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**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**  
**COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**REPORT 12-2003**

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Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, July 14, 2003 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

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

Staff: Ms. Reid, Commissioner, Community Services Dept.; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Community Services Dept.: Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Operational Support Services.  
Public Health Dept.: Mr. Cunnane, Director, Public Safety; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Ms. Papaiz, Communications Coordinator; Mr. Roberts, Project Manager; Ms. St. John; Mr. Young, Health Protection & Promotion.  
Other Depts.: Mr. Nicol, Commissioner of Human Resources; Ms. Fontana, Director, Corporate Health Services and Employee Relations; Mr. Robson, Director, Corporate Strategy.

Others: Councillor Saracino.

**PRESENTATIONS**

150. Larry Butters, Paramedic, Hotel Dieu Hospital  
V.P. CUPE Local 7100  
Hotel Dieu's Decision Not to Renew its Contract

Mr. Butters, Vice-President, CUPE Local 7100, attended to provide the perspective of ambulance paramedics on how best to deliver ambulance services in the Niagara Region. CUPE Local 7100 represents nearly 600

employees at the Hotel Dieu Hospital, including 196 in the paramedic unit (193 paramedics and 3 clerical workers). The paramedics believe that, as frontline health care workers, the best possible option for delivery of the service is for the Region to take it over. Committee was advised that when the provincial government first downloaded ambulance services on January 1, 2001, 22 municipalities out of 50 took on direct delivery of ambulance services, and that reflected an increase in public delivery from the period prior to the downloading. Mr. Butters also noted that no municipality has gone from direct service delivery to contracting another agency or private corporation to operate ambulance services since January 1, 2001. The concerns of the paramedics were highlighted with respect to salaries, job security and pensions and benefits when a service is contracted out, noting that paramedics are more inclined to seek employment with one of the municipally-run services elsewhere in the province. The presenter asked that the Region, as they review the options available for delivery of ambulance services, consider the best possible option of direct ambulance services.

Moved by Councillor Davidson  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the presentation from CUPE Local 7100 regarding Ambulance Services, be referred to the Closed Committee of the Whole Meeting on Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003, for discussion with Report PHD 46-2003 respecting Land Ambulance Service – External Review of Service Delivery Options.

Carried.

151. Sylvin Lepine and Andrew Middleton  
Niagara Paramedic Association  
Future of Niagara Emergency Medical Services and Dispatch for Niagara

Mr. Lepine, President and Mr. Middleton, Vice-President, Niagara Paramedic Association (NPA), attended to apprise Committee of their Association's vision for the immediate future of Niagara Emergency Medical Services (NEMS). The Niagara Paramedics Association is a chapter of the Ontario Paramedic Association and the Canadian Paramedic Association and exists to advocate the highest level of care for patients in Niagara. The NPA promotes and educates the public about their profession through educational programs, demonstrations and charity work, which in turn promotes healthy lifestyles and safety. Committee was apprised of the NPA's mission statement and vision for the immediate future of NEMS as it relates to governance, organizational culture, obligatory components, funding, management approach, staffing, training

and education, vehicles and transfer system. Mr. Middleton asked that Regional Council take these recommendations into consideration when formulating and implementing plans for future ambulance services.

Moved by Councillor Bentley  
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That the presentation from the Niagara Paramedic Association regarding Ambulance Services, be referred to the Closed Committee of the Whole Meeting on Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003, for discussion with Report PHD 46-2003 respecting Land Ambulance Service – External Review of Service Delivery Options.

Carried.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

#### 152. State of Niagara's Child Care Funding

Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services, apprised Committee of the Province's decision to reduce the 2003 Ontario Works Child Care allocation by \$160,125 and the implications for clients attaining and maintaining independence from social assistance. The decision was based on sole support parent cases representing a declining percentage of the total caseload and did not account for base funding inadequacies or an analysis of participant patterns and related support requirements. This will have an impact on the Region's ability to support individuals and families in achieving independence through employment. The reduction in Child Care funding undermines the goals of Ontario Works. Ms. Heidebrecht also apprised Committee of the Province's lack of movement in distributing Niagara's share of federal/provincial/territorial Early Childhood Development Initiative funds targeted for licensed child care and the continuing implications for financial shortfall.

Moved by Councillor Redekop  
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report COM 40-2003, July 14, 2003, respecting State of Niagara's Child Care Funding, be received.

That correspondence be forwarded by the Regional Chair to the Minister of Community, Family and Children's Services requesting that:

- a) the Ontario Works Child Care funding be reinstated to the 2002 level of \$1,839,750;

- b) the Provincial funding allocation for Niagara's Ontario Works Child Care allocation reflect client participation rate, not solely the caseload size, and;
- c) Niagara's share of federal/provincial/territorial Early Childhood Development Initiative funding targeted for licensed child care be distributed commencing 2003.

That the Regional Chair's letter and Report COM 40-2003 be circulated to area municipalities, local M.P.P.s and local service providers for information and support.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CHS 93.)

### **CLOSED SESSION**

153. Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

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

Carried.

### **Conflict of Interest**

Councillor Brickell declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the ambulance RFP as he is running as a candidate for the Provincial election, representing the party currently in power, and he therefore vacated the Committee Room, and took no part in the discussion of, or voting, on this matter.

154. Land Ambulance Service – External Review of Service Delivery Options

Mr. M. Rubenstein, IBI Group, provided a brief overview of Report PHD 46-2003 respecting Ambulance Service – External Review of Service Delivery Options, which is to be considered at the Closed Committee of the Whole meeting on Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

Moved by Chair Zimmerman  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That staff be directed to proceed with the Human Resources function as recommended by Committee.

Carried.

155. Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

156. West Nile Virus Communications Plans

Ms. Papaiz, Coordinator Communications, provided an overview of the public education and awareness components of the Public Health Department's West Nile Virus Contingency Plan. Committee was apprised of the two communications plans regarding the Personal Protection and Mosquito Abatement Public Education Campaign and the Public Notification of Larviciding or Adulticiding. Ms. Papaiz apprised Committee of the Ministry of the Environment regulations about public notification and the activities taken by the department to fulfill those requirements. An update on communications related to adulticiding will be presented in a future report.

Moved by Chair Zimmerman  
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report PHD 44-2003, July 14, 2003, respecting West Nile Virus communications Plans, be received for information purposes; and

That future communications state that they are a message from the Regional Municipality of Niagara rather than the Public Health Department.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CHS 93.)

157. West Nile Virus Update

Dr. Sider provided background information on the funding for the West Nile Virus programs and cost-sharing formula with the Province to date and funding expectations should a Tier 3 response be required.

Mr. Young, Manager, Health Protection and Promotion, highlighted the West Nile Virus control activities that have taken place and currently under way. He advised that the release of the balance of the Regional portion of the funding for the larval-related activities is required to fully implement this program in order to meet contractual obligations with the Region's pest control contractor. Also a funding mechanism needs to be formalized in the event the services of a licensed contractor to implement an adulticiding program are required.

Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Report PHD 45-2003, respecting West Nile Virus Update, be received for information.

That this report be approved, **as amended**, and the remainder of the Regional portion of the approved funding for the West Nile Virus (WNV) larviciding program in the amount of \$297,451.00 be released from the contingency reserve.

That in the event that a Tier 3 response is required, **the Region** implement an adulticiding protocol that will receive cost-shared funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

That this report be circulated to each municipality.

Carried.

**MINUTES**

158. Report 3-2003

Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report 3-2003, being the minutes of the Sub-Committee on the Redevelopment of Long Term Care Facility Beds meeting of June 9, 2003, be approved.

Carried.

159. Report 3-2003

Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report 3-2003, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians with Disabilities Act meeting of June 17, 2003, be received.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CHS 93.)

**CORRESPONDENCE**

160. Moved by Councillor Brickell  
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That the following communications be received and dealt with as directed by this Committee and as noted in these minutes:

CHS 50-2003      Niagara Regional Housing Report #03-18-4.4, June 26, 2003, respecting Request for Contribution from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. (Attached is original correspondence from Councillor Elisabeth Arnold, Co-Chair, National Housing Policy Options Team, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, (May 22, 2003) requesting a contribution for the National Housing Policy Options Team to continue to engage in the critical issues of homelessness and the need for affordable housing.  
(This matter was referred to the CHSC at the CFS meeting of June 11<sup>th</sup> .)

--Received.

CHS 51-2003      Letters from the Cities of Niagara Falls, Port Colborne and St. Catharines, regarding the "Children's Charter for Niagara".

--Received.

CHS 52-2003      Dr. Karim Kuji, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, being an update on the recommendation made by the

Region that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of the Environment form a Lead Review Consensus.

--Received.

CHS 53-2003 Elaine Clark, Acting Clerk Administrator, Town of Ingersoll, requesting support for its Council's resolution to petition the Government of Ontario to enact legislation to prohibit smoking in all public and work places in the Province of Ontario.

--Receive and supported.

CHS 54-2003 Narendra Shah, Regional Director, Ministry of Health and Long-term Care (June 26, 2003) respecting July 1, 2003 Increase in the Per Diem Rates for Nursing and Personal Care, Program and Support services, Raw Food, and Other Accommodation.

--Received.

CHS 55-2003 Toni Farley, Director, Social Housing Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (May 2, 2003) respecting the Urban Native Housing Program.

--Received.

Carried.

### **ACCOUNTS**

161. Moved by Councillor Harry  
Secoded by Councillor Brickell

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

Community Services	\$3,009,300.51
Public Health	\$1,614,781.38

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

Community Services	\$2,903,511.46
Public Health	\$1,495,486.25

Carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

162. Smoking By-law

Councillor Timms provided a brief update on the discussions of the Implementation of the Smoking By-law Committee and it was recommended that the notes of the meeting be distributed to the Community and Health Services Committee.

A discussion ensued on the various concerns related to the implementation of the Smoking By-law. Committee requested a report on the status of and challenges related to the implementation of the Regional Smoking By-law be prepared for the Community and Health Services Committee meeting in August.

**CLOSED SESSION**

163. 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 legal and personnel matters.

Carried.

164. Smoking By-law

Moved by Councillor Marshall  
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That staff obtain legal advice on the process required for amending the Smoking By-law.

Carried.

165. Labour Relations Strategy for Operation of Deer Park Villa

Moved by Councillor Davidson  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report COM 41-2003, July 14, 2003 (HR 27-2003, July 15, 2003), respecting Labour Relations Strategy for Operation of Deer Park Villa, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

(Councillor Timms wished to be recorded as opposed to the foregoing motion.)

166. Moved by Councillor Davidson  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

### **STAFF DIRECTIONS**

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Provide a clear strategy on the Region's position with respect to Child Care Services and consider holding a Child Care Summit for all stakeholders in order to build Community Support. (Refer to minute item 152.)
- (ii) That a meeting of the Public Information and Communications Advisory Committee be held to discuss various methods for disseminating information (i.e. service page, newspaper inserts). (Refer to minute item 156.)
- (iii) That the Accessibility Advisory Committee assess the accessibility of the multi-use trails as part of their audit. (Refer to minute item 159.)

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned at 6:10 p.m. to meet again on Monday, August 11, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Jill Hildreth  
Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick  
Regional Clerk