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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 7-2003

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, April 7, 2003 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Zimmerman, Regional Chair; Bailey; Brickell; Davidson; Eke; Harry; Marshall; Timms.

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. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Operational and Support Services; Ms. McBrain, Manager, Children's Services; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.
Public Health Dept.: Mr. Cunnane, Director of Public Safety; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Ms. Partington, Director, Health Protection & Promotion; Ms. Polly, Public Health Nurse; Ms. Rix, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Ms. Rose, Health Promoter; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention
Others: Mr. Banting, Director, Legal Services; Ms. Gilroy, Deputy Regional Clerk; Mr. Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources.

Others: Councillor Saracino.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

70. Request for Capital Budget and Financing Approval
For Public Health Project ZGR0302 – Purchase of
Vehicles and Equipment for Land Ambulance Services

Moved by Councillor Brickell
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PHD 24-2003, April 7, 2003 (CSD 46-2003, April 9, 2003) regarding Request for Capital Budget and Financing approval for Public

Health Capital Project ZGR0302 – Purchase of Vehicles and Equipment for Land Ambulance Services, be received.

That the budget allocation from the approved 2003 Public Health Capital Budget in the gross amount of \$850,000 (net \$425,000) be approved for Capital Project ZGR0302 – Vehicles and Equipment re Land Ambulance Services;

That the debenture financing (1-5 years) of \$425,000 (net) for Capital Project – Vehicles and Equipment re Land Ambulance Service be approved; and

That the Regional Clerk be directed to prepare the appropriate by-laws for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CHS 60.)

71. Request for Capital Budget and Financing Approval
For Public Health Capital Project ZGR0101
– Land Ambulance Buildings

Moved by Chair Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 27-2003, April 7, 2003 (CSD 48-2003, April 9, 2003) regarding Request for Capital Budget and Financing Approval for Public Health Capital Project ZGR0101 – Land Ambulance Buildings, be received.

That the budget allocation from the approved 2003 Public Health Capital Budget in the gross amount of \$700,000 be approved for Capital Project ZGR0101 – Land Ambulance Buildings;

That the project financing be approve as follows:

- \$309,456 debenture financing (1-10 years)
- \$203,931 Capital Levy Reserve
- \$186,613 Ambulance Severance Reserve Fund

That the Regional Clerk be directed to prepare the appropriate by-laws for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

72. My Tobacco-Free Niagara Poster Contest

Sarah Rose, Health Promoter and Sandy Polly, Public Health Nurse, were in attendance to apprise Committee of the “My Tobacco-Free Niagara” Poster contest, which was launched as an initiative aimed to educate and denormalize smoking amongst Niagara’s youth. Committee was advised that 4,504 submissions were received which were double the submissions over last year. Eleven area students will be awarded prizes at Regional Council on April 17, 2003 with the winning submissions being used for promotion of World No Tobacco Day, and Regional By-law #22-2002 implementation on May 31, 2003.

Moved by Chair Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 26-2003, April 7, 2003, regarding My Tobacco-Free Niagara Poster Contest, be received.

Carried.

73. Healthy Babies, Healthy Children – Integrated Services
For Children Information System (ISCIS) 2.0 Software Upgrade

Moved by Councillor Brickell
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 28-2003, April 7, 2003, regarding Healthy Babies, Healthy Children – Integrated Services for Children Information System (ISCIS) 2.0 Software Upgrade, be received for information.

That approval be given to sign the 3 agreements with Smart Systems for Health (SSH) so implementation of the ISCIS 2.0 Upgrade may proceed. The agreements are:

- Master Service Level
- Network Services Module
- Hosting Services Module

Carried.

74. SARS Update

Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, provided an update on the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in the Niagara Region and other jurisdictions. The Ministry of Health has reported 88 probable cases and 100 suspect cases of SARS in the Province, with ten confirmed deaths and an eleventh under investigation. This spread of this disease has occurred within a period of three and a half weeks. Committee was advised that there are no probable or suspect cases of SARS in the Niagara Region but that two people are in home quarantine. Dr. Williams advised how SARS is spread, noting the mode of transmission through droplet spread and face to face contact with a sick person. Dr. Williams advised that a Regional SARS Assessment Centre has been set up at the Welland Hospital for SARS suspect cases being referred by physician offices, clinics, public health officials and non-urgent suspected SARS cases being brought to hospital by ambulance.

Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services also highlighted the measures begun by Long-term care facilities in Niagara to help prevent the possible spread of SARS. All persons entering a regional long-term care facility must complete a SARS screening questionnaire, as well as have their temperatures taken upon each visit. The Director advised that extra gloves, gowns and masks have been ordered as a protective measure. Dr. Williams advised that Province wide restrictions impacting both public and privately operated facilities are in place. The Medical Officer of Health also advised that, as of this date, there is no evidence of community spread, outside of the Greater Toronto Area.

Moved by Chair Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the oral report from Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, regarding SARS, be received.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

75. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Chair Zimmerman

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

Carried.

Chair Zimmerman advised that she no longer had an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the matter of Deer Park Villa, as her uncle who was a resident of Deer Park Villa, passed away. She therefore participated in the discussion and voting on these matters.

76. Presentation - Christian Labour Association of Canada (CLAC)

Mr. Michael Reid, Christian Labour Association of Canada, together with Mr. Jim Huggins, Health Care Aide, and Ms. Schottlander, Nurse, Deer Park Villa, attended to express the concerns and comments of Deer Park Villa employees with respect to their collective agreement with CLAC and the transfer of Deer Park Villa to the Region.

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That the presentation by Mr. Michael Reid and members of the Christian Labour Association of Canada, be received and that the Region continue to work with CLAC.

Carried.

77. Proposed Property Acquisition
Ridgeway Ambulance Station Site
In the Town of Fort Erie

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report PHD 30-2003, April 7, 2003 (PWA 63-2003, April 8, 2003) regarding Proposed Property Acquisition Ridgeway Ambulance Station Site in the Town of Fort Erie, be received.

That, subject to Committee and Council approval of Reports PHD 27-2003 and CSD 48-2003 for the Capital Budget and Financing Approval for Public Health Capital Project ZGR0101 – Land Ambulance Buildings, that Report PHD 30-2003/PWA 63-2003, dated April 7 and 8, 2003 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

78. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

79. Outside Legal and Paralegal Services
Request for Proposals #2002-RFP-18

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 18-2003, April 7, 2003, (HR 14-2003, April 8, 2003, CSD 47-2003 and DPD 50-2003, April 9, 2003), respecting Outside Legal and Paralegal Services Request for Proposals #2002-RFP-18, be approved and adopted.

That corporate policies be updated in accordance with this Report.

That the arrangements proposed herein continue for a period of three years.

Carried.

80. New Purchase of Child Care Service Agreement
Way to Grow Child Care Centre

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 20-2003, April 7, 2003, regarding New Purchase of Child Care Service Agreement *Way to Grow Child Care Centre*, be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into a Purchase of Service Agreement with *Way to Grow Child Care Centre*.

Carried.

81. SARS Update – Impact on Child Care Centres

Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services, provided an update on the impact of SARS on Child Care facilities. Committee was advised that a child care facility at the St. Catharines General Hospital with which Children's Services contracts approximately 50 spaces has been closed for a minimum of two weeks due to a Provincial order. The centre is located in the same building as the inpatient service of the hospital.

Approximately 25 children have been relocated to Connaught School and the balance of children taken care of through other arrangements.

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That the oral report from Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services, on SARS and its impact on child care facilities, be received.

Carried.

82. Mental Health Implementation Task Force: A Status Report

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 21-2003, April 7, 2003, regarding Mental Health Implementation Task Force: A Status Report, be received for information.

Carried.

83. Request for Capital Budget Allocation and Financing Approval for Projects from the 2003 Community Services Capital Programs

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report COM 22-2003, April 7, 2003, regarding Shared Service Agreement, The Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph of the Hotel Dieu of St. Catharines and Regional Municipality of Niagara, be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the Shared Services Agreement with the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph of the Hotel Dieu of St. Catharines and the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Carried.

84. Request for Capital Budget Allocation and Financing Approval
for Projects from the 2003 Community Services Capital Programs

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 23-2003, April 7, 2003 (CSD 52-2003, April 9, 2003) regarding Request for Capital Budget Allocation and Financing Approval for Projects from the 2003 Community Services Capital Programs, be received.

That budget allocations in the gross and net amount of \$380,717 as submitted in the 2003 capital Budget be approved for the Community Services Capital Program.

That the financing for the project include Capital Levy Reserve of \$380,717.

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate By-laws are prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

85. The following communication was distributed at the meeting and Ms. Rix, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention, provided a brief overview of the matter.

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Communication CHS 33-2003 from David Hanley, Niagara Food and Beverage Consulting Services, representative for Adult Entertainment Association of Niagara, be received; and

That a letter be forwarded to Mr. Hanley, acknowledging receipt of his letter and advising him that the process with respect to the implementation of a by-law regulating the smoking of tobacco in public places and workplaces has been completed.

Carried.

86. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the following communications be received:

- CHS 30-2003 Holly Dowd, Town Clerk, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, (March 27, 2003) advising of its Council's support and endorsement of the Children's Charter.
- CHS 31-2003 Article "Butting Out" – Smoking By-laws Sweep Across the Country.
- CHS 32-2003 Municipal – Provincial Social Services Working Group, Vol. 2 Issue 2 (March 31, 2003) regarding "Building a new way of doing business – first steps"

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

87. Smoking By-law Implementation Steering Committee

Councillor Timms advised that the Smoking By-law Implementation Steering Committee met and that there has been an additional 12 applications for Designated Smoking Rooms. Staff will be dealing with these requests in a meeting with the applicants.

STAFF DIRECTION

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Prepare a list of vehicles and equipment, which contributes to the \$850,000, included in the 2003 Capital Budget (minute item 70).

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 4:55 p.m. to meet again on Monday, April 28, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick
Regional Clerk