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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 21-2002

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, December 9, 2002 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Zimmerman, Regional Chair; Bailey; Bentley; Brickell; Davidson; Forster; Gabriel; Harry; Konkle; Marshall; Timms.

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

Staff

Part-time: Public Health Dept.: Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Ms. Biscaro, Mgr. Healthy Babies Healthy Children; Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection & Promotion; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Ms. Papaiz, Communications Coordinator; Ms. Partington, Director, Population Health; Ms. Rix, Mgr. Chronic Disease Prevention; Mr. Roberts, Project Manager, Public Safety Division; Ms. Vanecko, Supvr., Chronic Disease Prevention; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention; Mr. Young, Mgr., Institutions & Healthy Environments .

Community Services Dept.: Ms. Graham-Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Ms. Horner, Manager, Children's Services; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Operational Support Services; Mr. McKay, Cost Analyst; Mr. Packham, Cost Analyst; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.

Corporate Services Dept.: Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Ms. Murphy, Manager, Budgets & Reporting.

Human Resources Dept.: Mr. Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources.

PRESENTATION

308. Certificate of Recognition
Mr. Joe Montgomery
Ontario Senior Achievement Award

Debbie M. Zimmerman, Regional Chair, together with Councillor Hildreth, Committee Chair, presented to Mr. Joe Montgomery, a Certificate of Recognition for his recent achievement in receiving the Ontario Senior Achievement Award. This award was bestowed upon Mr. Montgomery on October 1st, 2002, by Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, James K. Bartleman. The award recognizes seniors who have made outstanding contributions to their communities. The Regional Chair highlighted Mr. Montgomery's many accomplishments and specifically his involvement with the development of the award winning Niagara Economic and Tourism Corporation's 2002 Sports Fishing Guide.

2003 BUDGET

309. 2003 Current and Capital Budgets

Mr. Bacchus, Commissioner, Corporate Services, provided an update on the 2003 Current Budget highlighting the proposed Current Budget increase taking into consideration the recommended and not recommended reductions, program changes and other assumptions as follows:

	Levy Impact \$	Resulting* Net Levy Impact %
Proposed Current Budget Increase	\$14,008,987	5.77%
Less-CAO 16 BRC "recommended"	\$11,469,119	4.55%
CAO 16 not recommended"	\$10,359,380	4.01%
Other Program Changes	?	?

The above figures assume: Revenues \$11,295,268; assessment growth of 1%; excludes Police estimates; and 2002 total net levy \$206,814,325.

310. Supplemental to CAO 16-2002

Mr. Bacchus advised staff are working on program changes and other measures for reductions over and above the CAO's Report as follows:

	<u>Reductions</u>
Capital Levy	(\$ 700,000)
Benefits	(\$ 400,000)
Pay for Performance	(\$ 400,000)
Attendance Management	?
Ambulance	(\$ 425,000)
NPCA	(\$1,047,500)
Other Capital	<u>?</u>
	(\$2,972,500)
 Plus CAO 16	 ?

The Commissioner advised that a consolidation of the budgets will be brought forward to a Special Committee of the Whole meeting on December 19th, time to be determined.

In response to the questions on when the Police Budget would be available, Mr. Bacchus advised the Police will be coming to the Budget Review Committee in late January.

311. Report CAO 14-2002
Council Business Plan – 2002 Update
Significant Achievements, Work in Progress,
and Plans for 2003
-

Mr. Trojan, C.A.O., advised that Report CAO 14-2002 was presented to Council on November 7th at which time a high level summary was provided on the progress of the Council's Business Plan for 2003. The report is provided for information to assist Councillors with decisions during the budget process.

312. Report CAO 16-2002
2003 Current Budget Opportunities for Reductions
in the Impact on the 2003 Tax Rate
-

Mr. Trojan advised that Report CAO 16-2002 outlines opportunities for reductions in the portion of the 2003 budget under direct control of Council and provides information on the impacts of these reductions. The report proposes reductions in three categories: "Recommended"; "Not Recommended"; and "Recommendations proposed by a department where the consequences are felt beyond a single department and will have consequences across the entire corporation". The report also outlined two objectives related to Capital Budget wherein staff are reviewing the present unfunded projects, which have received approvals, to determine the continued necessity for the projects and to determine a

new financing strategy that would place a limit on debt. Staff has also been asked to prioritize major systems implementation taking into account the impact on physical and staffing resources.

Mr. Trojan advised that the Budget Review Committee received Report CAO 16 and approved the "recommended" reductions with some minor adjustments.

Mr. Trojan also advised that Report CAO 17-2002, regarding Deferred Spending –Corporate I.T. Projects was accepted by the Budget Review Committee and the necessary amendments to the Capital Budget and capital spending cash flow projections will be made.

Committee was advised that the 2003 consolidated capital budget as reviewed by the Budget Review Committee on October 17th amount to \$113 million. In an effort to mitigate the impacts on the Region's tax rates, a Capital Spending Strategy has been developed to address the effects of the capital budget on the current tax levy. Committee was advised that approximately \$21 million needs to be removed from the Budget.

313. Report CAO 19-2002
2003 Capital Budget – Potential Reductions/Deferrals

Mr. Trojan advised that Report CAO 19-2002 provides a proposal for potential reductions/deferrals to the 2003 Capital Budget in support of the revised Capital Financing Strategy considered by BRC at their meeting of November 27th. The report indicates, that taking into consideration the capital project budget reductions, there is still a shortfall of approximately \$9 million.

Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Councillor Konkle

That Reports CAO 14-2002, regarding Council Business Plan – 2002 Update -Significant Achievements, Work in Progress, and Plans for 2003; CAO 16-2002, regarding 2003 Current Budget Opportunities for Reductions; and CAO 19-2002, regarding 2003 Capital Budget – Potential Reductions/Deferrals and additional related Current and Capital Budget information be received.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

314. 2003 Public Health Department Budget

Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services, P.H., provided an overview of the Public Health Department's proposed 2003 Budget.

Mr. Jones highlighted the resources necessary to address the department's major issues in order to meet Council's Business Plan. The Director summarized the resources as follows:

- # of requested FTEs beyond current approved staff complement – 11.05
- Net associated costs for additional staff complement - \$540,875
- Net non-staff costs for additional program changes - \$62,500
- Net adjustments to base and inflationary changes - \$1,447,517

The department's 2003 budget request for resources total \$18,030,044 net over the approved budget of \$15,979,152 net which reflects an increase of 12.83%. The general program summary for the 2003 requested budget is \$8,624,378 net over the approved budget of \$7,629,560 net which reflects an increase of 13.04%.

Mr. Jones detailed the Public Health Department's (original request) 2003 Budget Program Changes for each Division.

The following outlines the proposed reductions based on CMT direction:

- Removal of 6.0 proposed new FTE's – net cost \$213,820
- Removal of Health Bus provision – Gross cost \$40,000
- Annualization savings on new positions – net cost \$65,068
- Total reductions \$318,888 or 2.0%

Mr. Jones also detailed the program changes "recommended" for reductions and "not recommended" for reduction for each Division as per Report CAO 16-2002.

Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Brickell declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the matter of Youth Connection-School Boards, as his wife is employed by the District School Board of Niagara, and he therefore took no part in the discussion of or voting on this matter.

Councillor Gabriel declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the matter of Youth Connection-School Boards, as he is employed by the Niagara Catholic District School Board, and he therefore took no part in the discussion of or voting on this matter.

Councillor Forster declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the matter of Youth Connection-School Boards, as she is employed by the Ontario Nurses Association (ONA), and she therefore took no part in the discussion of or voting on this matter.

Following committee's review of the proposed "recommended" and "not recommended" reductions as outlined in the presentation and Report CAO 16-2002, it was:

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That the "recommended" reduction of approximately \$40,000 for 2.8FTE's PHN – Youth Connection be removed and that savings be achieved within the department through other measures to be determined by the Medical Officer of Health; and

That the "not recommended" reduction of \$161,027 for 2.8 FTE's PHN – Youth Connection, be confirmed.

Carried.

Programs – Mandatory/ Non-Mandatory/ Priority Ranking

Committee received 2003 Budget Detail for the Public Health and Community Services Departments. (This information is being presented to the Budget Review Committee at its meeting of December 11th.)

Following review of the Public Health Department's information, it was:

Moved by Chair Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That staff review program areas that are not mandated or 100% funded to determine if the program can be deferred to 2004 and/or the level of service for which the program is to be delivered; and that this information be submitted to the Budget Review Committee for reductions.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Brickell
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That the oral reports from Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health and Mr. Jones, Director of Administrative Services, regarding the Public Health Department's 2003 Budget, be received.

Carried.

315. Community and Health Services Committee
Balance of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That this Committee do now meet on Monday, December 16th, 2002, at 3:00 p.m. in C.R. 4 to complete the business of Agenda 21-2002 at that time.

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

316. 2003 Community Services Department Budget

Mr. Hutchings, Director, Operational Support Services, C.S.D., provided an overview of the department's proposed 2003 Budget. The presentation outlined the Department's Vision, Mission and Values and other information, he commented, was previously presented. Mr. Hutchings provided a comparison of the 2002-2003 budget which indicates a gross expenditure decrease of (\$256,040) or (-0.10%) and a net expenditure decrease of \$2,559,153) or (-4.48%). This comparison does not include the recommendations contained in Report CAO 16-2002. Mr. Hutchings referred the Letter of Transmittal sheet for reference.

The Director reiterated the challenges and priorities facing the Department as follows:

- Increase demands in service areas
- Pressures on Cost of Administration (SA&EO, Children's)
- Variable economic climate
- Affordable housing
- Provincial direction for formal childcare for SA&EO

- Opening of new long term care facilities in Port Colborne, Welland/Pelham, and the T. Roy Adams Regional Centre for Dementia Care, and possible operation of Deer Park Villa in West Niagara

Mr. Hutchings highlighted the program objectives; fiscal overview; program developments and fiscal challenges for each of the Senior Services; Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; and Children's Services Divisions. He did not review Social Housing, as a comprehensive review of this Division has already been done by the Niagara Regional Housing Corp.

A chart was provided indicating the adjustments to the 2003 Community Services Department Budget as follows:

• Community Services Department BRC Budget submitted October 28, 2002	\$2,140,328	2.94%
• Benefit Recalculations	\$ 412,672	
Sub-Total	\$2,553,000	3.51%
• Niagara Regional Housing Reporting Adjustment	(\$5,112,152)	
Sub-total	\$-2,559,153	-4.48%
• BRC November 20, 2002 Adjustments (CP, CVP, Salary Annualization) Sub-total	\$ -701,986 \$-3,261,139	-5.70%
• BRC December 4, 2003 Adjustment	(\$ -100,000)	
Total	<u>\$-3,361,139</u>	-5.80%

In reviewing the "recommended" and "not recommended" proposed budget reductions for the Community Services Department, it was:

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Chair Zimmerman

That the oral presentation by Mr. Hutchings, Director, Operational Support Services, regarding the 2003 Community Services Department Budget be received; and

That staff review the 2003 Consolidated Verification Process (CVP) “not recommended” reduction in the amount of \$356,238 and/or a portion of that amount, to determine if it could be moved to a “recommended” reduction, if there is some way of safe guarding the Department’s position with respect to performance level funding.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 6:15 p.m. to reconvene in a meeting to complete unfinished business on Monday, December 16, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick
Regional Clerk