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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 5-2003

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, March 10, 2003 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Marshall, Acting Chair presiding; Bailey; Brickell; Davidson; Forster; Harry; Konkle; Timms.

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

Staff

Part-time: Community Services Dept.: Ms. Graham-Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities.
Public Health Dept.: Mr. Cunnane, Director of Public Safety; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Ms. Partington, Director, Population Health; Mr. Roberts, Project Manager, Public Safety; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services.

Others: Councillor Saracino.

ELECTION OF AN ACTING CHAIR

43. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Councillor Marshall be appointed Acting Chair for the Community and Health Services Committee meeting of March 10, 2003.

Carried.

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

44. Ontario Works Community Placement Funds
- Reinvestment Strategy

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report COM 12-2003, March 10, 2003, respecting Ontario Works Community Placement Funds – Reinvestment Strategy, be received.

That Regional Council approve the proposed reinvestment strategy for \$2,011,800 in 100% Provincial funding.

Carried.

An ordinary quorum was present at 3:25 p.m.

45. Support for Low-income Families Related to Heat and Energy Costs

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report COM 13-2003, March 10, 2003, respecting Support for Low-income Families Related to Heat and Energy Costs, be received.

That funding of \$80,000 be approved for the 2003 year to support a community response to prevent homelessness of individuals and families due to accumulated utility arrears.

That the funding be provided from 100% Provincial Community Placement Funds for 2003 only using funds generated in 2001/2002.

That this report be circulated to local municipalities and hydro commissions for information.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

46. Public Health Department Audit

Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health, advised that Niagara's Public Health Department has been selected as one of five Public Health Departments for a Board of Health Audit/Assessment. The focus of the

audit will be on three areas: sexually transmitted diseases; tobacco enforcement and Medical Officer of Health appointment and coverage. Dr. Klooz commented that Dr. Williams was presently in a meeting regarding this matter and would report further on this later in the meeting.

47. Appointment of Niagara Regional Fire Coordinator

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Timms declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the appointment of the Niagara Regional Fire Coordinator as his business is associated with Fire Departments, and he therefore took no part in the discussion of or voting on this matter.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report PHD 15-2003, March 6, 2003, respecting Appointment of Niagara Regional Fire Coordinator, be received.

That Fire Chief Tom Cartwright, Port Colborne and Wainfleet Fire Departments, be appointed as the Niagara Regional Fire Coordinator.

Carried.

48. The Public Health Department's Revised Strategic Plan 2000-2003

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report PHD 16-2003, March 10, 2003, respecting the Public Health Department's Revised Strategic Plan 2000-2003, be received for information.

Carried.

(Dr. Klooz distributed the Public Health Department Strategic Goals with linkages to Council Vision and Council's 2000-2003 Business Plan and advised that the department's Strategic Plan "Dedicated to achieving a healthier Niagara" is available to all members of Council upon their request.)

49. Update on Immunization Enforcement Actions

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report PHD 17-2003, March 10, 2003, regarding Update on Immunization Enforcement Actions, be received for information.

Carried.

50. Emergency Mutual Assistance Agreements

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PHD 20-2003, March 10, 2003, regarding Emergency Mutual Assistance Agreements, be approved.

That the Region enter into agreements with other "Golden Horseshoe" upper/single tier municipalities to provide for mutual assistance in cases of emergency; and

That the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to execute such agreements containing such terms as approved by the Director of Public Safety and the Director of Legal Services.

Carried.

51. Request from Hotel Dieu for "Recovery Plan" Funding

Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 21-2003, March 10, 2003 (CSD 22-2003, March 12, 2003) respecting Request from Hotel Dieu for "Recovery Plan" Funding, be received.

That the Hotel Dieu's request for additional funding in the amount of \$169,783 for purposes of Hotel Dieu's Recovery Plan be approved, and that the funding be charged to the 2002 operations for ambulance services.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

52. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the following communications be received:

CHS 26-2003 Brenda Elliott, Minister, Community, Family and Children's Services (February 21, 2003) regarding child care wage subsidy funding.

CHS 27-2003 Carolyn Kett, Town Clerk, Town of Fort Erie (Feb. 25, 2003), advising that the Council of the Town of Fort Erie, at its regular meeting held on February 24, 2003, endorsed the Niagara Region Children's Charter dated January 27, 2003.

CHS 28-2003 AMO "Alert" Member Communication (March 6, 2003) regarding Ontario Child Supplement Proposal

Carried.

53. Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Brickell

That Communication CHS 25-2003 from John Albanese, Acting Chair, Board of Health, Northwestern Health Unit, Kenora, On (January 22, 2003) regarding the Board's resolution requesting the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to separately fund communities to support their work towards and implementation and continued enforcement of 100% smoke-free by-laws, be received and endorsed.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

54. Immunization Records

Councillor Timms inquired as to whether the School Boards are working in collaboration with the Public Health Department regarding the updating of the Immunization Records Information. Ms. St. Johns, Director, Clinical Services, briefly provided an update on the activities that have taken place with the schools and the parents in order to update the Immunization Records.

55. Public Health Department Audit

Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, provided a brief update on the discussions that have taken place following the recently announced audit of the Public Health Department. Dr. Williams commented that she is confident that the department will do well and that a report will be prepared for Committee following the completion of the audit.

56. Defibrillators – Fire Departments

Councillor Forster inquired as to the status regarding the placement of defibrillators in Fire Departments. Mr. Trojan advised that a meeting has been held with Dr. Williams, John Cunnane, Fire Chiefs and Administrators of area municipalities regarding this matter. He advised that while defibrillators have been provided in some non-urban areas, larger municipalities have asked to be treated equally. Mr. Trojan advised that a report regarding this matter would be coming to the Community and Health Service Committee.

57. West Nile Virus

Councillor Konkle advised that McMaster University is undertaking a study regarding the West Nile Virus and expressed his concerns on the costs for these types of studies and the potential for duplication of activities regarding the control of the West Nile Virus. The Councillor inquired as to whether there is a coordination of efforts between the Province and Public Health Departments.

Dr. Williams commented that she is aware of a number of information gathering activities that are taking place related to what happened last year with the West Nile Virus. She expressed her concerns on the focus of what happened in the past rather than the importance of dealing with the activities regarding the prevention of the disease for this year. An integrated pest management approach that may include the application of low impact larvicides to reduce the mosquito burden from municipal storm water catch basins and other mosquito breeding areas is required and funding should be used for these purposes. The Regional Chair will be meeting with the Regional Chairs to discuss this matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 4:40 p.m. to meet again on Monday, March 24, 2003 at 4:20 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

George Marshall
Acting Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick
Regional Clerk