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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 13-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on August 22, 2005, commencing at 3:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Bailey; Baty; Casselman; Marshall.

Staff: Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Ms. Schiffli, Manager, Education and Quality Improvement; Ms. Stewart, Acting Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; Mr. Tarajos, Manager, Community Services; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.

Quorum

There being a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Chair determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to five members, pursuant to Part 11, Section 11.7 of the Procedural By-law 7174-93.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

123. Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report Second Quarter – April 1 to June 30, 2005

Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services and Jenny Schiffli, Manager, Education and Quality Improvement, presented an overview of the Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report for the period April 1 to June 30, 2005. Ms. Schiffli highlighted the five new Patient Safety Goals for which the Canadian Council of Health Services Accreditation will expect to observe evidence of compliance with the next survey in 2007. Mr. Ventresca updated Committee on the revised new staff orientation for Seniors Services implemented on May 3, 2005.

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 64-2005, August 22, 2005, respecting Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report Second Quarter – April 1 to June 30, 2005, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CSC 72.)

124. 2006 Budget Process

Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services, outlined the criteria developed to evaluate changes to the Community Services Department's Capital and Current Budgets.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 70-2005, August 22, 2005, respecting 2006 Budget Process, be received for information.

That the criteria for evaluating changes to the 2006 Community Services Capital and Current Budgets be approved.

Carried.

125. Medical Directors Annual Reports 2004
Long-Term Care Homes

Mr. Ventresca highlighted the summary of current trends and developments relative to changing profile of residents and the key recommendations by the Medical Directors for improvement of resident care and support to families as contained in Report COM 65-2005.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 65-2005, August 22, 2005, respecting Medical Directors Annual Reports 2004- Long-Term Care Homes, be received for information.

Carried.

126. Challenges in the Care of the Cognitively Impaired Elderly
- Summary of Coroner's Inquest

Mr. Ventresca provided a summary of the areas of concern resulting from the Coroner's inquest into the Case Verde Nursing Home deaths and highlighted the Niagara Region's efforts to manage the challenges in the care of the cognitively impaired elderly.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 66-2005, August 22, 2005, respecting Challenges in the Care of the Cognitively Impaired Elderly – Summary of Coroner's Inquest, be received for information.

Carried.

127. Provincial Funding of Long-Term Care

Mr. Ventresca apprised Committee of the recent Provincial government announcements of funding increases for 2005-2006 for long-term care homes and community support programs, highlighting the implications of these announcements as they relate to potential staff reductions or increase in Regional contributions to its operations.

Members of Committee expressed their concerns on the Province's funding announcements, given the Province's higher expectations for care levels and recommended that Council increase its pressure for increased funding, reiterating the Region's concerns that the less than inflationary funding increase could lead to the possible reduction in care or service levels in Niagara.

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 67-2005, August 22, 2005, respecting Provincial Funding of Long-Term Care, be received for information.

That the Regional Chairman be authorized to correspond with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to request that the Province increase its funding for long-term care to at least match anticipated 2006 inflationary increases in costs.

That the Regional Chairman be authorized to request the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) to advocate for a higher increase in long-term care funding for municipalities from the Province of Ontario.

That a contingency plan be developed for alternate funding sources with a review of levels of care and service, to ensure that the implications of the Provincial funding announcements for long-term care operations, do not impact the taxpayers of Niagara.

Carried.

128. Phase One Provincial Best Start Announcement

Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services, provided highlights of the recent provincial announcement of dollars for the expansion of child care across the Province and the impact on the Niagara Region.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 68-2005, August 22, 2005, respecting Phase One Provincial Best Start Announcement, be received for information.

Carried.

129. Purchase of Service Agreement with Wee Watch Private Home Day Care for the Provision of Home Child Care

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 69-2005, August 22, 2005, respecting Purchase of Service Agreement with Wee Watch Private Home Day Care for the provision of Home Child Care, be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into a Purchase of Service Agreement with Wee Watch Private Home Day Care for the provision of child care in private individuals homes.

Carried.

130. Municipal Financial Impact of Residential Development Services Closures

Ms. Stewart, Acting Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities and Mr. Tarajos, Manager, Community Services, apprised Committee of the potential local municipal fiscal impact from the closures of the Rideau Regional Centre, Southwestern Regional Centre and the Huronia Regional Centre. Staff is

recommending that the Regional Chairman request the Province to continue to fund 100% of the benefits and allowances paid out to the returning residents.

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 71-2005, August 22, 2005, respecting Municipal Financial Impact of Residential Developmental Services Closures, be received.

That the Regional Chairman correspond with the Minister of Community and Social Services to request that all residents transferred from the residential developmental services facilities back to the local communities, have their Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) allowances and benefits maintained at 100% funding from the Province.

Carried.

MINUTES

131. Report 5-2005 and Report 6-2005

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report 5-2005, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians with Disabilities Act meeting of May 17, 2005, and Report 6-2005, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians with Disabilities Act meeting of June 28, 2005, be received.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

132. Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That the following communications be received:

CSC 12-2005 Sandra Pupatello, Minister of Community and Social Services (June 28, 2005) to Regional Chair Partington in response to his letter respecting the Regional Municipality of Niagara's escalating Ontario Disability Support Program costs.

- CSC 13-2005 Sandra Pupatello, Minister of Community and Social Services (June 28, 2005) to Regional Chair Partington in response to his letter respecting the provincial reinvestment of the National Child Benefit Supplement.
- CSC 14-2005 Wendy Nicklin, President and Chief Executive officer, Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (July 13, 2005) confirming the accreditation of The Regional Municipality of Niagara Senior Services Division.
- CSC 15-2005 Mary Anne Chambers, Minister of Children and Youth Services (July 21, 2005) providing an update on the progress of the implementation of Phase 1 of Best Start. (Refer to Report COM 68-2005.)
- CSC 16-2005 George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long Term Care (July 19, 2005) thanking the Region for its continuing effort and co-operation in working with his ministry to improve Ontario's health care system.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

133. Community Services Committee – Time of Meeting
Councillor Marshall, in response to the suggestion that the time for the Community Services Committee meeting be examined due to the lack of media coverage, commented that he would like the 3:00 p.m. meeting time to continue. Other members of Committee concurred that the 3:00 p.m. start best fits their work schedules.

CLOSED SESSION

134. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Baty

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

Carried.

135. Expansion of Sublease of Office Space – PORT CARES

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 72-2005, August 22, 2005 (PWA 145-2005, August 23, 2005) respecting Expansion of Sublease of Office Space – PORT CARES, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

136. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTION

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Examine the feasibility of including data on resident to resident aggression. (Refer to minute 123.)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 4:40 p.m. to meet again on Monday, September 12, at 3:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters Building.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk