


To view related Council minutes, select the Adobe hand tool  and click on the link below.
<http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca/clerks/minutes/2003/cl/cl14-2003.pdf>

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 15-2003

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, September 22, 2003 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Bentley; Davidson; Eke; Forster; Harry; Konkle; Marshall; Redekop.

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

Staff

Part-time: Community Services Dept.: Mr. Hutchings, Director, Operational Support Services; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.

Public Health Dept.: Ms. Biscaro, Manager, Healthy Babies/Parent Child; Ms. Decou, Medical Epidemiologist; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Public Health; Ms. Partington, Director, Population Health; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Wilson, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention.

Other Departments: Mr. Bousfield, Manager, Properties and Facilities Management; Mr. Sidawi, Director, Operational Support Services, P.W.

Others: Councillors Rigby and Saracino.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

197. Provincial Evaluation of the Healthy Babies
Healthy Children Program (2001-2002)

Ms. Decou, together with Ms. Biscaro, provided a brief overview of the outcomes of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program evaluation conducted by Applied Research Consultants and the Centre for Families, Work and Well Being at the University of Guelph. The results indicate that

Niagara is demonstrating significant short-term outcomes in the areas of higher indices of infant development, increased parental support, positive parenting, increased parenting confidence and decreased parental stress. A further long-term study is planned for 2005 when the children studied in this evaluation will be entering kindergarten.

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PHD 60-2003, September 22, 2003, respecting Provincial Evaluation of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program (2001-2002), and the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program (HBHC) evaluation, conducted by ARC (applied Research Consultants) and the Centre for Families, Work and Well Being at the University of Guelph be received for information.

Carried.

198. Niagara Kid's Report Card

Ms. DeCou highlighted the Niagara Kid's Report Card which is a resource and quick reference tool used for planning and decision-making purposes throughout the Region. Provincial comparators were included to provide a more complete picture. Updates to the report cards will be provided on a regular basis.

Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report PHD 61-2003, September 22, 2003, respecting Niagara Kid's Report Card be received for information.

Carried.

199. Nutritious Food Basket Survey 2003

Ms. Wilson provided an overview of the Nutritious Food Basket Food Costing Survey conducted in Niagara highlighting some implications for health. The report provides evidence that substantiates a significant public health concern – that not all Niagara residents can access a healthy diet. The issue of poverty and food insecurity in the Niagara Region, continues to deserve attention, not only as a social problem, but as a barrier in the prevention of obesity and chronic disease.

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 63-2003, September 22, 2003, respecting Nutritious Food Basket survey 2003, be received for information.

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

200. Costs of Various Staff Absences in Community Services

Mr. Ventresca provided a summary of costs of various staff absences in Community Services as requested by Committee. The Director highlighted the costs of replacement for various planned absences (e.g. vacations and lieu time); costs of replacement for various unplanned absences (e.g. sick leave and bereavement); and other replacement costs associated with various staff absences or special duties (e.g. orientation, training, modified worker accommodation and secondments). Also summarized was an analysis of these costs and recommendations for improvements in managing unplanned absences and replacement costs. Committee was also provided a summary of expenditures totaling approximately \$3.2 million as "replacement" costs. A breakdown of costs indicate \$1.8 million for replacement of staff on vacation; \$.55 million for replacement of staff entitled to lieu time and \$.9 million for replacement of staff for sick leave, bereavement, orientation and training, injury leave and secondments. Approximately \$2.35 million of the identified \$3.2 million is required to meet statutory or contractual obligations. Various measures are in place to effectively manage the controllable absence costs and improvements in budgeting and accounting processes have been made to identify the cost variables more effectively.

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Report COM 48-2003, September 22, 2003, respecting Costs of Various Staff Absences in Community Services, be received for information.

Carried.

ACCOUNTS

201. Moved by Councillor Konkle
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ending August 31, 2002 in the following amounts be approved.

Community Services	\$2,900,503.90
Public Health	\$1,755,973.83

Carried.

MINUTES

202. Report 4-2003

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report 4-2003, being the minutes of the Sub-Committee on the Redevelopment of Long Term Care Facility Beds meeting of September 8, 2003, be received and the recommendations contained therein approved.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

203. Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Konkle

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

Carried.

204. Public Health Accommodations
573 Glenridge Avenue, St. Catharines

Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 55-2003, September 22, 2003 (/PWA 156-2003, September 23, 2003), respecting Public Health Accommodations, 573 Glenridge Avenue, St. Catharines, be received; and

That approval be granted to enter into discussions with Brock Plaza Properties, landlord of the 573 Glenridge Avenue building, to determine options for expanding the building by an approximate additional 19, 300 square feet.

Carried.

205. Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 4:20 p.m. to meet again on Monday, October 6, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick
Regional Clerk