

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

PHSSC 8-2023

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

**Council Chamber - In Person and Electronic Meeting
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee: Bateman (via Video Conference), Bradley (Regional Chair) (via Video Conference), Craitor, Diodati, Easton (via Video Conference), Foster, Insinna, Ip, Jordan (via Video Conference), Kaiser (via Video Conference), Morocco (Committee Co-Chair), Siscoe, Whalen, Witteveen

Other Councillors: Ganann (via Video Conference)

Absent/Regrets: Chiocchio (Committee Co-Chair), Sorrento

Staff: A. Basic, Legislative Assistant, R. Ferron, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services (via Video Conference), D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services (via Video Conference), Dr. M. M. Hirji, Associate Medical Officer of Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, Dr. A. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health, S. Klair, Director, Children's Services, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, M. Penca, Manager, Homelessness Services, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer, P. Varias, Associate Director, Clinical & Support Services, L. Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Co-Chair Morocco 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 24-2023

Budget Adjustment – Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities

Moved by Councillor Witteveen

Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That Report COM 24-2023, dated August 8, 2023, respecting Budget Adjustment – Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That an operating adjustment to the previously adopted 2023 Regional Municipality of Niagara (Niagara Region), Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities (SAEO), operating budget in the amount of \$1,287,250 gross and \$0 net, to be fully funded through the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) funding, **BE APPROVED**.

The following friendly *amendment* was accepted by the Chair, and the mover and seconder of the motion to add the following clause:

2. *That staff PROVIDE a report to a future Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting, respecting costs associated with asylum seekers using the Region's shelter system.*

The Chair called the vote on the motion, as amended, and declared it,

Carried

5.2 COM 28-2023

Child Care and Early Years 2023 Operating Budget Adjustment

Moved by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Councillor Ip

That Report COM 28-2023, dated August 8, 2023, respecting Child Care and Early Years 2023 Operating Budget Adjustment, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That a gross operating budget adjustment in the amount of \$6,232,181 gross and \$0 net, to be fully funded through the Ministry of Education (MEDU), **BE APPROVED** to support the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Expansion Plan and the stability of Niagara's child care and EarlyON system; and
2. That the addition of two (2) new permanent full-time Reporting Analyst positions in Children's Services, funded using the new approved MEDU funding, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

5.3 COM 31-2023

Homelessness Contract Adjustments – Emergency Shelter

Moved by Councillor Whalen

Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Report COM 31-2023, dated August 8, 2023, respecting Homelessness Contract Adjustments – Emergency Shelter, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the previously approved Emergency Shelter contracts and purchase orders totaling \$16,720,444.86, **BE INCREASED** by \$300,000 for a total revised value of \$17,020,444.86, comprised of \$200,000 for an interim wage enhancement increase to respond to recommendations of Niagara’s shelter capacity review, addressing Niagara emergency shelter workforce retention issues and a \$100,000 food price adjustment responding to the increased food costs for emergency shelter providers;
2. That an additional contingency of \$300,000, **BE APPROVED** should additional adjustments be necessary; and
3. That the Commissioner of Community Services, **BE AUTHORIZED** to negotiate and execute the required amendments to implement contract amendments for service providers within Homelessness Services in a form approved by the Director of Legal Services.

Carried

5.4 PHD-C 3-2023

Motion respecting Access to Birth Control

Moved by Councillor Bateman

Seconded by Councillor Kaiser

WHEREAS universal coverage of contraception enables people to freely decide if or when to become parents and how many children to have, and can also increase gender equality, improve health outcomes, and save on health care costs;

WHEREAS timely access to effective contraception directly influences the rate of unintended pregnancies;

WHEREAS it is estimated that 30-40% of all pregnancies in Canada are unintended with those of lower socioeconomic status being one of the leading vulnerable groups impacted;

WHEREAS Abortion Clinics in Ontario are not fully funded and in contrast to the Health Canada Act by Canada Health which instructed all Provincial and Territory Health Ministers to fully fund private clinics doing medical required procedures, making user fees illegal.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to send a letter of advocacy on behalf of the Board of Health, to the Provincial government encouraging them to cover the cost of birth control for all Ontario residents; and
2. That a copy of the letter **BE CIRCULATED** to aPHa, other appropriate partners, and local Members of Provincial Parliament and Members of Parliament.

Carried

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Moved by Councillor Diodati
Seconded by Councillor Foster

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

COM 27-2023

Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report January to March 2023

COM-C 28-2023

Activities related to Niagara's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan for January to March 2023

CWCD 2023-131

Board of Health for Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health unit – 2024 Anticipated Funding Shortfalls

Carried

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of other business.

8. CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Ip
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That the Public Health and Social Services Committee **DO NOW MOVE** into closed session for the purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature respecting:

A Matter of Information Explicitly Supplied in Confidence to the Municipality by Canada, a Province or Territory or a Crown Agency or any of them under s. 239(2)(h) of the Municipal Act, 2001 - Building Safer Communities Fund & Grant Program Pilot.

Carried

Committee resolved into closed session at 1:48 p.m.

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Committee reconvened in open session at 2:15 p.m. with the following individuals in attendance:

- Committee: Bateman (via Video Conference), Bradley (Regional Chair) (via Video Conference), Craitor, Diodati, Easton (via Video Conference), Foster, Insinna, Ip, Jordan (via Video Conference), Kaiser (via Video Conference), Morocco (Committee Co-Chair), Siscoe, Whalen, Witteveen
- Absent/Regrets: Chiocchio (Committee Co-Chair), Sorrento
- Staff: A. Basic, Legislative Assistant, D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services (via Video Conference), A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, Dr. A. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk

9.1 Confidential COM 30-2023

A Matter of Information Explicitly Supplied in Confidence to the Municipality by Canada, a Province or Territory or a Crown Agency or any of them under s. 239(2)(h) of the Municipal Act, 2001 - Building Safer Communities Fund & Grant Program Pilot

Moved by Councillor Ip
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Confidential Report COM 30-2023, dated August 8, 2023, respecting A Matter of Information Explicitly Supplied in Confidence to the Municipality by Canada, a Province or Territory or a Crown Agency or any of them under s. 239(2)(h) of the Municipal Act, 2001 - Building Safer Communities Fund & Grant Program Pilot, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Councillor Morocco
Committee Co-Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk