

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 12-2004

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on July 12, 2004, commencing at 12:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Timms, Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Almas; Baty; Brock; Casselman; Harry; Timms; Trombetta.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection and Promotion; Ms. Coppola, Manager, Healthy Living Niagara; Mr. Cunnane, Director, Public Safety; Ms. Gallant, Coordinator, Healthy Living Niagara; Mr. Hunter, Manager, Health Protection and Promotion; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Dr. Klooz, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Mr. Pilon, Media Relations Coordinator; Ms. Rix, Manager, Tobacco Program; Ms. St. Johns, Director, Clinical Services; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention; Mr. Young, Manager, Health Protection and Promotion.

Others: Dr. [Ninh Tran, Community Medicine Resident](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

121. Tobacco Vendor Licensing Fees

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report PHD 47-2004, July 12, 2004, respecting Tobacco Vendor Licensing Fees, be received; and

That staff examine the process for licensing tobacco vendors; and

that staff hold discussions with local municipalities on this issue.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page PHSC 57.)

122. Funding Agreement for Provincial Heart Health Program

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 48-2004, July 12, 2004, respecting Funding Agreement for Provincial Heart Health Program, be received.

That the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to execute the legal agreement between the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) and the Regional Municipality of Niagara (RMON). This agreement provides 21 months of funding, totaling \$174,734 for the provincial heart health program known locally as Healthy Living Niagara, for the period April 1, 2004 through December 31, 2005.

Carried.

123. Reduction of Pesticides in the Niagara Region

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 49-2004, July 12, 2004, respecting Reduction of Pesticides in the Niagara Region, be received.

That the precautionary principle of prudent avoidance should be promoted and educational material advocating alternatives to the use of pesticides should be developed and made available to residents; and

That staff provide a report on the costs and details for implementing an educational and user reduction plan to increase public knowledge on the potential impacts from exposure to pesticides.

That a region-wide by-law regulating the cosmetic use of pesticides in Regional Niagara should not be sought at the present moment.

Carried.

124. Operation Health Protection: An Action Plan to Prevent Threats to our Health and to Promote a Healthy Ontario

Dr. Sider provided an overview of Report PHD 50-2004, providing a highlight of the key components of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Operation Health Protection, the Ministry's response to the interim and final recommendations of the Walker Panel and interim

recommendations of the Campbell Commission. Dr. Sider highlighted the increased Provincial Funding and changes in provincial-municipal funding ratios, noting that these are new and expanding fiscal resources for public health and not a “windfall” for municipalities. Dr. Sider advised that impacts of the Province’s Action Plan on the Regional 2005 budget are still being determined.

Committee expressed their concerns on the health costs that will be incurred at the Regional level for enhanced programs and asked for clarification on the following:

- What are new and/or expanded program objectives?
- How is the Region going to match funding for increased ratios?
- How is the Region going to prioritize programs to meet standards/regulations?
- How is the Region going to meet and retain expanding staffing demands?

Moved by Councillor Trombetta
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That Report PHD 50-2004, July 12, 2004, respecting Operation Health Protection: An Action Plan to Prevent Threats to our Health and to Promote a Healthy Ontario, be received for information.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That staff prepare a report to outline budget directions for the next three years taking into account the proposed changes in provincial funding ratios;

That the report should include options with respect to program expenditures and property tax reductions ;

That the report should prioritize program initiatives that may occur as a result of increased funding.

Carried.

125. Ventilation Standards and Health Risks

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That Report PHD 51-2004, July 12, 2004, respecting Ventilation Standards and Health Risks, be received for information.

Carried.

126. Memorandum re: Bingo Hall Update

Ms. Rix distributed a memorandum providing an update on Bingo Halls and gave an oral report on the status of the Smoking by-law with respect to ventilation and compliance for bingo halls.

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the memorandum and oral report from Ms. Rix, Manager, Tobacco Program, regarding an update on bingo halls, be received.

Carried.

127. West Nile Virus Update

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 52-2004, July 12, 2004, respecting West Nile Virus Update, be received for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

128. Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That the following communications be received:

PHSC 16-2004 Report CSD 85-2004, June 9, 2004, Closure of
Capital Projects.

- PHSC 17-2004 Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Sudbury & District Health Unit regarding Universal Child Dental Program
- PHSC 18-2004 Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Sudbury & District Health Unit regarding Inclusive Mandate for the Proposed New Ontario Health Protection and Promotion Agency
- PHSC 19-2004 Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Sudbury & District Health Unit regarding Northern Health Issues in Ontario Public Health Renewal
- PHSC 20-2004 John Albanese, Chair, Board of Health, Northwestern Health Unit (June 23, 2004) regarding Call to Action: Creating a Healthy School Nutrition Environment

Carried.

ACCOUNTS

129. Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the Period Ending May 31, 2004 in the amount of \$1,638,744.41, be approved.

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the Period Ending June 30, 2004 in the amount of \$1,789,661.62, be approved.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

130. Communications Policy

Councillor Timms advised that the communications policy was circulated to Committee members to review and provide input on the policy as it relates to Public Health matters.

Mr. Trojan advised that Catherine Bianco, Corporate Communications Strategist, together with the Region's Liaison Committee, are undertaking a review of the communications policy. The results of the review will be

presented to the Public Information and Communications Advisory Committee and to Committee and Council.

A discussion ensued on the graphic AIDS billboard put on view in St. Catharines by Health Canada. The billboard is part of a new campaign by Health Canada to increase public awareness about AIDS. Following discussion, it was concluded that the Billboard is under the jurisdiction of Health Canada and that any calls/queries received regarding this should be directed to Walt Lastewka's office.

(Refer to staff direction on page PHSC 57.)

131. V.O.N.s

Councillor Casselman expressed her concerns regarding the Victorian Order of Nurses' loss of contract to the Province for providing home care, commenting that the V.O.N.s have provided quality home care in the community for 85 years. Councillor Brock advised that the City of Thorold has passed a resolution requesting the Province to reconsider this move. Regional Chair Partington advised that he attended the rally in Montebello Park, together with other political representatives, expressing the policy of the Niagara Region and its Public Health Department to promote high quality of life and the need to maintain high quality health care. The Chair has sent a letter to Mr. Smitherman urging him to review the process and ensure fairness in the system.

CLOSED SESSION

132. Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to personnel and property matters.

Carried.

133. Ambulance Station, St. Catharines

Mr. Cunnane, Director, Public Safety provided an oral report on the Ontario Street, Ambulance Station, St. Catharines, matter.

134. Dispatch Negotiations

Mr. Cunnane provided an update on the Ambulance Dispatch Negotiations.

135. Report HR 28-2004
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
Non Union Compensation

A discussion ensued on the process for preparing joint reports and ensuring that all Standing Committees receive reports that are relevant to them.

136. Moved by Councillor Trombetta
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That this Committee do now rise without report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTION

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Include in its examination of vendor licensing fees, a breakdown of revenues/how they are split among the Region, Municipalities and Province; what approvals are required from the Municipalities(triple majority) and are they willing to delegate authority to the Region; average sales and potential impact on vendors (approximately 700); and overall administrative costs to the Region. (Refer to minute item 121.)
- (ii) Investigate the email given to Dr. Sider (from Councillor Brock) which implies a further more graphic AIDS campaign and report back to Committee. (Refer to minute item 130.)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 2:50 p.m. to meet again on Monday, August 9, 2004, at 12:30 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

B. Timms
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Acting Regional Clerk