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## THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

### COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

#### REPORT 1-2002

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, January 14, 2002 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

#### ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Zimmerman, Regional Chair; Bailey; Brickell; Davidson; Eke; Forster; Gabriel; Harry; Marshall; 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; Mr. Cunnane, Director of Public Safety; Ms. Graham-Watson, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; 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; Dr. Lee, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Nicol, Commissioner of Human Resources; Mr. Papp, Social Housing Transition Manager; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.

#### CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

1. Procedure to Select the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair of each of the Standing Committees

Debbie Zimmerman, Regional Chair, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Community and Health Services Committee.

Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Councillor Hildreth be nominated for the position of Chair of the Community and Health Services Committee for a one-year term.

The Chair called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Chair of the Community and Health Services Committee.

There being no other nominations, Chair Zimmerman, with the agreement of Councillor Hildreth, declared her Chair of the Community and Health Services Committee for a one-year term.

Councillor Hildreth, Committee Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Community and Health Services Committee.

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Councillor Brickell be appointed Vice-Chair of the Community and Health Services Committee for a one-year term.

Councillor Hildreth called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Community and Health Services Committee.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Hildreth, with the agreement of Councillor Brickell, declared him Vice-Chair of the Community and Health Services Committee for a one-year term.

Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That the report of the Regional Clerk, being Report CLK 02-2002, January 14, 2002, respecting the selection of the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair for each of the Standing Committees, be received.

Carried.

2. Day and Time of Regular Meetings for Standing Committees

Moved by Councillor Davidson  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the report of the Regional Clerk, being Report CLK 03-2002, January 14, 2002, respecting Day and Time of Regular Meetings for Standing Committees, be received.

That regular meetings of the Community and Health Services Committee be held on Mondays beginning at 3:00 p.m. in accordance with a schedule approved, from time to time by Regional Council.

That special meetings be held at such times and such places as may be appropriate, pursuant to the provisions of the procedural by-law.

Carried.

**CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

3. 2002 Current Budget Update

Mr. Trojan, C.A.O., provided an update on the status of the 2002 current budget, following an extensive review by staff, Budget Review and standing committees. He advised that prior to its meeting of January 9, 2002, the Budget Review Committee and Standing Committees had approved approximately \$5.3 million in reductions to the proposed departmental budgets. Regional Council requested a further review be undertaken to determine whether a zero tax levy burden was feasible. Mr. Trojan advised that total reductions to date, since the process began, amount to \$6,456,533 resulting in a net tax levy impact, after assessment growth, of 2.18% for Council controlled expenditures. The 2002 proposed budget, including the Police, now amounts to an increase of \$5.6 million or 2.84% after assessment growth. This results in a tax levy increase of approximately \$28.00 per household.

Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner of Corporate Services, provided background information on the budget process to date. He advised that 2002 net expenditures were proposed at \$147 million, excluding Police. This resulted in a 5.14% change over the 2001 budget. Revenues were estimated at approximately 10.5 million. Reductions in revenues are mainly attributable to the tax rate stabilization reserve,

OMERS Reserve and Investment Income. This resulted in a net tax levy burden, after assessment growth, of 7.30%.

Mr. Bacchus advised that as of December 10, 2001, the 2002 Current Budget increase was estimated at \$5,279,500 or 3.88%, excluding Police. The Budget Review Committee, at its meeting of January 9, 2002, approved reductions (considered available with minimal risks) in the amount of \$236,000. Also approved by the Committee, were reductions (considered available but not recommended) in the amount of \$940,380. This resulted in a budget increase of 2.95% for Council controlled expenditures, and 5.94% including Police.

Mr. Bacchus also advised that an adjustment to the 2001 base budget has been made (this information was not available at the Budget Review Committee meeting) of a one time expenditure of \$524,000 for the prior years police deficits.

The revised tax levy impact now represents, after assessment growth, an increase of \$3,741,828 or 1.12% for Region controlled expenditures and an increase of \$4,286,481 or 1.72% for Police. This results in an overall net tax levy impact of 2.84%.

#### Community Services Department – Budget

Mr. Hutchings, Director, Operational Support Services, provided a brief overview of the proposed 2002 Current Budget for the Community Services Department. Mr. Hutchings presented the department's program objectives, fiscal review, program developments and fiscal challenges for each Division – Seniors Services, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities Division, Children's Services and Social Housing.

Mr. Hutchings advised that following further review and reductions to the Budget, the Community Services Department Budget represents a net decrease in expenditures of (\$308,024) or (.42%) over the 2001 budget.

Committee expressed their concerns on the costs for construction of Seniors' Homes and associated debt financing costs. Committee requested staff examine alternate means of financing (i.e. lease-back arrangement, etc.).

A discussion ensued on the purpose for having media positions located in some Regional departments. The Chair commented that these

positions are temporary pending completion of an audit of the overall structure with respect to communications.

Moved by Councillor Forster  
Seconded by Councillor Brickell

That Report CSD 07-2002, January 14, 2002, 2002 Current Budget Update, be received for information and referred for consideration to the Committee of the Whole meeting of January 31, 2002.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Brickell  
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That staff prepare a report detailing information previously requested relating to funding of Long Term Care facilities with emphasis on alternative sources of funding.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CHS 10.)

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

4. **Appointment of Niagara Regional Deputy Fire Coordinator**

**Conflict of Interest**

Councillor Timms declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the appointment of the Niagara Regional Deputy Fire Coordinator, as he owns a fire restoration business and he therefore took no part in the discussion of or voting on this matter.

Moved by Councillor Marshall  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PHD 01-2002, January 14, 2002, respecting Appointment of Niagara Regional Deputy Fire Coordinator, be received and that Fire Chief Al Jones, St. Catharines Fire Department, be appointed as the Niagara Regional Deputy Fire Coordinator.

Carried.

5. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
Early Child Development Initiatives and Service Contracts

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report PHD 03-2002, January 14, 2002, respecting Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Early Child Development Initiatives and Service Contracts, be received.

That Regional Council accept the terms and conditions as required by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for the participation in the following three initiatives.

1. Injury and Family Abuse Prevention.
2. Promote Healthy Pregnancy and Child Development
3. Perinatal and Child Health Survey Strategies Project

Carried.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

6. Accommodation Planning  
- Niagara Regional Housing  
- Community Services Department

Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report COM 1-2002, January 14, 2002, respecting Accommodation Planning – Niagara Regional Housing – Community Services Department, be received.

That upon acceptance of the offer to lease (Confidential Report COM 2-2002, January 14, 2002/PWA 2-2002, January 15, 2002) this Committee recommend to Regional Council that:

- i) Niagara Regional Housing Board's decision to sublet and locate at 3340 Schmon Parkway Unit B be endorsed.
- ii) Seniors Services, Seniors Community Programs, be relocated from Sunset Haven to 3340 Schmon Parkway, at the closure of Sunset Haven.

- iii) Client service operations of the Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities Division be relocated to a location in the core of St. Catharines to facilitate client access.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CHS 10.)

#### CORRESPONDENCE

7. Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That the following communications be received:

- CHS 1-2002      John Baird, Minister, M.P.P., Ministry of Community and Social Services, regarding social assistance rates in Ontario.
- CHS 2-2002      Pat Vanini, Director of Policy and Government Relations (Dec. 17, 2002) regarding Province Wide Smoking Policy.
- CHS 3-2002      Gail Paech, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Redevelopment Project, (Dec. 17, 2001) to Mr. Trojan, C.A.O., regarding the Government of Ontario's position regarding municipal participation in the delivery of long-term care facility services.

Carried.

#### ACCOUNTS

8. Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ending December 31 2001 in the following amounts be approved:

Community Services	\$2,328,718.27
Public Health	\$1,230,652.69

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

9. Police and Community Services Collaboration

Councillor Timms apprised Committee of a news article advising of a Police initiative which stated that the Police will be working in collaboration with the Community Services Department, Senior Services Division, in developing a strategy to address crime issues in the Region.

Committee was advised that a Manager in the Community Support Services has contacted the Police and a meeting is scheduled for next week to share information and vision.

10. Recognizing Medical Officer of Health

The Regional Chair advised that the Ontario March of Dimes is honouring Dr. Robin Williams for 25 years of Community Services. A "roast and toast" event is being held at the Heidehof Hall in St. Catharines on February 27, 2002. Tickets cost \$25 a person, with a \$12 tax receipt issued. Further information will be posted on the Niagara Region Web site.

CLOSED SESSION

11. Moved by Councillor Davidson  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

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

Carried.

12. Proposed Lease of Office Space  
City of St. Catharines

Moved by Councillor Forster  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 2-2002, January 14, 2002, (PWA 2-2002, January 15, 2002) respecting Proposed Lease of Office Space, City of St. Catharines, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

13. Ambulance Issues

The Regional Chair provided an oral report on ambulance issues.

Moved by Councillor Davidson  
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That the oral report on ambulance issues be received.

Carried.

14. Update – Paramedics Contract Negotiations

Mr. Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources and Mr. Cunnane, Director, Public Safety, provided an oral report on the Paramedics contract negotiations.

Moved by Councillor Gabriel  
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That the oral report from Mr. Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources and Mr. Cunnane, Director, Public Safety, regarding Paramedics contract negotiations, be received.

Carried.

15. Terrorism – Hazardous Materials

Mr. Trojan, C.A.O. and Dr. Williams, M.O.H., provided an update on Terrorism and Hazardous Materials.

Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That the oral report from Mr. Trojan, C.A.O. and Dr. Williams, M.O.H. regarding Terrorism and Hazardous Materials, be received.

Carried.

16. Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

**STAFF DIRECTION**

Staff was directed to:

- (i) Provide a report on alternate sources of financing for Long Term Care Facilities.
- (ii) Provide figures for clients requiring transit in Thorold, to assist Councillor Davidson in addressing this issue with Thorold Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned at 4:45 p.m. to meet again on Monday, January 30, 2002, at 3:00 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Jill Hildreth  
Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick  
Regional Clerk