding of Contract for Rodney Street Community Health Study, be received.

Carried.

133. Foss Road Site – Long Term Care Facility

Moved by Chair Zimmerman  
Seconded by Councillor Brickell

That staff review any service capacity challenges at the Foss Road Site and prepare written report to Committee.

Carried.

134. Moved by Councillor Hildreth  
Seconded by Councillor Brickell

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned at 4:50 p.m. to meet again on Monday, May 7, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

T. Roy Adams  
Chair

Gail Reilly  
Committee Secretary

Thomas R. Hollick  
Regional Clerk