

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION**

**PHSSC 5-2021
Tuesday, May 11, 2021
Council Chamber / Video Conference
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee Members Present in the Council Chamber: Chiocchio (Committee Co-Chair), Greenwood (Committee Co-Chair)

Committee Members Present via Video Conference: Bellows, Bradley (Regional Chair), Butters, Darte, Foster, Gibson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Nicholson, Rigby, Sendzik, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen

Other Councillors Present via Video Conference: Fertich

Staff Present in the Council Chamber: M. Elia, Technology Support Analyst, Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health/Commissioner, Public Health and Emergency Services, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Staff Present via Video Conference: A. Alfieri-Maiolo, Director, Clinical Services, C. Cousins, Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement, D. D'Amboise, Manager, Program Financial Support, S. Kearns, Director, Environmental Health, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, P. Martel, Manager, Emergency Management, J. Mulligan, Procurement Manager, J. Sinclair, Homelessness Action Plan Advisor, K. Smith, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services, L. Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, D. Woiceshyn, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Regional Housing

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Co-Chair Chiocchio called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

5. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

5.1 **COM 9-2021**

COVID-19 Emergency Shelter Procurement Approval

Moved by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Report COM 9-2021, dated May 11, 2021, respecting COVID-19 Emergency Shelter Procurement Approval, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the special circumstance purchase order relating to the rental costs of the COVID-19 Emergency Shelters **BE INCREASED** by \$585,000 (excluding HST) for a total special circumstance purchase order of \$1,583,200 (excluding HST); and
2. That an additional contingency of \$250,000, **BE APPROVED** should system adjustments be necessary up to December 31, 2021.

Carried

5.2 **PHD 5-2021**

Niagara Emergency Management Program Annual Report

Moved by Councillor Rigby

Seconded by Councillor Gibson

That Report PHD 5-2021, dated May 11, 2021, respecting Niagara Emergency Management Program Annual Report, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **APPOINT** the members of the Niagara Region's Municipal Emergency Control Group, as provided in Report PHD 5-2021, by position as required by the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management.

Carried

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Reports COM 10-2021 and COM 11-2021 were considered separately.

Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, provided information respecting Homelessness Services 2020 Report and Action Plan Update. Topics of the presentation included:

- A Built for Zero Community
- COVID-19 Response
- Niagara's Assertive Street Outreach
- Shelter Diversion Pilot Expansion
- Housing-Focused Shelter Pilot
- Niagara's Affordable Housing Need
- Affordable Housing Development
- Bridge Housing Project

Moved by Councillor Insinna
Seconded by Councillor Nicholson

That Report COM 10-2021, dated May 11, 2021, respecting Homelessness Services Report 2020 and Report COM 11-2021, dated May 11, 2021, respecting Housing and Homelessness Action Plan Update 2020, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

Councillor Information Request:

Provide information respecting local availability of affordable housing and the crisis that it has become in our community, and providing a perspective of where Niagara Region is with local efforts to address affordability. Councillor Sendzik.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Jordan

That the following items **BE RECEIVED** for information:

COM-C 20-2021
COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Community Services

COM 12-2021
New Provincial-Municipal Vision for Social Assistance, Part II

PHD-C 9-2021
COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Public Health and Emergency Services

COM-C 21-2021
Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission Final Report

Carried

At this point in the meeting, Dr. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health/Commissioner, Public Health, provided an update to Committee respecting the status of COVID-19 in Niagara, vaccines and the stay at home order.

Moved by Councillor Insinna
Seconded by Councillor Butters

That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to send a letter to the federal government outlining the recommendation provided by Dr. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, requesting the following criteria be considered prior to re-opening the border:

1. Low COVID-19 case numbers on both sides of the border;
2. High percentage of population vaccinated on both sides of the border; and
3. The absence of any unique variant(s) present on one side of the border, not found on the other side.

Carried

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Vaccination Clinics

Councillor Butters suggested that staff collaborate with Port Cares, Hope Center, Community Care - St. Catharines, and other agencies across the region that provide meal and food security programs, to facilitate access to vaccinations for individuals using their services who may not have the ability to book a vaccination appointment online or by phone. Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, advised that staff have been working with a number of these agencies throughout the pandemic, and will work with these agencies to develop strategies for providing vaccination opportunities for these individuals.

7.2 Well Water Testing

Councillor Whalen advised Committee members that Public Health staff continue to work on options to enable Niagara residents to drop off water samples.

7.3 Nurses Week and Long-Term Care Week

In recognition of Nurses Week and Long-Term Care Week, Councillor Chiochio thanked nurses and long-term care staff for their dedication and contributions to our communities.

8. CLOSED SESSION

Committee did not resolve into closed session.

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

9.1 Confidential MOH 1-2021

A Matter of Labour Relations or Employee Negotiations and Personal Matters about an Identifiable Individual under s. 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 - Associate Medical Officer of Health

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Gibson

That Confidential Report MOH 1-2021, dated May 11, 2021, respecting A Matter of Labour Relations or Employee Negotiations and Personal Matters about an Identifiable Individual under s. 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 –Associate Medical Officer of Health, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

10. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Councillor Chiochio
Committee Co-Chair

Councillor Greenwood
Committee Co-Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk