

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 13-2004

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on September 13, 2004, commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Almas; Angelone; Bailey; Baty; Casselman; Katzman; Marshall; Mastroianni; Rigby.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Ventresca, Acting Commissioner of Community Services; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Mr. Bartholomew-Saunders, Manager, Children's Services; Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Ms. Hepplewhite, Manager, Corporate Records/Acting Deputy Clerk; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; Ms. Noel, Data Coordinator Analyst, Public Health; Mr. Pelette, Manager, Housing, Hostels & Homelessness; Mr. Smith, Coordinator Policy Research & Development.

**APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL COUNCILLOR
TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

106. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Regional Councillor Anne Angelone be appointed to serve on the Community Services Committee.

Carried.

CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

107. Ontarians with Disabilities Act – Accessibility Plan

Ms. Hepplewhite, Manager, Corporate Records/Acting Deputy Clerk, provided background information and content of the Region's second annual Accessibility Plan. The major priority identified by the Accessibility Advisory Committee and the corporate team was sensitivity and awareness training for Regional staff. Other priorities include the continued utilization of the Niagara Townhall for Accessibility Issues and Inter-municipal transit for persons with disabilities. A technical sub-committee has recently been formed to assist in the development of construction standards for new facilities and to evaluate changes required to existing ones.

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report CLK 14-2004, September 13, 2004, respecting the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2000 – Accessibility Plan be received; and

That the Accessibility Plan for 2004/2005 be adopted.

Carried.

MINUTES

108. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the following minutes be received:

Report 4-2004 Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of May 18, 2004

Report 5-2004 Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of June 22, 2004

Report 6-2004 Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of July 20, 2004

Report 7-2004 Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of August 17, 2004

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

109. Investing in our Future:
The Early Learning & Child Care Plan 2004 – 2007

Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services, advised that Children's Services plan for 2004 – 2007 follows the Ministry's requirements and makes recommendations for the next three years on early learning and childcare services for Niagara. The Director briefly highlighted the plan requirements as outlined by the Ministry. A copy of the full report is available for Councillors' view from the Office of the Director, Children's Services with final copies of the Plan to be distributed to Committee in October 2004. The final plan will be printed and distributed for a fall launch to the child care community.

Mr. Bartholomew-Saunders, Manager, Children's Services, advised that the development of the 2004/07 plan relied heavily on data accumulated over the past three years with emphasis on information received in the past year. Mr. Bartholomew-Saunders highlighted Appendix I which provides a summary of reviews, consultation and feedback activity for the period 2001-2004. He commented that four key themes have emerged based on experience and extensive consultation: a need to stabilize the child care system through payments that reflect the market rates as well as annualized cost of living adjustments; enhancement of the quality of services provided; strengthening of expanded partnerships and continuation of business process changes. A further report providing detailed funding requirements in order to maintain existing service levels and stabilizing the child care system will be presented to Committee.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report COM 59-2004, September 13, 2004, respecting Investing in our Future: The Early Learning & Child Care Plan 2004 – 2007, be received; and

That Children's Services plan "Investing in our Future: The Early Learning & Child Care Plan 2004 – 2007" be approved and forwarded to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services for acceptance.

Carried.

110. Energy Emergency Fund Implementation

Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, briefly described the service delivery model and implementation for delivering Emergency Energy funds. The Director advised that the Energy Emergency Fund is 100% provincially funded on a one-time basis and is not annualized funding. The purpose of the fund is to help vulnerable families that find themselves facing an energy-related emergency. The proposed Service Delivery Model will allow the Region to deliver this program with extensive community engagement.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 61-2004, September 13, 2004, respecting Energy Emergency Fund Implementation, be received for information; and

That the Director of Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities be authorized to sign Service Delivery Agreement with the Warmth for all Charitable Corporation o/a Share the Warmth; and

That the Service Delivery Model be approved; and

That this report be sent to the Ministry of Community and Social Services highlighting the previous Energy Funds outcomes and recommending the Program be continued in 2005/2006 and beyond years.

Carried.

111. Update on the City of St. Catharines Homelessness Situation

Mr. Hutchings, together with Mr. Pelette, Manager, Housing, Hostels and Homelessness, provided an update on the status of the homelessness situation in St. Catharines. The Community Services Department, working with the Mayor of St. Catharines and community agencies have arrived at a short term solution for the homeless but efforts are being made to develop a long term solution. Assessment of the residents of the Merritton Town Hall continues and will, in addition to helping individuals, provide a profile of the homeless that will assist staff in planning for services in the future.

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report COM 62-2004, September 13, 2004, respecting Update on the City of St. Catharines Homelessness Situation, be received for information.

Carried.

112. Second Quarter Report – Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities

Moved by Councillor Mastroianni
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 63-2004, September 13, 2004, respecting Second Quarter Report – Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, be received for information.

Carried.

113. Oral Report – Women’s Resource Centre

Mr. Hutchings advised that a meeting is to be held at the Women’s Resource Centre in Beamsville on September 30th at 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Approximately 25 community agencies will be in attendance and staff of the Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities Division have been asked to attend to provide an information session on Ontario Works.

114. Oral Report - Ontario Municipal Social Services Association – (OMSSA)

Mr. Hutchings advised that he is Chairing an OMSSA initiative to propose transferring Ontario Works to a labour force development program which is intended to provide stability for children by getting them off the Ontario Works system. This program will bring changes to the Ontario Works system and look at providing job maintenance to clients.

115. Additional Accountability Measures
In Long-Term Care Facilities

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report COM 64-2004, September 13, 2004, respecting Additional Accountability Measures in Long-term Care Facilities, be received for information.

Carried.

116. 2003 Long-Term Care Facility Service Agreements
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report COM 65-2004, September 13, 2004, respecting 2003 Long-term Care Facility Service Agreements Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2003 Long-Term Care Facility Service Agreements for its current operating budget with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Provincial subsidy \$23,623,870/Regional Expenditure \$4,092,167).

Carried.

117. Revised Seniors Services Nursing Management
Structure – Linhaven

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report COM 67-2004, September 13, 2004 (HR 35-2004, September 7, 2004) respecting Revised Seniors Services Nursing Management Structure – Linhaven, be received for information.

Carried.

ACCOUNTS

118. Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That the Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ending July 31, 2004 in the amount of \$2,516,000.96 be approved.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

119. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Report COM 66-2004, September 13, 2004 (HR 36-2004, September 7, 2004) respecting Jurisdictional Representation – Deer Park Villa, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

120. Oral Report – Recruitment of Commissioner of Community Services

Mr. Trojan provided an oral report on the recruitment of the Commissioner of Community Services.

121. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 5:05 p.m. to meet again on Monday, October 18, 2004, at 3:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters Building.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Acting Regional Clerk