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## **THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**

### **COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE**

#### **REPORT 10-2003**

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, May 26, 2003 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Zimmerman, Regional Chair; Bailey; Bentley; Brickell; Davidson; Harry; Redekop; Timms.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

#### **Staff**

Part-time: Community Services Dept.: Mr Bauer, Manager of Resident & Community Programs; Ms. Graham-Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Operational Support Services; Ms. Rudel, Manager, Seniors Community Programs;  
Public Health Dept.: Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection & Promotion; Ms. Newman, Foodhandler Educator; Ms. Rix, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention; Mr. Young, Manager, Health Protection & Promotion.  
Others: Mr. Banting, Director, Legal Services; Ms. Beckwith, General Manager, N.R.H.; Mr. Robson, Director of Corporate Strategy.

Others: Councillor Saracino.

#### **PRESENTATION**

118. Crossingham, Brady Solicitors  
Smoking By-law and Adult Entertainment

Mr. Brian Simpson, Solicitor, Crossingham, Brady, attended on behalf of Seductions International and the Association of Adult Entertainment in Niagara. The Solicitor requested exemption or partial exemption to Smoking By-law 22-2002 based on the following:

- The by-law will hinder business and create job and revenue losses
- Loss of business from New York State patrons
- Adult Entertainment Industry is similar to casinos, slots and other such gambling and tourist industries and should receive the same exemptions
- Designated Smoking Areas would be very costly to comply with (approximately \$300,000) given the size of the buildings

Report PHD 38-2003 regarding this matter, was brought forward for consideration by Committee at this time.

119. Adult Entertainment Industry of Niagara  
Request for an Exemption to By-law 22-2002

Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 38-2003, May 26, 2003, respecting Adult Entertainment Industry of Niagara Request for an Exemption to By-law 22-2003, be received; and

That the Adult Entertainment Industry of Niagara request for an exemption to By-law 22-2002 be denied.

Carried.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

120. Seniors Services Division Quality Improvement Report  
First Quarter Report – January 1 – March 31, 2003

Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services, provided a brief overview of the First Quarter Quality Improvement Report, outlining the various improvements that have been implemented with respect to Compliance Reviews, Accreditation Recommendations, Improved Wound Care and Palliative Care.

Ms. Rudel, Manager, Seniors Community Programs, together with Mr. Dave Bauer, provided a visual display spotlighting the “Open Space” meeting methodology used at the Community Forum that was held titled “The future of Community Services for Seniors is in your hands”. The exercise identified core service delivery and future planning requirements. The investment of resources has resulted in valuable information that will help shape service planning, establish new partnerships, and demonstrate the benefit of true community engagement. Committee was advised that

the open space meeting methodology was received with overwhelming participant satisfaction.

Moved by Chair Zimmerman  
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Report COM 32-2003, May 26, 2003, respecting Seniors Services Division Quality Improvement Report First Quarter Report – January 1 – March 31, 2003, be received for information.

Carried.

121. Update on the Social Assistance Reserve Fund

Mr. Hutchings, Director, Operational Support Services, provided a brief update on the status of the Social Assistance Reserve Fund established on March 1, 2001. The Director advised that the continuation of funding the Social Assistance Reserve Fund is a prudent fiscal practice to stabilize future Social Assistance costs and levy requirements due to future economic downturns.

Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 33-2003, May 26, 2003 (CSD 82-2003, May 28, 2003), respecting Update on the Social Assistance Reserve Fund, be received for information.

Carried.

122. Oral Presentation  
Lora Beckwith, General Manager  
Niagara Regional Housing  
Re: 2003-2004 Business Plan – April 2003

Ms. Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing, provided an overview of the 2003-2004 Business Plan for the Corporation. Ms. Beckwith highlighted the Mission Statement "*We exist to provide and advocate for safe, quality and affordable housing in Niagara Region*". The Guiding Principles were also highlighted as follows:  
"*we affirm that housing is a basic human right and we are dedicated to ensuring fair and equal access for those in need*" and  
"*we are committed to forming partnerships that are based on mutual respect and dignity*".

Ms. Beckwith outlined the Corporation's goals as follows:

- **P**rovide safe and affordable communities
- **R**einforce a healthy work environment
- **O**perate effectively and efficiently
- **U**phold quality customer service standards
- **D**evelop and strengthen partnerships

A summation of each of the above goals was provided to Committee.

Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the oral report from Ms. Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing, regarding Niagara Regional Housing's 2003 – 2004 Business Plan, be received.

Carried.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

123. Foodhandler Certification Course

Ms. Newman, Foodhandler Educator, provided information related to the foodhandler education program. The provision of this course helps foodhandlers to understand the importance of such factors as proper food handling, hand washing, and temperature control as well as the potential consequences of poor practices and should assist in reducing incidents of foodborne illness.

Moved by Councillor Bentley  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report PHD 37-2003, May 26, 2003, respecting Foodhandler Certification Course, be received for information.

Carried.

124. Alternative Ventilation Systems for Designated Smoking Rooms

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report PHD 39-2003, May 26, 2003, respecting Alternative Ventilation Systems for Designated Smoking Rooms, be received; and

That By-law 22-2002 not be amended to allow for the use of alternative ventilation systems.

Carried.

(Refer to staff directions on page CHS 83.)

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

125. Moved by Councillor Bentley  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the following communications be received:

CHS 38-2003 Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk, York Region (April 17, 2003) regarding Long Term Care Funding – OANHSS Submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.

CHS 39-2003 Janet Ecker, Minister, Ministry of Finance, regarding Ontario Municipal Economic Infrastructure Financing Authority and advising applications are being accepted from municipalities for subsidized loans to support critical infrastructure investments.

CHS 40-2003 John Crossingham, Solicitor (May 22, 2003) regarding Smoking B-law and Adult Entertainment.

CHS 41-2003 Mike Trojan, C.A.O. regarding Emergency Medical Services- Future Service Delivery Options.

CHS 42-2003 Michael Schuster, President, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), regarding AMO's Ontario child Supplement Proposal and increases in allowance for people on ODSP and Ontario Works benefits.

Carried.

### **ACCOUNTS**

126. Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ending March 31, 2003 in the following amounts be approved:

Community Services	\$2,927,151.94
Public Health	\$2,036,707.94

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ending April 30, 2003 in the following amounts be approved:

Community Services	\$2,692,547.56
Public Health	\$1,590,248.43

Carried.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

127. alPHa Conference

Councillor Timms inquired as to whether any Committee members will be attending the alPHa Conference on June 8 – 10, 2003 and advised that he would be attending.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

128. Moved by Chair Zimmerman  
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

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

Carried.

129. Personnel Matters  
Community Services Department

Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services, and Lorraine Graham-Watson, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities, provided oral reports regarding two personnel matters in the Community Services Department.

130. Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That this Committee do now rise without report.

Carried.

**STAFF DIRECTION**

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Provide Councillors with an update on the process to date regarding the Amended Smoking By-law and Implementation Process. (Refer to minute item 124.)
- (ii) Provide a list of DSR applicants. (Refer to minute item 124.)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned at 4:35 p.m. to meet again on Monday, June 9, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Jill Hildreth  
Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick  
Regional Clerk