Social & Public Health Services Committee
REPORT 05-015
9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, November 22, 2005
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present:
Vice-Chair B. Bratina
Councillors T. Jackson, B. Kelly, S. Merulla, B. Morelli

Absent:
Chair B. McHattie

Also Present:
Councillor P. Bruckler
J. Priel, General Manager, V. Woodcox, J. Emili
R. Barrows-Vrankulj, B. Bax, M. Weingartner, Public
Health & Community Services
I. Sturgeon, City Clerks

THE SOCIAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT
05-015 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. 100% Funded Positions (HCS03026(e)) (City Wide) (Item 5.1)

That report HCS03026(e) respecting 100% Funded Positions be received as
information.

2. Obesity Update (SPH05056) (City Wide) (Item 5.2)

That report SPH05056 respecting an Obesity Update be received as
information.

Council – November 23, 2005
3. **2006 National Child Benefit (NCB) Strategy (SPH05035(a))/ (FCS05085(a)) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)**

   (a) That Report SPH05035(a)/FCS05085(a) respecting the City of Hamilton’s 2006 National Child Benefit (NCB) Strategy be approved.

   (b) That staff be directed to implement the recommendations contained within the approved 2006 National Child Benefit (NCB) Strategy.

   (c) That staff submit the approved 2006 National Child Benefit (NCB) Strategy to the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS).

   (d) That staff be authorized to redirect funds within the approved 2006 National Child Benefit (NCB) Strategy as expenditures and needs change.

   (e) That staff be directed to review the feasibility of using discretionary benefits to reimburse eligible National Child benefit (NCB) recipients.

   (f) That the City of Hamilton continue lobbying the Province requesting that they meet their obligation of this matter.

   (g) That the 2006 NCB Strategy item referred from Social and Public Health Services Committee on June 28, 2005, be identified as completed and removed from the Outstanding Business List.

4. **Homemakers and Nursing Services Program Update (HCS03012(c)) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)**

   (a) That Council support the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care in transferring their 80% portion of the City’s Homemakers and Nurses Services Program funding to an appropriate community agency. Net levy savings will be reflected in the 2006 budget process.

   (b) That Council direct staff to work with the local office of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and the Community Care Access Care during the transition/termination of homemaking services targeted for April 1, 2006.

   (c) That staff report back to the next Committee meeting on the financial implications of not implementing the program freeze of new referrals.
5. **Ontario Works Addiction Services (SPH05034) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)**

   (a) That Council approve the Hamilton Ontario Works Addictions Services (OWAS) Implementation Proposal (Appendix A*).

   (b) That all costs associated with the 2006 Implementation Proposal be recovered through 100% provincial funding.

   (c) That the Mayor and Council correspond with the Ministry of Community and Social Services and request continuation of 100% funding for OWAS in 2007.

   (d) That a report be provided to Council in October 2006 to report progress to date and the proposed plan for the funding realignment for OWAS for 2007.

   *Note: Due to bulk, Appendix A is available for perusal in the Office of the Clerk.

6. **Strong Start Funding Under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program (SPH05058) (Ward 1 and Ward 2) (Item 8.2)**

   (a) That the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing be advised that the City of Hamilton will participate in the Strong Start component of the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program and recommends the following prioritized proponents and proposed rental housing projects receive Strong Start funding:

      (i) Priority One - Spallacci Contracting Limited, 260-280 King Street East, Hamilton (123 apartment units); and,

      (ii) Priority Two - Hellenic Community of Hamilton and District, 37 Strathcona Avenue North, Hamilton (39 apartment units).

   (b) That Housing Branch staff co-ordinate a Community Information Meeting to allow residents of the Strathcona Neighbourhood an opportunity to provide comment on the proposed residential building at 37 Strathcona Avenue North and that in consultation with the respective Ward Councillor these community comments be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing as part of their consideration and review of the proposed project for Strong Start funding.

7. **UTILITIES ARREARS PROGRAM UPDATE (SPH05053)(City Wide) (Item 8.3)**

   (a) That the $500,000 allocation for utilities arrears from the Horizon Utilities Corporation dividend be targeted towards energy conservation initiatives.
(b) That $400,000 of the $500,000 Horizon Utilities Corporation dividend be directed towards energy conservation initiatives related to social housing and that $100,000 be directed towards energy conservation initiatives for low-income citizens.

(c) That the City of Hamilton staff complement of the Utilities Arrears Coordinating Group along with two councillors from the Social & Public Health Services Committee be charged with the responsibility to allocate the $500,000 funds from the Horizon Utilities Dividend towards energy conservation initiatives.

(d) That consideration be given during the 2006 budget deliberation process to recommend a $500,000 allocation from the Horizons Utilities Corporation Dividend for utilities arrears.

(e) That Item "D" regarding the Utility Assistance Program Task Force be removed from the Public Health & Community Services Outstanding Business List.

8. Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP)-
2005/2006 Funding Allocation (SPH05057) (City Wide) (Item 8.4)

(a) That the 2005/2006 Budget Allocation for the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), as noted below and in the Supplemental Agreement attached as Appendix “A” to Report SPH05057, be received:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homeowner RRAP</td>
<td>$450,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled RRAP</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental/Rooming House RRAP</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) That CMHC be requested to provide an additional $200,000 under the Homeowner RRAP to effectively respond to increased needs within the community; and,

(c) That the City of Hamilton continue its role of RRAP delivery agent for the 2005/2006 delivery year and the Mayor and City Clerk be hereby authorized and directed to execute the Supplemental Agreement attached as Appendix “A” to Report SPH05057 in a form satisfactory to Corporate Counsel.


Whereas Stelco’s future in the City of Hamilton is presently at risk;

Whereas saving Stelco from liquidation is vital to the economic and social well being of the residents of the City of Hamilton;

Council – November 23, 2005
Whereas the Provincial Government has contributed to the solution of preventing liquidation with a monetary offer;

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Hamilton strongly urges the Federal Government of Canada to match the Provincial monetary contribution.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) Changes to the Agenda

The Clerk advised that a delegation request had been received from Mr. Tom Cooper requesting to make a presentation at the December 13, 2005 meeting respecting residential care facilities.

The Committee approved the delegation request.

(b) Declaration of Interest

None

(c) Chair

During the course of the meeting, Vice-Chair Bratina relinquished the Chair on several occasions to Councillor Jackson in order to join in the debate.

(d) Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the November 8, 2005 meeting were approved as presented.

(e) 2006 National Child Benefit (NCB) Strategy (SPH05035(a))/ (FCS05085(a)) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

Mr. Mark Weingartner, Social Policy Analyst, made a Power-Point Presentation to members of Committee respecting the proposed 2006 National Child Benefit Strategy. He advised that the department is proposing a shift in funding for 5 Public Health & Community Services programs (LEAP, Layette and Other Health Related Needs, Community Health Bus, Public Health Nurse and the Youth Net Program) from NCB and including them as budget enhancement requests during the 2006 Budget process. He advised that the financial enhancement for these 5 programs would total one million dollars. A copy of the presentation was provided to members of Committee.

The Committee commended staff on their work in moving ahead with this issue.
(i) Mr. Jeff Wingard, Social Planning & Research Council (Item 7.1.1)

Mr. Wingard addressed Committee and suggested that the City needs to find new ways for advocating the Clawback. He suggested that the City should explore the option of providing discretionary benefits as a way to return the money back to the people (ie. School support, family support etc). Mr. Wingard commended staff and the City for their initiative in this matter.

Vice-Chair Bratina thanked Mr. Wingard for his presentation.

(ii) Ms. Abigail Salole, Social Action Committee of the Ontario Association of Social Workers (Item 7.1.2)

Ms. Salole addressed Committee and discussed the inadequacy of income support to recipients of the Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). She suggested that an immediate way for the City to help Hamilton’s poorest families is to provide access to the funds that are clawed back from them. In addition, Ms. Salole requested that the City continue examining Hamilton’s solutions to poverty while urging other levels of government to take immediate action against poverty.

Vice-Chair Bratina thanked Ms. Salole for her presentation.

On a motion (Merulla/Morelli), the following was added as sub-section (e) and (f) and the balance of the recommendation renumbered accordingly:

(e) That staff be directed to review the feasibility of using discretionary benefits to reimburse eligible National Child benefit (NCB) recipients.

(f) That the City of Hamilton continue lobbying the Province requesting that they meet their obligation of this matter.

(f) Homemakers and Nursing Services Program Update (HCS03012(c)) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)

Ms. Rebeca Barrows-Vrankulj, Director, Parent & Child Branch provided members of Committee with a status update on the Homemakers and Nurses Services Program. She reviewed with Committee the Ministry of Health and Long Term Cares proposal to transfer their financial contribution for homemaking services to a Community Social Service Agency. She advised that staff is in support of this recommendation and advised that they would work with all the clients during the transition period. A copy of the presentation was circulated to members of Committee.
Committee raised questions and/or concerns regarding possible impacts to the clients currently involved in the program, the exclusion of new clients to the program, the need to find more money for this program, using Hydro Funds for new referrals and the potential of user fees or other similar changes being introduced by the Province.

A lengthy discussion ensued with respect to the proposed freeze on new referrals.

In response to a question by Councillor Kelly about accepting new clients, staff confirmed that the City would have to pay 100% of the costs.

On a motion (Merulla/Morelli), sub-section (c) was amended by deleting the recommendation in its entirety and replacing it with the following; “That staff report back to the next Committee meeting on the financial implications of not implementing the program freeze of new referrals”.

**Strong Start Funding Under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program (SPH05058) (Ward 1 and Ward 2) (Item 8.2)**

Vice-Chair Bratina relinquished the chair to Councillor Jackson in order to introduce an amendment to the staff report.

On a motion (Bratina/Morelli), the following was added as sub-section (b):

(b) That Housing Branch staff co-ordinate a Community Information Meeting to allow residents of the Strathcona Neighbourhood an opportunity to provide comment on the proposed residential building at 37 Strathcona Avenue North and that in consultation with the respective Ward Councillor these community comments be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing as part of their consideration and review of the proposed project for Strong Start funding.

Councillor Bratina resumed the chair.

**UTILITIES ARREARS PROGRAM UPDATE (SPH05053)(City Wide) (Item 8.3)**

With respect to recommendation (c) and the request for two Councillors to participate in allocating funds from the Horizon utilities Dividend towards energy conversation initiatives, the Committee recommended discussing appointment at Council on Wednesday evening.
(i) MOTIONS

Councillor Merulla brought forward a motion requesting the Federal Government of Canada to match the Provincial monetary contribution that has been made to Stelco Inc. Committee approved the motion.

(j) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor B. Bratina
Vice-Chair

I. Sturgeon,
Legislative Assistant
November 22, 2005