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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 2-2003

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, January 27, 2003 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Zimmerman, Regional Chair; Bentley; Brickell; Eke; Gabriel; Harry; Konkle; Marshall; Redekop.

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

Staff

Part-time: Community Services Dept.: Ms. Heidebreicht, Director, Children's Services.
Public Health Dept.: Mr. Beresh, Manager Part VIII and Safe Water; Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Promotion & Protection; Mr. Cunnane, Director, Public Safety Division; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Ms. Partington, Director, Population Health; Mr. Roberts, Project Manager, Public Safety Division; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Young, Manager, Food Safety.
Public Works Dept.: Mr. Ali, Associate Director, Water & Wastewater Engineer; Mr. Montgomery, Sr. Environmental Engineer.

Others: Councillor Saracino; Mr. Adamson, Manager, Niagara Emergency Medical Services; Fire Chief Bruce Little, Regional Fire Coordinator.

PRESENTATION

23. Water & Wastewater Servicing Issues
Township of Wainfleet

Mr. Beresh, Manager Part VIII and Safe Water, advised that MacViro Consultants were retained to undertake a study to identify and assess the potential impacts of the existing private water and sewage systems on the health and safety of the public and environment. The study scope included the communities of Belleview Beach, Morgan's Point and Camelot Beach, in the Township of Wainfleet.

Mr. Montgomery, Senior Environmental Engineer, apprised Committee of the results of the Sanitary Survey completed by the Region's Public Health Department which consisted of detailed assessment of 286 dwellings on private septic systems in the Long Beach Community.

Dr. Muin Husain, MacViro Consultants, advised that a hydrogeological study was carried out to assess potential human health and safety concerns associated with existing private and wastewater services in the communities within the study scope. The study consisted of an assessment of the local geology, hydrogeology and land use information along with a detailed survey of 128 residences for well water quality and septic systems. Mr. Husain detailed the exceedences with respect to e.coli, nitrate and other sewage effluent contaminants.

Mr. Husain advised the Committee that the majority of the wells studied have water quality problems indicative of sewage contamination; that a large number of disinfection systems are not functioning properly and most of the septic systems are over 20 years old and don't comply with the minimum set-back distances and were not maintained regularly.

The Consultant provided the Committee with the a prospectus of some of the options for solving the Water and Wastewater Servicing Issues in the Township of Wainfleet:

- New treatment plant in the Township of Wainfleet
- Utilize the treatment plant in the City of Port Colborne
- Utilize the treatment plant in the City of Welland
- A combination of all the above

Committee was also apprised of the improvements required to the existing treatment plants in order to accommodate the water and wastewater needs of the Township of Wainfleet.

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Report PHD 07-2003, January 13, 2003 (PWA 07-2003, January 14, 2003) respecting Water and Wastewater Servicing Issues, Township of Wainfleet, be received.

That the final report by MacViro Consultants Inc., Wainfleet Groundwater Impact Assessment, Water Well and Septic System Survey, November 2002, and its findings be received.

That the Ministry of Environment, Niagara Regional Public Health and Public Works Departments review the findings of the noted studies and this report, and in conjunction with the recommended Class Environmental Assessment process, assess further action as appropriate relative to all impacted properties in the study areas.

That the Niagara Regional Public Works Department in collaboration with the Township of Wainfleet, jointly initiate a Class Environmental Assessment to develop servicing solutions and related costs for the Wainfleet Long Beach communities, including but not limited to the communities of Long Beach, Belleview Beach, Morgan's Point and Camelot Beach in the Township of Wainfleet.

That the Niagara Regional Public Health Department in consultation with the Township of Wainfleet, Niagara Regional Public Works Department and Ministry of the Environment, immediately develop a protocol for communicating to owners of each of the Lakeshore residences, advising them that based on the results of the recent survey, well water supplies need to be frequently tested and treatment devices installed and properly maintained where necessary to ensure water is safe for drinking. (Properties through current surveys have already been notified).

That all potential Federal and Provincial funding sources be pursued for this project, including the next round of Niagara's Superbuild applications.

That Local MPs and MPPs be advised of the current situation, and be requested to assist the Region of Niagara and Township of Wainfleet in obtaining Federal and Provincial funding.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

24. West Nile Virus Plan for 2003

Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection & Promotion, provided a comprehensive summary of the activities which the Public Health Department has taken with respect to monitoring and preventing the spread of West Nile Virus. The Director advised that it is necessary to consider addressing the issue of larviciding to control the mosquito population in an effort to reduce the burden of illness to residents and

visitors in Niagara. Mr. Christensen advised that the department has submitted a proposed 2003 Vector control budget as requested by the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care which is a 50/50 cost shared program and a request that the program be 100% funded by the Province. The Public Health Department will be holding a stakeholder meeting with representatives from respective municipalities, the Region, academics, clinical physicians, large landowners and the Ministry of Environment to explore the issue locally. He commented that a strong partnership with the Region's municipalities is required so that together more aggressive control strategies could be implemented.

Committee members expressed their concerns regarding the funding for this program, noting that municipalities would not have the funding for this program as it would be seen as a Public Health Issue and that 100% funding from the Province should be pursued through the Region.

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 05-2003, January 27, 2003, regarding West Nile Virus Plan for 2003, be received.

That the Regional Niagara Public Health Department solicit support from Municipal partners to explore the feasibility of implementing a larviciding program in Niagara; and

That this program be developed under the leadership of the Region's Public Health Department; and

That the Department submit a supplementary budget to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for the implementation of a West Nile Virus Program for Niagara with the request that the Program be 100% funded by the Province.

Carried.

Chair Zimmerman distributed a copy of the letter sent from Joyce Savoline, Chair, Regional Chairs and Single Tier City Mayors of Ontario requesting swift and affirmative action at the provincial level for a coordinated response to the West Nile Virus in Ontario.
(The letter is attached behind Report PHD 05-2003 for information.)

25. Contract Amendment, Land Ambulance Service

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Konkle

That Report PHD 06-2003, January 27, 2003, respecting Contract Amendment, Land Ambulance Service, be received.

That Council approve the attached amendment of the land ambulance contract section 5 (11).

Carried.

26. Land Ambulance Service – Service Improvements
– 2002 Response Times

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Marshall declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Hotel Dieu and service delivery issues, as he is employed by the Niagara Health System and he therefore, took no part in the discussion of or voting on this matter.

Mr. Cunnane, Director, and Mr. Roberts, Project Manager, Public Safety Division, provided a slide presentation on the significant improvements the Region has made to the level and quality of pre-hospital emergency medical service. Mr. Cunnane highlighted the service enhancements that have improved the quality of the service and reduced response times in most areas of the Region. He noted that while overall Regional response times have improved, there are specific areas in the Region that still require attention. The Director advised that the Region and Hotel Dieu staff are recommending changes to the current service in areas of the Region that have been identified as immediate priorities. Mr. Frank Adamson, Manager, Niagara Emergency Medical Services, was in attendance to respond to any questions or requests for further information.

Moved by Councillor Brickell
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PHD 08-2003, January 27, 2003, regarding Land Ambulance Service – Service Improvements – 2002 Response Times, be received.

That Council approve staff recommendations to redistribute current ambulance hours to provide improved land ambulance service in the Region of Niagara.

Carried.

27. Fire Coordinator's Reserve Account

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Councillor Brickell

That Report PHD 09-2003, January 27, 2003 (CSD 10-2003, January 29, 2003) regarding Fire Coordinator's Reserve Account, be received.

That Regional Council authorize the Treasurer to transfer funds from the Regional Fire Coordinator's reserve account to the Regional Fire Coordinator's operating budget in the amount of \$13,740 to cover the cost of refurbishing a surplus ambulance to be used for the Regional Fire Prevention Officers Association as a Mobile Fire Safety and Education Centre.

Carried.

Committee was advised that Chief Bruce Little, the Region's Fire Coordinator, was leaving the Region and the Regional Chair, together with Mr. Cunnane, expressed their thanks and appreciation to Chief Little for his contribution and commitment to the Region of Niagara.

28. Children's Charter Update

Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services and Ms. Partington, Director, Population Health, provided a brief update on the Children's Charter Update. Ms. Heidebrecht highlighted the changes in the Children's Charter with respect to legal clarification and further refinement of the language in the document. This document was based on written and informal input from Community and Health Services Committee members and amendments from the Region's Solicitor.

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report PHD 10-2003/COM 5-2003, January 27, 2003, respecting Children's Charter Update, be received for information; and

That the Children's Charter be forwarded to the twelve Municipal Councils in Niagara for their comments, consideration of adoption and endorsement.

That a Children's Champion be appointed by Regional Council to be an ambassador to support the tenets of the Children's Charter.

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

29. Seniors Community Programs Funding Contract 2002

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report COM 04-2003, January 27, 2003, respecting Seniors Community Programs Funding Contract 2002, be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the Seniors Community Programs Contract 2002 with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) (Provincial = \$2,751,735; Regional levy = \$169,600).

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

30. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Brickell

That the following communications be received for information:

CHS 16-2003 Tammy Ferguson, Executive Director, Early Childhood Community Development Centre (January 10, 2003) to Councillor Hildreth congratulating Regional Council on its decision to eliminate child care user fees for low income families.

CHS 17-2003 Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors (OANHSS) Newsletter for Member Boards and Committees of Management (December 2002).

CHS 18-2003 Brenda Elliott, Minister of Community, Family & Children's Services (January 13, 2003) to Debbie M. Zimmerman, Regional Chair regarding "Homelessness".

Carried.

31. Closed Session Item

The Closed Session item, being a memorandum from Regional Chair Zimmerman and Councillor Hildreth, Chair, Community and Health Services Committee, was referred to the next Committee meeting of February 10, 2003 for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 5:35 p.m. to meet again on Monday, February 10, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick
Regional Clerk