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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 8-2003

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, April 28, 2003 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Bailey; Bentley; Brickell; Davidson; Eke; Marshall.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Ms. Reid, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Gilroy, Deputy Regional Clerk.

Staff

Part-time: Community Services Dept.: Ms. Child, Cost Analyst, Operational Support; Ms. Graham-Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Operational and Support Services; Mr. Oettinger, Administrator, Linhaven Long-Term Care Facility; Ms. Papaiz, Communications Co-ordinator; Ms. Rudel, Manager, Seniors Community Programs; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.

Public Health Dept.: Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection & Promotion; Mr. Cunnane, Director of Public Safety; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Ms. Jugley, Manager, Community Mental Health Program; Ms. Partington, Director, Health Protection & Promotion; Ms. Rix, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Mr. Roberts, Project Manager, Public Safety; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services;

Others: Mr. Bousfield, Manager, Properties and Facilities Management; Mr. Robson, Director of Corporate Strategy.

Others: Councillors Saracino and Smeaton.

PRESENTATION

88. Smoking By-Law

Mr. Jim Handley, Niagara Food & Beverage Consulting Services, addressed Committee on behalf of the Adult Entertainment Industry of Niagara. He expressed concerns that these businesses will be negatively impacted by Regional Smoking By-law 22-2002, when it comes into force at the end of May, 2003. In support of his concerns, he cited statistical information on the economic impact smoking by-laws have had on businesses in Ontario where similar by-laws have been passed. As well, he detailed the amount of money infused into the local economy by the purchase of liquor, beer and food from local suppliers, and through utility and tax payments, and licensing fees. Mr. Handley requested an amendment to Regional Bylaw 22-2002, "A by-law regulating the Smoking of Tobacco In Public Places and Workplaces", which would allow the adult entertainment industry to be exempt from its requirements.

Mr. Handley provided a copy of his presentation and supporting documentation. (Please refer to Staff Directions.)

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

89. Volunteer Program Achievements 2002 Seniors Services

Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services, provided an overview of Report COM 25-2003, highlighting: the financial contributions to the Seniors Services Division during 2002, recognizing those volunteers who have reached significant years of service (40 and 45 years), and outlining scheduled events to honour volunteers during Canada's National Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 27 to May 3, 2003. He noted that a special tribute to these long-time volunteers will be made at Regional Council on May 1, 2003.

Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report COM 25-2003, April 28, 2003, regarding Volunteer Program Achievements, 2002 Seniors Services, be received for information.

Carried.

90. T. Roy Adams Regional Centre for Dementia Care:
Program of Care

Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services, provided an overview of Report COM 26-2003, highlighting the purpose of the Centre, a profile of the late Councillor T. Roy Adams, after whom it was named, the identification of the Centre's community partners, and the admission and discharge criteria. He noted that the opening of the centre is being dovetailed with the opening of Northland Pointe in Port Colborne, the week of June 9, 2003.

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 26-2003, April 28, 2003, regarding T. Roy Adams Regional Centre for Dementia Care – Program of Care be received for information.

Carried.

91. Children's Services Division
2002 Fourth Quarter Report (Year End)

Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services, highlighted key program and financial information pertaining to services of the Children's Services Division, for the year 2002. She noted that the Beamsville Co-op Nursery School, an organization with which Children's Services contracts services, will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary on May 31, 2003.

Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Report COM 27-2003, April 28, 2003, regarding Children's Services Division, 2002 Fourth Quarter Report (Year-End) be received for information.

Carried.

92. Year-End Report (January 1 – December 31, 2002)
Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities Division

Ms. Graham-Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, highlighted key program and financial information pertaining to the services of the Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities Division, for the year 2002.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Brickell

That Report COM 28-2003, April 28, 2003, regarding Year-End Report (January 1 – December 31, 2002) Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities Division, be received for information.

Carried.

93. Proposal for Reform of the Social Assistance System in Ontario

Ms. Graham-Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, explained the Child Supplement Proposal, which will remove children from the social assistance program by instituting a new benefit for children whose families receive social assistance. The new "Ontario Child Supplement" would be 100% Provincially funded. The adult portion of the Ontario Works Program would be re-focused to be a labour market attachment program.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report COM 29-2003, April 28, 2003, regarding Proposal for Reform of the Social Assistance System in Ontario be received, and

That this Committee recommend to Regional Council the endorsement of a proposal for reform of the Social Assistance System in Ontario, as recommended by the Board of Directors of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

94. Community Mental Health Program:
Annual Operating Plan and Budget (2003 – 2004)

In response to concerns expressed by Committee, Ms. Jugley, Manager, Community Mental Health Program, advised that current staffing levels in the Program are far below the provincial benchmark, and agreed that additional resources are needed to address mental health issues now and in the future. Ms. Jugley advised that the Central South Mental Health Implementation Task Force has submitted its findings to the Province and new funding is being held back until the Task Force's recommendations are released.

Moved by Councillor Brickell
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PHD 31-2003, April 28, 2003, regarding Community Mental Health Program, Annual Operating Plan and Budget (2003-2004) be received, and

That the Regional Chair be authorized to execute the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) documents in approval of the Community Mental Health Program 2003/2004 Annual Operating Plan and Budget.

Carried.

(Please refer to Staff Directions.)

95. SARS Update

Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, provided an update on SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), and outlined the screening, surveillance, prevention and infection control measures which have been developed across the Region in the anticipation of the occurrence of SARS cases in Niagara. Mr. Jones, Director of Administrative Services, advised that all of the SARS related staffing, operating and materials/supplies costs are being tracked through GEAC in anticipation that part, or all, of these costs will ultimately be covered by the province.

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report PHD 33-2003, April 28, 2003, SARS Update, be received for information.

Carried.

(Please also refer to Correspondence CHS 37-2003 below, which was distributed at the meeting.)

CORRESPONDENCE

96. Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the following communications be received:

- CHS 33-2003 Niagara Health Coalition – Kim Stasiak, Registered Nurse, requesting Council’s support (April 10, 2003) for “public” healthcare.
- CHS 35-2003 City of Welland – Craig A. Stirtzinger, City Clerk, regarding Welland City Council resolution that Schedule ‘A’, “Proposed Niagara Children’s Charter” Report P&R-03-07 be forwarded to the Region of Niagara as Welland’s comments on a proposed Niagara Children’s Charter.
- CHS 36-2003 W. Peter Randall, Alderman Ward Four, Town of Lincoln, submits comments regarding Report PD 10-2003/COM 05-2003 Children’s Charter.
- CHS 37-2003 Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, two memorandums, “School Trips to Toronto”, and “World Health Advisory regarding travel to Toronto, Ontario”. (Please also refer to Minute Item 95.)
- Carried.
97. Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Bentley
- That the recommendation in the following Communication be supported:
- CHS 34-2003 John Cunnane, Public Health, regarding the resolution adopted by the County of Renfrew (March 26, 2003) No. H-CC-03-03-34 be supported by Niagara.
- Carried.

MINUTES

98. Report 2-2003
- Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Eke
- That Report 2-2003, being the minutes of the Sub-Committee on the Redevelopment of Long Term Care Facility Beds of Monday, April 7, 2003, be received and accepted.
- Carried.

99. Report 1-2003

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report 1-2003, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Ontarians with Disabilities Act of Wednesday, April 16, 2003 be received and accepted.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

100. Closure of Levy Supported Capital Projects

Committee had for consideration Report CSD 58-2003, which was approved at the Corporate and Financial Services Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 2003, and was referred to this Committee, for explanations of the significant variances in the Closeouts for the Community Services Department.

Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Report CSD 58-2003, April 23, 2003, respecting Closure of Levy Supported Capital Projects, be received.

That total net transfers from the Capital Levy Reserve (0035-0960) of \$26,064.78, as shown in Appendix 1, be approved to accommodate the closure of Community Services Capital projects.

That total net transfers from the Capital Levy Reserve (00350960) of \$7,609.62, as shown in Appendix 2, be approved to accommodate substitution of previously approved debenture financing and close-outs of Roads capital projects.

That total net transfers to the Police Vehicle & Equipment Replacement Reserve Fund (0030-0946) of \$263,610.00 and total net transfers to the Policy Capital Levy Reserve (0035-0958) of \$174,823.88, as shown in Appendix 3, be approved to accommodate substitution of previously approved debenture financing, budget reductions and close-outs for Police Capital Projects.

That project closeouts be completed as indicated.

That the Regional Clerk be instructed to prepare the appropriate by-law(s) for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

101. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Councillor Smeaton declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to all matters related to long term care facilities, as he is employed by a seniors home, and he therefore vacated the Committee Room, and took no part in the discussion of, or voting, on these matters.

CLOSED SESSION

102. Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

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

Carried.

103. Proposed Property Disposal
Former Dochester Manor Long Term Care Facility
In the City of Niagara Falls

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PWA 65-2003 (COM 24-2003), April 22, 2003, respecting the Proposed Property Disposal, Former Dorchester Manor Long Term Care Facility in the City of Niagara Falls, be received.

That the tender in the reported amount as received from Panoramic Properties Inc., for the sale of the surplus property as described in Contract RN 03-14 be accepted; and

That the parcel of surplus land being the south-most 50ft., wide strip of the Dorchester Manor property be sold to the City of Niagara Falls with compensation being in the amount reported including payment of applicable survey costs; and

That the Regional Solicitor be authorized to prepare and the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the documentation required to effect the above-described transactions.

Carried.

104. Emergency Medical Service (EMS) –
Future Service Delivery Options

Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PHD 34-2003, April 28, 2003, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) – Future Service Delivery Options, be received; and

That Committee recommends that Council receive this report and direct the development of a long-term vision for EMS in Niagara; and

That, based on the developed vision, recommendations for the future delivery of EMS in Niagara be developed and brought to Committee and Council; and

That staff be authorized to retain additional staff on an “as needed” basis.

Carried.

105. Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTION

That staff be directed to:

- (i) refer the presentation and supporting documentation provided by Mr. Handley to Ms. Rix, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention, for review and comment, and circulation to committee members (Please refer to Minute Item 88).
- (ii) report back to Committee with options with respect to urging the Province to respond to the Central South Mental Health Implementation Task Force’s recommendations. (Please refer to Minute Item 94).

- (iii) provide a work plan for the next few months with respect to West Nile Virus, which includes key operational elements and public relations (Councillor Eke)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 5:40 p.m. to meet again on Monday, May 5, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Pam Gilroy
Deputy Regional Clerk

Thomas R. Hollick
Regional Clerk

Attachments to these minutes, which were distributed at the meeting:

- Report PHD 33-2003, SARS Update
- Additional information on SARS from Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health (Communication CHS 37-2003)