



NIAGARA REGIONAL HOUSING

Campbell East, 3rd Floor
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21-198-4.1.
April 16, 2021
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Directors:

Walter Sendzik, Chair
Councillor, St. Catharines

Gary Zalepa, Vice Chair
Councillor, NOTL

James Hyatt, Secretary
Community, St. Catharines

Barbara Butters, Treasurer
Councillor, Port Colborne

Karen Blackley
Community, Thorold

Betty Ann Baker
Community, Welland

Tom Insinna
Councillor, Fort Erie

Betty-Lou Souter
Community,
St. Catharines & Thorold

Leanna Vilella
Councillor, Welland

MINUTES

NIAGARA REGIONAL HOUSING Board of Directors Meeting

#197 – 2021

NRH Board Room
Campbell East, 3rd Floor
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
Thorold, ON

Friday, March 19, 2021 – 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Attendees (In person and by videoconference)

Directors/
Members: J. Hyatt, G. Zalepa, T. Insinna, B-L. Souter,
B. Butters, B.A. Baker

Regrets: W. Sendzik, K. Blackley, L. Villella

Absent:

NRH Staff: D. Woiceshyn, C. Banach, J. Shickluna,
W. Thompson, M. Barton

Regional
Staff: A. Jugley, Commissioner Community Services
D. D'Amboise, Program Financial Specialist

Guest: C. Bousquet, Admin. Asst. Housing Operations

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at
9:02 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda/Declaration of Conflict

Moved by T. Insinna

Seconded by B.A. Baker

That the agenda be ADOPTED.

CARRIED

No conflicts of interest were declared.

G. Zalepa, Vice Chair, acted as Chair and welcomed all to the meeting

2. Consent Items

Moved by T. Insinna

Seconded by B-L. Souter

That the following items be RECEIVED and/or APPROVED as stated:

2.1. Minutes of the February 19, 2021 Meeting – 21-197-2.1. be APPROVED.

2.2. Development Updates

2.2.1. Hawkins St. Budget Snapshot as of February 28, 2021 – 21-197-2.2.1. be RECEIVED for information.

2.2.2. Hawkins St. Development Report #16 – 21-197-2.2.2. be RECEIVED for information.

2.2.3. Victoria Ave. Budget Tracking as of February 28, 2021 – 21-197-2.2.3. be RECEIVED for information.

2.2.4. Victoria Ave. Construction Report #1 – 21-197-2.2.4. be RECEIVED for information.

2.3. Tenant Advisory Committee Minutes – 21-197-2.3. be RECEIVED for information.

2.4. Provider Advisory Committee Minutes – 21-197-2.4. be RECEIVED for information.

CARRIED

A. Jugley joined the meeting.

3. Discussion Items

3.1. COVID-19 Update

W. Thompson advised the Board regarding the process of providing assistance and transportation to enable vaccination appointments for the designated senior group. The seniors responded favourably for this opportunity.

A slide show presented to the Board, taken at the vaccination site, verified the positive responses by the attendees.

B.A. Baker spoke of the inclusion of the provider community.

J. Shickluna stated that all provider tenants were contacted, including the rent supplement tenants and those on the wait list.

The Chair thanked all involved for their efforts.

Moved by B. Butters

Seconded by B.A. Baker

That the Niagara Regional Housing Board of Directors RECEIVES the COVID-19 Update report for information.

CARRIED

3.2. New Development Strategies and Funding Opportunities

C. Banach informed the Board that the application for Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) has been put on hold, however the project is moving forward.

D. Woiceshyn confirmed the project was included in the multi-year 2021 Capital Budget Submission of the 10-Year capital Plan, and will be included in the 2022 CAMRA process for capital.

T. Insinna mentioned a potential development opportunity with the Ridgeway Lions Club.

Moved by J. Hyatt

Seconded by T. Insinna

That the Niagara Regional Housing Board of Directors RECEIVES the New Development Strategies and Funding Opportunities verbal report for information.

CARRIED

3.3. ASD Budget Adjustment

D. D'Amboise detailed the purpose of the report, specifically to obtain approval of the budget adjustment required to align the operating budget with the fully integrated model of Niagara's service delivery of social housing.

D. D'Amboise stated the report also seeks approval of the allocation of the assets and liabilities between NRH and the Niagara Region as outlined in Appendix 2.

An additional recommendation was entered into the motion, and following discussion, was amended during the meeting.

Moved by B. Butters

Seconded by T. Insinna

1. ***That an adjustment to the previously adopted 2021 Regional Municipality of Niagara (Niagara Region) and Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) operating budgets in the amount of \$21,380,195 gross and \$13,422,715 net as outlined in appendix 1 BE APPROVED to allocate budgeted expenditures and revenues associated with service delivery of social housing from NRH to Niagara Region Community Services in alignment with the approved full integration model.***
2. ***That the allocation of assets and liabilities between Niagara Region and NRH with final balances determined as of May 30 2021 in alignment with the fully integrated model, as outlined in appendix 2, BE APPROVED.***
3. ***That the Niagara Regional Housing board RECOMMENDS to Niagara Regional Council that the Niagara Regional Housing Reserve be maintained for its current purpose of funding social housing program initiatives post ASD transition date.***
4. ***That this Report BE REFERRED to the Niagara Regional Council for Consideration.***

CARRIED

3.4. Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program Funding

J. Shickluna spoke about the necessity to continue this funding after its termination on March 21, 2023.

Discussion took place on the implications of the absence of this funding and opportunity to advocate for the vulnerable.

*Moved by B.A. Baker
Seconded by T. Insinna*

1. **That the Niagara Regional Housing Board of Directors RECEIVES this report for information regarding the end of provincial funding for the Strong Communities Rent Supplement program.**
2. **That the Niagara Regional Housing Chief Executive Officer BE DIRECTED to send a letter on behalf of the Niagara Regional Housing Board of Directors to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) advocating for a continuation of the Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program or replacement program funding.**
3. **That the Niagara Regional Housing Board of Directors FORWARD this report to the Public Health and Social Services Committee (PHSSC).**

CARRIED

4. Other Business - There was no other business.

5. Closed Session – Not required.

6. Next Meeting

Friday, April 16, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.
NRH Board Room
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
Thorold, ON

7. Termination

Motion to Terminate.

Moved by T. Insinna
Seconded by B. Butters

Minutes Approved:

Chair

Secretary