

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 15-2009

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 24, 2009 at 2:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Baty, Co-Chair; Casselman, Co-Chair; Cordiner; Forster; Goulbourne; Marshall; Rigby; Timms.

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

Staff

Other: Community Services: Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services; Ms. Hagan-Todd, Director, Children's Services; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services; Ms. Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities.

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

Administration: Mr. Roberts, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair; Mr. Weir, Director of Administration.

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

PRESENTATIONS

221. 2010 Community Services Operating Budget

Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services, provided an overview of the 2010 Community Services Operating Budget. The 2010 budget proposes gross expenditures in the amount of \$355,956,330 and net expenditures of \$49,757,718. This represents an increase in gross expenditures of 34,754,581 or 10.82% and a decrease in net expenditures of (\$9,926,601) or (16.63%). Ms. Cousins highlighted the Community Services Department challenges and priorities and operating budget pressures. Information was also provided on the Social Assistance Reserve Fund Projected Activity and the impacts of 2011 on Reserves. As part of the 2010 Fiscal overview, a chart was presented detailing

program areas; gross expenditures; net expenditures and net changes for Provincially Operating Programs; Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Housing, Hostels/Homelessness; Children's Services and Seniors Services. A breakdown of Program Objectives; Program Developments and Challenges and Quality Highlights for each Division was also provided.

In summary, Ms. Cousins highlighted the following:

- Economic recession has had a significant impact on 2009 and 2010 expenditures. As a result, Community Services has budgeted a draw from reserves of \$4,432,337 for the first time to ensure service levels are met while providing tax payer stability.
- Uploading of ODSP caseload attributes to a reduction of \$13,873,201 on the Community Services Budget from 2009.
- Meet increased care needs and expectations in long term care homes when inflation exceeds base funding increases.
- Increased costs for salaries, benefits and operating expenditures not being met by increases in Provincial revenues.

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That the presentation by Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services, Community Services regarding the 2010 Community Services Operating Budget, be received.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

(Copies of Ms. Cousin's presentation regarding 2010 Community Services Operating Budget is attached to the PHSS minutes.)

222. 2010 Public Health Operating Budget

Mr. Jones, Director of Administration, Public Health, together with Mr. McKay, Associate Director, Emergency Services Administration, provided an overview of the 2010 Public Health Operating Budget.

The 2010 Public Health Budget proposes gross expenditures in the amount of \$69,032,212 and net expenditures of \$21,602,392. This represents an increase in gross expenditures of \$4,587,190 or 7.1% and an increase in net expenditures of \$2,078,074 or 10.6%.

Mr. Jones highlighted the Public Health Department's Cost-Shared and 100% Funded Programs; 2010 Budget mitigation efforts; challenges and risks.

Mr. McKay, Associate Director, EMS Administration, highlighted the Emergency Services Division gross and net expenditures, as well as Program Objectives for the Regional CBRN/Hazmat Emergency Response Team, and Land Ambulance Services.

Mr. McKay provided information on the impact to Niagara EMS operations as a result of the Niagara Health System's Hospital Improvement Plan and conversions of the Port Colborne General Hospital and Douglas Memorial Hospital Emergency Departments to Urgent Care Centres. As a result, temporary increases in resources were recommended and approved in 2009 (1.1 million) and annualized \$3.1 million (2010) to mitigate these impacts. A breakdown of the \$3.1 million was provided. Charts were also provided on response times and information related to the EMS Ambulance Communication Challenges.

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That the presentation by Messrs. Jones and McKay regarding the 2010 Public Health Operating Budget be received.

Carried.

(A copy of Messrs. Jones and McKay's presentation on the 2010 Public Health Operating Budget is attached to the PHSS minutes.)

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

223. 2010 Niagara Regional Housing Operating Budget

Ms. Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing (NRH), provided an overview of the 2010 Niagara Regional Housing Operating Budget. Ms. Beckwith highlighted the goals and objectives of the NRH 2008-2010 Strategic Plan. The 2010 Operating Budget proposes a net budget – debt removed - of \$24,206,511 representing an increase of 1.7% over the approved 2009 budget. This budget meets the 1.7% guideline. Ms. Beckwith highlighted the challenges and mitigation measures with respect to the economic downturn as well as the long term challenges relating to Housing Provider Reserves, Owned Unit Reserves, and Federal Funding.

(A copy of Ms. Beckwith's presentation on the 2010 Niagara Regional Housing budget is attached to the PHSS minutes.)

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

224. Forecast of Public Health Year-End Results and Budget
To Actual Comparison for the Month Ended September 30, 2009
PHD 52-2009

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 52-2009, November 24, 2009, respecting Forecast of Public Health Year-end Results and Budget to Actual Comparison for the Month Ended September 30, 2009, be received for information.

Carried.

225. Child Care Fee Subsidy and Service Delivery Update
COM 59-2009

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report COM 59-2009, November 24, 2009, respecting Child Care Fee Subsidy and Service Delivery Update, be received for information.

Carried.

226. Children's Services Quality Improvement Report
COM 60-2009

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report COM 60-2009, November 24, 2009, respecting Children's Services Quality Improvement Report, be received for information.

Carried.

227. Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
Transformation to a One-Stop Training and Employment System
COM 61-2009

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 61-2009, November 24, 2009, respecting Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Transformation to a One-Stop Training and Employment System, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

228. Overview of Ontario Guidelines for
Early Learning Program Implementation
COM 62-2009

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report COM 62-2009, November 24, 2009, respecting Overview of Ontario Guidelines for Early Learning Program Implementation, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

229. Proposed Draft Regulation (Part 2) of the
Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007
COM 63-2009

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 63-2009, November 24, 2009, respecting Proposed Draft Regulation (Part 2) of the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007*, be received for information.

Carried.

230. Community Services Variance Analysis and
Program Update for the Third Quarter 2009
COM 64-2009

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 64-2009, November 24, 2009, respecting Community Services Variance Analysis and Program Update for the Third Quarter 2009, be received for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

231. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Communication PHSS 55-2009 from Karen Murray, Chair, Niagara Regional Housing (November 24, 2009) respecting Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report July 1 – September 30, 2009, be received.

Carried.

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 six members, pursuant to Section 22.10 of the Procedural By-law 96-2007.

MINUTES

232. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report 7-2009 being the minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee Wainfleet Water & Wastewater Servicing Project meeting of October 26, 2009, be received.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

233. Update H1N1

Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, advised that all is going well with the H1N1 Planning. Immunization clinics are now open to everyone to get a H1N1 flu shot.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

That Staff:

- (i) Examine funding options related to Uploading and Reserves (i.e. proposed managed option; funded from uploading – 100% no reserves; and 100% funding from reserves). Include slides 6 to 9 in BRC Presentation. (Forster/Cordiner) Refer to minute 221.
- (ii) Provide follow up report as planned, on information on FTE's for department programs (how are they managing; how many are there, how many should there be). (Goulbourne) Refer to minute item 221.
- (iii) Provide information on the ambulance response times in municipalities for 2005-2010. (Casselman) Refer to minute 222.
- (iv) Provide statistics on details of emergency calls by classifications. (Forster) Refer to minute 222.
- (v) Provide an additional column on slide 9 indicating the Provincial Revenue Decline. (Casselman) Refer to minute 223.
- (vi) Provide a report to Committee and Council advising what agencies are not successful in securing Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) funding, once the announcement regarding future funding from (MTCU) is made. (Committee members) Refer to minute 227–Report COM 61-2009.

- (vii) Investigate holding a public meeting with Council, staff and stakeholders to discuss the impact on these organizations due to the implementation of the first phase of Ontario's plan for a province-wide Early Learning Program(ELP) for four and five year-olds. (Casselman) Refer to minute 228-Report COM 62-2009.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee adjourned at 4:55 p.m. to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Judy Casselman
Co-Chair

Kevin Bain
Regional Clerk