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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 9-2003

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, May 5, 2003 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Brickell, Vice-Chair presiding; Zimmerman, Regional Chair; Bailey; Davidson; Eke; Forster; Gabriel; Harry; Marshall; Redekop; Timms.

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

Staff

Part-time: Community Services Dept.: Ms. Graham-Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Mr. Oettinger, Administrator, Linhaven; 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. Hunter, Manager, Health Protection & Promotion; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Ms. Papaiz, Communications Co-ordinator; Ms. Roach, Manager, Infant Education and Parent Teaching Program; Mr. Roberts, Project Mgr., Public Safety; Mr. Young, Manager, Health Protection & Promotion.

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

Others: Councillor Saracino.

PRESENTATION

106. Certificates of Recognition
Recipients of Queen's Jubilee Award

Debbie Zimmerman, Regional Chair, together with Councillor Brickell, Committee Vice-Chair, extended congratulations and Certificates of Recognition to Mr. Henry Goertzen and Ms. Lorraine Leyden of the Seniors Services Division, who were honoured with receiving the Queen's Jubilee Award. The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal was created to mark the 50th Anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne on February 6, 1952. It is awarded to those persons who have made a significant contribution to Canada; to their community; or to their fellow Canadians.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

107. Infant Education/Parent Teaching Program

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report PHD 32-2003, May 5, 2003 (HR 20-2003, May 6, 2003) regarding Infant Education and Parent Teaching Program (IEPT) Annual Enhanced Funding, be received.

That approval be granted to accept additional funding from the Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services for the Infant Education and Parent Teaching (IEPT) Program. This funding will support a .8 FTE increase for the therapist and family home visitor positions. All cost related to this increase are inclusive of the funding.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to process the Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services budget documents.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CHS 76.)

108. Rabies

Moved by Chair Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PHD 35-2003, May 5, 2003, regarding Rabies, be received for information.

Carried.

109. West Nile Virus Update

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report PHD 36-2003, May 5, 2003, regarding West Nile Virus Update, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CHS 76.)

OTHER BUSINESS

110. S.A.R.S.

Councillor Marshall inquired as to the costs to the Region related to the S.A.R.S. outbreak, noting that the original \$15,000 cited must be well below actual costs. Dr. Sider advised that they are continuing to track what costs are and hope to have these costs paid for by the Province. Councillor Marshall asked if there was a standard approach with other Public Health Departments regarding the tracking of costs and asked that this matter be investigated.

111. Update – Compliance Testing – Drinking Water

The Regional Chair advised that the Region's water meets all compliance testing with the Ministry of the Environment. She advised that The Regional Municipality of Niagara tests drinking water on a regular basis for many different chemical substances. These tests include nickel concentration in drinking water even though there is no present regulatory requirement.

Dr. Sider advised that the Region has requested a copy of the report by AMEC Earth and Environmental Ltd. to review information related to nickel soil and ground water contamination. Committee and Council will be updated as more information is received.

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That the oral reports by Regional Chair Zimmerman and Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, regarding compliance testing of drinking water be received.

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

112. Respite Companion Program: Collaboration
With the Alzheimer Society of Niagara

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 31-2003, May 5, 2003, regarding Respite Companion Program: Collaboration with the Alzheimer Society of Niagara, be received.

That Regional Council authorize the Regional Chair and Clerk to execute an Agreement to Cooperate between the Region of Niagara and the Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region for the purpose of delivering the Respite Companion Program to the citizens of Niagara.

Carried.

Councillor Brickell, on behalf of Committee, asked that accolades be extended to Regional staff and members of the Alzheimer Society of Niagara for their efforts in developing an alternate delivery model that will continue to provide respite companion services in Niagara.

CLOSED SESSION

113. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

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

Carried.

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

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Harry

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

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, be received and the recommendations therein be approved; and

That construction of the proposed Ridgeway Ambulance Station facility be deferred pending further consultation on the project with relevant stakeholders.

Carried.

115. Oral Report – Local Agency Update

Ms. Reid, Commissioner, Community Services, provided an update on a matter related to a local agency.

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the oral report by Ms. Reid, Commissioner, Community Services, being an update on a matter related to a local agency, be received.

Carried.

116. Labour Relations Strategy for Operation
Of Deer Park Villa

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 30-2003, May 5, 2003 (HR 21-2003, May 6, 2003) regarding Labour Relations Strategy for operation of Deer Park Villa be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

117. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTION

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Forward a letter of thanks to the Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services for the additional funds to the IEPT Program's base budget to address service to children with special developmental concerns. (Minute item 107.)
- (ii) Forward a letter to ALPHA to request assistance in bringing a "united voice" for all Public Health Departments in their request for additional funding from the Province for the West Nile Virus plan. (Minute item 109.)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 4:20 p.m. to meet again on Monday, May 26, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Mark Brickell
Vice-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick
Regional Clerk