

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 14-2004

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on September 13, 2004, commencing at 12:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Staff

Part-time: Mr. Banting, Director, Legal Services; Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection and Promotion; Ms. Coppola, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Mr. Cunnane, Director, Public Safety; Ms. DeCou, Epidemiologist; Mr. Hunter, Manager, Health Protection and Promotion; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Mr. Lorenzo, Supervisor, Tobacco Program; Ms. Morris, Manager, Youth Connection; Mr. Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Ms. Roach, Manager, Infant Education and Parent Teaching Program; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. St. Johns, Director, Clinical Services; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention; Mr. Young, Manager, Health Protection and Promotion.

Others: Dr. Gaynor Watson, Community Medicine Resident; Ms. Bev Carter.

APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL COUNCILLOR TO PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

148. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Councillor Anne Angelone be appointed to serve on the Public Health Services Committee.

Carried.

PRESENTATION

149. September 11th Tribute Ceremony

Councillor Bruce Timms, Committee Chair, apprised Committee of the award presented to Mr. Brad Bowie, Paramedic, on behalf of the Public Health Department Paramedic Services Program at the September 11th Tribute and Memorial Service held at the City of St. Catharines. The award recognizes Mr. Bowie's involvement with a number of community volunteer organizations, such as Race Against Drugs and other public education programs.

Mr. Bowie expressed his appreciation for the award and the opportunities presented to him to participate in community programs.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

150. Ontario Superior Court of Justice
Regional Smoking By-law Decision

Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, expressed her pleasure in the decision rendered by the Honourable Mr. Justice Quinn with regards to the Superior Court of Justice and the Regional Smoking By-law. Dr. Williams noted that this decision is important in order to move forward to eliminate smoking in Niagara.

Regional Chair Partington advised that the Government of Ontario, under Premier McGuinty and the Honourable George Smitherman, have advised that they are committed to provide smoking legislation, within three years of the election. Chair Partington commented that it would not be feasible for Niagara to pursue further amendments to its Smoking by-law at this time and that Regional Council support the Province in its efforts to move forward with its legislation which would most likely occur within the next year and a half.

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 64-2004, September 13, 2004, respecting Ontario Superior Court of Justice Regional Smoking By-law Decision, be received for information.

Carried.

151. 2003 Mandatory Program Compliance – Food Safety

Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, together with Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection and Promotion, provided a brief summary of compliance during 2003 with the Mandatory Program objectives, requirements and standards for Food Safety. The Public Health Department is judged to be achieving the objectives for the Food Safety Program but it was noted that the lack of full compliance is the result of resource shortages and compliance should be full when the additional two Public Health Inspectors are hired and operational this year.

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That Report PHD 57-2004, September 13, 2004, respecting 2003 Mandatory Program Compliance – Food Safety, be received for information.

Carried.

152. Infant Education and Parent Teaching Program (IEPT)
2003/2004 Annual Report

Ms. Roach, Manager, Infant Education and Parent Teaching Program, provided highlights of the activities and accomplishments of the IEPT Program as noted in the 2003/2004 annual report.

Ms. St. John noted that the IEPT Program is 100% funded and has as been operational for 27 years as an originally sponsored program of the Public Health Department. The program has developed a great partnership with Healthy Babies Healthy Children and provided an external linkage with other community partners such as the Ontario Early Years Centres and the Niagara Peninsula Children Centre which contributes to a better way of providing services.

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report PHD 58-2004, September 13, 2004, respecting Infant Education and Parent Teaching Program (IEPT) 2003/2004 Annual Report, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page PHSC 71.)

153. The Public Health Department's Updated Strategic Plan 2003-2006

Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Public Health, provided information on the development and implementation of the Public Health Department's Strategic Plan for 2003 – 2006. Committee was advised that the Health Management Team reviewed, revised and updated the Strategic Plan to ensure alignment with Council's Business Plan (as noted in Section 7). Section 6, which details the draft strategic goals for the period May 2004 to April 2005, will be further considered at the Public Health Department's Planning and Priorities Session on September 23rd. The Plan was distributed to committee members and copies of the updated Plan are available from the Public Health Department.

Councillor Timms advised that the Public Health Department will be holding a Planning & Priorities Session in the Inspiration Room at the Corporate Learning Centre on Schmon Parkway on September 23rd at 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and that all members of Council are invited to attend. A light super will be included.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That Report PHD 60-2004, September 13, 2004, respecting The Public Health Department's Updated Strategic Plan 2003-2006, be received for information.

Carried.

154. Drinking Water and Waste Water Disposal Issues
In Wainfleet Township

Dr. Williams advised that Report PHD 61-2004 appraises Committee and Council of the proposal to extend municipal water and sewers to Wainfleet communities where existing private water supplies are prone to contamination and private sewage disposal systems have an elevated failure rate. Dr. Williams advised that the issue has generated community and media interest and the report is intended to provide Councillors with the important facts as the Township of Wainfleet and Region move forward on this project.

Mr. Hunter, Manager, Health Protection and Promotion, advised that in order to address these problems, a Water and Wastewater Service Plan Class Environmental Assessment was initiated in the Fall of 2003. It was concluded that the extension of municipal water and wastewater services

from Port Colborne to the affected communities along the Lakeshore was the most efficient and cost-effective long term solution.

Councillor Harry provided background information on the studies that have taken place to address this problem and the processes that lead to the Class Environmental Assessment. This problem, he commented, is a real Public Health concern and the need for an effective solution to drinking water and sewage disposal issues in Wainfleet has been established. Also of great concern is the estimated costs (approximately \$48 million) required to support this solution and that the Township is pursuing additional funding sources to minimize the financial impact on homeowners.

Mr. Christensen outlined the challenges identified through surveys taken that indicate local water supplies and the natural environment are being adversely impacted by private sewage disposal systems and that small lot sizes and density of development prevent the possibility of replacing the outdated and failing systems with properly designed private systems.

Committee members expressed their concerns on the proposal, requesting further background information, additional information on a financial plan and identify other options available to address the problem. Committee recommended that a joint meeting of the Public Works and Utilities and Public Health Services Committees be scheduled in late October to consider the "Drinking Water and Waste Water Disposal Issues in Wainfleet Township".

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That Report PHD 61-2004, September 13, 2004, respecting Drinking Water and Waste Water Disposal Issues in Wainfleet Township, be referred to a joint meeting of the Public Works and Utilities and Public Health Services Committees; and

That legal counsel be in attendance at this meeting.

Defeated.

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 61-2004, September 13, 2004, respecting Drinking Water and Waste Water Disposal Issues in Wainfleet Township, be received for information; and

That the Regional Chair be authorized to write to the Provincial and Federal governments requesting financial support for the proposed extension of municipal sewers and water to the lakeshore communities of Wainfleet; and

That a joint meeting of the Public Works and Utilities and Public Health Services Committees be scheduled in late October to consider the "Drinking Water and Waste Water Disposal Issues in Wainfleet Township".

Carried.

155. Health Impact of Obesity and Strategy Development

Ms. DeCou, Epidemiologist, advised that Report PHD 63-2004 is in response to the request of Committee to explain the impact of obesity in the Niagara Region. Ms. DeCou advised that the report is specific to mortality and the prevalence of overweight and obese as identified by Body Mass Index (BMI) categories was used to identify the percentage of deaths attributable to obesity. The information provided indicate that calculations made show that between 10% and 15% of deaths from all causes in people aged 18-64 in the Niagara Region are attributable to overweight and obesity in the population. The goal is to develop a long-term obesity prevention strategy to address the morbidity and mortality consequences of obesity.

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHD 63-2004, September 13, 2004, respecting Health Impact of Obesity and Strategy Development, be received for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

156. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Communication PHSC 22-2004, respecting The Stantec Environmental Consulting study that was prepared for the Fair Air Association of Canada (FAAC), proving the effectiveness of Designated Smoking Rooms (DSRs), be received for information.

Carried.

ACCOUNTS

157. Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That the Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the Period Ending July 31, 2004 in the amount of \$1,028,482.44 be approved.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

158. Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO)
2004 Conference and Workshop

Councillor Timms advised that the 2004 APHEO Conference and Workshop will be held at the Niagara Falls Hilton in Niagara Falls October 3rd to 5th. The conference is entitled "Surveillance and Epidemiology of Communicable Diseases in Ontario – The New Normal". Dr. Williams advised that she would provide further information on this conference.

CLOSED SESSION

159. Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Harry

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.

160. Arbitration Award – Retroactivity
Payment to Paramedics

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHD 59-2004/HR 32-2004, respecting Arbitration Award – Retroactivity Payment to Paramedics, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

161. Update – Hotel Dieu Ambulance Site

Regional Chair Partington and Mr. Cunnane, Director, Emergency Medical Services, provided an update on the Hotel Dieu Ambulance Site matter.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTION

That staff be directed to:

- (i) In future IEPT annual reports, provide a further breakdown of the information in the Chart on page 7 as it relates to the services provided to the residents of the Region of Niagara to include the smaller communities.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 2:05 p.m. to meet again on Monday, September 27, 2004, at 12:30 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

B. Timms
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Acting Regional Clerk