

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 14-2009

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health and Social Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, 2201 St. David's Road, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 2:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Baty, Co-Chair; Casselman, Co-Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Cordiner; Forster; Goulbourne; Greenwood; Henderson; Katzman; Rigby; Timms.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services; Mr. Bain, Regional Clerk; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Other: Community Services: Ms. Edgar, Manager, Children's Services; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.

Public Health: Dr. Jaeger, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Mr. McKay, Associate Director, EMS; Mr. McQueen, Operating Officer, P.H.; Ms. Peaceful, Director, Community Development & Surveillance.

Corporate Services Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Ms. Murphy, Associate Director, Current & Capital Budgets.

PRESENTATIONS

207. Niagara Region Public Health (NRPH)
Update Report re: H1N1 Planning

A video was viewed by the Committee regarding the H1N1 Flu virus and the Vaccine which was developed to catch the attention of young people.

Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, provided an update on the H1N1 Planning noting that NRPH has received 49 new laboratory confirmed cases of H1N1 flu virus, resulting in a total of 119 laboratory confirmed cases in the Niagara Region. There has been two deaths of Niagara residents associated with the H1N1 flu virus. The NRPH will receive the unadjuvanted H1N1 vaccine today for pregnant women.

Dr. Williams advised that clinics continue to be offered to members of the priority group, as per the direction from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. She noted that RNPH would like to expand the scope for the priority groups and that this will be discussed this afternoon in a teleconference with the Ministry.

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That the presentation by Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, being an Update on H1N1 Planning, be received.

Carried.

(A copy of the Niagara Region Public Health Update Report re: H1N1 Planning is attached to the minutes.)

208. 2010 Capital Budget & Operating Pressures

Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services, provided an overview of the 2010 Capital Budget and Operating Budget Pressures. A draft 2010 Capital Budget was presented to the Budget Review Committee of the Whole (BRCOTW) on October 15, 2009 and Committee will review the budgets on November 3rd and 4th with a meeting scheduled for November 5th to seek approval of the 2010 Capital Budget. Ms. Cousins highlighted the benefits for early approval of the Capital Budget.

The 2010 Capital Budget as presented to the BRCOTW indicates total available financing of \$117,927,946. The financing is to be deferred for the Police Long Term Accommodations (\$14,396,000) which leaves a Capital Shortfall of \$8,538,169. Ms. Cousins detailed the criteria and filters used for prioritizing Capital Projects.

209. 2010 Community Services Capital Budget

Ms. Cousins provided an overview of the Community Services 2010 Capital Budget. The Capital Budget totals \$750,000 for various projects within the Seniors Services Division. A chart was provided depicting debt charges for the period 1995 – 2010.

210. 2010 Community Services Operating Budget Challenges

Ms. Cousins highlighted the 2010 fiscal challenges for the Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities Division. The budget for the 2010 Ontario Works caseload will increase 14%. The 2009 Year to Date Ontario Works caseload increased 19.34%.

The Community Services 2010 Operating Budget Pressures for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), Ontario Works and Children's Services total \$8,432,337 with \$4,000,000 funded from Upload and \$4,432,337 funded from Reserves.

Ms. Cousins highlighted the Community Services 2010 Operating Budget Social Assistance Reserve Fund Projected Activity, commenting that without the allocation of significant upload dollars in 2011, this reserve will be depleted in 2011. However, Ontario Works will not be fully uploaded until 2018, and recession impacts will be felt for several more years. It is anticipated that there will be a shortfall in reserve for 2011 of \$(4,022,338). 2011 potential Upload savings were projected at \$14,448,201.

Ms. Cousins provided an overview of the community Services 2010 Operating Budget "Mitigation Efforts" for the Children's Services, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities and Seniors Services Divisions, as well as the "Outstanding Risks" for the 2010 Community Services Operating Budget.

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That the presentations by Ms. Cousins, Director, Operation Support Services, Community Services, regarding the 2010 Capital Budget & Operating Pressures and Community Services Proposed 2010 Capital and Operating Budgets, be received.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

(Copies of Ms. Cousin's presentations regarding Capital Budget & Operating Pressures and the Community Services Proposed 2010 Capital and Operating Budgets are attached to the PHSS minutes.)

211. 2010 Public Health Operating Budget Challenges

Mr. McQueen, Operating Officer, P.H., provided an overview of the 2010 Public Health Department Operating Budget. The 2010 Operating Budget is proposed at \$69,335,660 in gross expenditures and \$21,905,840 in net expenditures. This represents an increase in gross expenditures of 6.9% and an increase in net expenditures of 12.2% over the 2009 Approved Budget, mainly due to the EMS service level increases of \$3.1 million in 2010.

The 2010 Proposed Budget for Cost Shared Programs is \$26,118,497 in gross expenditures and \$6,717,614 in net expenditures, representing an increase in gross expenditures of 0.2% and an increase in net expenditures of 0.5% over the 2009 Approved Budget.

The 2010 Proposed Budget for 100% Funded Programs is \$8,282,490 in gross expenditures and net expenditures of \$0. These are 100% funded programs so there is no net impact on the Regional Budget. There were some 100% programs that were given budget reductions (reported earlier this year), so the amount is reduced.

Mr. McQueen also highlighted the 2010 Budget “Challenges” and “Risks” and subsequent “Mitigation Efforts” for the Cost Shared and 100% Funded Programs.

The 2010 Proposed Budget for the Emergency Services Division is \$29,297,790 in gross expenditures and \$14,884,778 in net expenditures. This represents a gross expenditure increase of 15.2% and a net expenditures increase of 15.9% over the 2009 Approved Budget.

The 2010 Proposed Budget for Ambulance Communications is \$5,636,923 in gross expenditures and \$0 in net expenditures. This represents a gross expenditures increase of 12.7% and a net expenditures increase of 0% over the 2009 Approved Budget.

Mr. McQueen highlighted the 2010 Emergency Services Division Budget “Challenges” and “Risks” and proposed “Mitigation Efforts”.

212. 2010 Public Health Capital Budget

The 2010 Capital Request for the Emergency Services Division was presented as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Ambulance Replacement and Equipment | \$1,200,000 |
| • Fort Erie Base Replacement | \$1,500,000 |
| • Walnut Street Base Replacement | \$1,100,000 |
| • Rose Avenue Base Replacement | \$ 800,000 |

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That the presentation by Mr. McQueen, Operating Officer, P.H., regarding the 2010 Public Health Capital Budget and Operating Budget Challenges be received with a further report to Committee.

Carried.

(A copy of Mr. McQueen’s presentation on the Proposed 2010 Public Health Operating and Capital Budgets is attached to the PHSS minutes.)

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

213. Educational Incentives for Registered Practical Nurse
Candidates in Seniors Services
COM 57-2009

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report COM 57-2009, November 3, 2009, respecting Educational Incentives for Registered Practical Nurse Candidates in Seniors Services, be received.

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that staff be authorized to introduce an educational incentive plan for Registered Practical Nurse candidates for a trial period of three years.

Carried.

214. Long-Term Care Home Planning Submissions
to the Local Health Integration Network 2010 – 2013
COM 58-2009

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report COM 58-2009, November 3, 2009, respecting Long-Term Care Home Planning submissions to the Local Health Integration Network 2010 – 2013, be received.

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that the Long-Term Care Home Accountability Annual Planning Submission 2010 – 2013 to the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) be approved for Niagara Region's eight long-term care homes.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

215. Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That the following communications be received:

PHSS 48-2009 Timiskaming Health Unit (September 2, 2009) regarding its resolution respecting Healthy Communities Fund.

- PHSS 50-2009 Mac Bain, Chairperson, Board of Health, North Bay Parry Sound District (October 13, 2009) respecting its recommendations regarding Food Safety and Foodborne Illness.
- PHSS 51-2009 Mac Bain, Chairperson, Board of Health, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (October 13, 2009) regarding the reduction in funding for the Smoke-Free Ontario programs.
- PHSS 52-2009 Mac Bain, Chairperson, Board of Health, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (October 13, 2009) regarding Community Based Programs.
- PHSS 53-2009 David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (October 5, 2009) regarding one time funding to support the purchasing of IT equipment for Niagara's pH1N1 mass vaccination clinics.

Carried.

216. Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Communication PHSS 49-2009 from Henry Clark, Chair, Board of Health, Peterborough County-City Health Unit (September 30, 2009) seeking support for its resolution respecting Air Quality Health Index, be referred to staff for comments.

Carried.

217. Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Communication PHSS 54-2009, being a Memorandum from Brian Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services (October 27, 2009) regarding COM 40-2009, July 21, 2009 Implementation of Full Day Learning Report, be received.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

218. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature regarding a personal matter about Identifiable Individuals including Municipal or Local Employees – Health Bus.

Carried.

219. Personal Matter About Identifiable Individuals – Health Bus

A question arose regarding a Personal Matter About Identifiable Individual relating to the Health Bus.

Confidential Report CSD 133-2009, October 14, 2009, respecting A Matter of Labour Relations – Niagara Region “A Learning Organization” Supports to Learning, Education and Training, which addresses the issue, will be distributed to Public Health and Social Services Committee members.

220. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That this Committee do now rise without report.

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

Staff be directed to:

- (i) Prepare a chart detailing “Best Case” and “Worse Case” scenarios regarding Ontario Works Caseload Projections for 2011. (Timms) Refer to minute item 210.
- (ii) Prepare a chart comparing 2008-2009-2010 projections for clients served in Community Services. (Cordiner) Refer to minute item 210.
- (iii) Send a letter to Minister Deb Matthews, regarding Offload Nursing Funding. (Casselman) Refer to minute item 211.
- (iv) Prepare a report providing further information on the Capital Projects identified with the Emergency Services Division (Casselman/Goulbourne) Refer to minute item 212.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee adjourned at 4:35 p.m. to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, November 25, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Judy Casselman
Co-Chair

Kevin Bain
Regional Clerk