

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 2-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on January 24, 2005, commencing at 12:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

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 & Promotion; Mr. Hunter, Manager, Health Protection & Promotion; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Mr. McQueen, Transition Manager, NACS; Mr. Roberts, Associate Director, Paramedic Services; Mr. Taylor, Manager, QA & Development, EMS.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

15. Health Hazard Investigation Program

Mr. Hunter, Manager, Health Protection & Promotion, provided information on the activities in the Health Hazard Investigation Program during 2004. The objective of this program is to identify health hazards and take appropriate action to ensure community health protection. He commented that while the majority of health hazard investigations are satisfactorily completed in a short time frame, some investigations are more complex and require significant time and resources. The Department is meeting the minimum requirements for the program but may find it difficult to maintain this level of service as public awareness and concern over environmental issues grow.

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 05-2005, January 24, 2005, respecting Health Hazard Investigation Program, be received for information.

Carried.

16. Mobile Locator Funding Program for Ambulance Vehicles

Mr. Roberts, Associate Director, Paramedic Services, provided an overview of Report PHD 06-2005 regarding the Mobile Locator Funding Program for Ambulance Vehicles. The Ministry of Health funding provides for the expansion of in-vehicle GPS/mapping technology in all ambulance vehicles. This technology is an improvement over the detailed map books provided by the GIS section for the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Mr. McQueen, Transition Manager, NACS, provided a demonstration on the in-vehicle GPS/ mapping technology.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That Report PHD 06-2005, January 24, 2005, respecting Mobile Locator Funding Program for Ambulance Vehicles, be received.

That the Emergency Services Division proceed with the purchase and installation of in-vehicle GPS/mapping technology for all ambulance vehicles at an estimated cost of \$264,000 (eligible for 50:50 Ministry funding).

That the purchase be funded from the 2004 Budget and installation be completed before the required deadline to meet the eligibility requirements for the one-time (50:50) Ministry funding opportunity.

Carried.

17. EMS Paramedic Service Delivery – 2004 Overview

Mr. Roberts, together with Mr. Taylor, Manager, QA & Development, provided an overview of the EMS Paramedic Services for 2004, highlighting the operational changes and service delivery improvements.

Members of Committee expressed their concerns on the average response times for the smaller municipalities as compared to the three largest municipalities.

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHD 07-2005, January 24, 2005, respecting EMS Paramedic Service Delivery – 2004 Overview, be received for information; and

That staff provide a report regarding the factors relating to response times, including recommendations on how response times can be improved and associated cost implications to achieve this.

Carried.

(Refer to staff directions on page PHSC 10.)

CORRESPONDENCE

18. Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the following communications be received:

PHSC 1-2005 Dianne Wilson, Deputy Clerk, Municipality of Central Elgin, seeking support for its Council's resolution regarding Central Ambulance Communication Centre.

PHSC 2-2005 Diane Cane, County Clerk, Northumberland County (December 17, 2004) seeking support for its Council's resolution regarding Ontario Health Premium.

PHSC 3-2005 Memo providing information regarding Nutritious Food Basket Survey – Staff Time & Costing

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

19. Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Baty

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

Carried.

20. Accommodations Update – Public Health Department

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That staff investigate options for accommodations for the Public Health Department.

Carried.

21. 911 Service

Committee discussed a matter relating to 911 Service and a report will be presented to Committee on this matter.

Councillor Timms vacated the Chair and Regional Chair Partington assumed the Chair.

22. Procedural Guidelines for Standing Committees

Mr. Trojan provided information on the Procedural Guidelines for Standing Committees including the Policy Making Role, Managerial Role and Committee and Council roles.

23. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Provide a copy of the slide presentation on EMS Paramedic Service Delivery to Regional Councillors. (Refer to minute 17.)
- (ii) Provide a comparative chart outlining the response times by the Fire Departments versus Niagara EMS. (Refer to minute 17.)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 2:25 p.m. to meet again on Monday, February 7, 2005, at 12:30 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Bruce Timms
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk/
Associate Director of Corporate Strategy