

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 8-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario on May 9, 2005, commencing at 12:41 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Staff

Part-time: Mr. Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection & Promotion; Mr. Robson, Director, Corporate Strategy; Mr. Cunnane, Director, Emergency Services Division; Mr. Pilon, Media Relations Coordinator; Ms. Fontana, Director, Corporate Health Services and Employee Relations; Mr. Hunter, Manager, Health Protection & Promotion; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Ms. Decou, Medical Epidemiologist; Mr. McQueen, Transition Manager, NACS; Mr. Fuentes, Associate Director, NACS; Ms. Seguin, Health Promoter; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention.

PRESENTATION

64. Herbicides

Ms. Kay Annable, a resident of the City of Welland provided the Committee with information on the adverse affects of 2,4-D pesticides on the health of children and adults.

Pesticides have been linked Attention Deficit Disorders in both children and adults; non-Hodgkins Lymphoma and leukemia; brain tumours and neuroblastomy.

Ms. Annable advised the Committee that research has indicated that levels of 2,4-D found in males has contributed to low sperm counts and has also been linked to difficulties in reproduction.

The Ontario College of Family Physicians has reported that herbicides are a risk whether applied by a regulated company or by the homeowner. The applicator is exposed to the herbicide. Ingestion occurs through the pores, eyes, nose, mouth and ears and is not readily excreted and can be accumulated in the body.

Ms. Annable asked the Committee to consider whether or not we should continue the use of 2,4-D weed killer in our communities and whether the PMRA and all levels of government should have a responsibility to the health and future of Niagara's children and to the fertility of Niagara's men.

The Committee noted that a by-law to restrict the use of pesticides remains within the jurisdiction of the local municipality and it was therefore, suggested that Ms. Annable provide the local municipalities with her presentation.

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Ms. Annable's presentation be received; and

That the presentation material be attached to Public Health Services Committee attachments for information.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

65. Campbell Commission Second Interim Report

Moved by Councillor Almas
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report MOH 02-2005, May 9, 2005, respecting Campbell Commission Second Interim Report, be received for information; and

That given the strong recommendations made by Justice Campbell that "the Medical Officer of Health has direct administrative control over the personnel and administrative machinery required to deliver public health protection" (Report, pg. 90), that any planned or proposed transfers of such staff from Niagara's Public Health department be reviewed and considered in this context.

Carried.

66. Public Health Goals for Canada Consultation

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report MOH 03-2005, May 9, 2005, respecting Public Health Goals for Canada Consultation, be received.

That the Board of Health urge provincial public health organizations, especially the Association of Local Public Health agencies, to convene processes to assure that the Ontario public health system has comprehensive and timely input into the establishment of public health goals for Canada.

Carried.

67. Provincial Initiative Related to Alcohol:
The Beverage Alcohol System Review

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 25-2005, May 9, 2005, respecting Provincial Initiative Related to Alcohol: The Beverage Alcohol System Review, be received for information.

That Regional Council send a letter to the BAS Panel, urging that the provincial alcohol monopoly be maintained and strengthened as a means of preventing alcohol-related problems.

Carried.

68. Integrated Public Health Information System (IPHIS)
- Implementation

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That Report PHD 26-2005, May 9, 2005, respecting Integrated Public Health Information System (IPHIS) – Implementation, be received for information purposes.

Carried.

69. 2005 Program Based Budget (PBB)

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 27-2005, May 9, 2005, respecting 2005 Program Based Budget (PBB), be received for information.

That the 2005 terms and Conditions document for Local Public Health Programs (Mandatory or general Programs) be approved and signed by the Board of Health Chairman.

Carried.

70. Fees for Activities Conducted Under Part 8
Of the Ontario Building code (Private Sewage Systems)

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHD 28-2005, May 9, 2005, respecting Fees for activities Conducted Under Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code (Private Sewage Systems), be received as **amended**.

That the Public Health Department increase the fee structure for activities conducted in relation to Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code, as outlined in this report.

That the Public Health Department be authorized to notify the appropriate local municipalities of the changes to the fee structure and the date of implementation.

That the fee structure for activities conducted in relation to Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code be reviewed on an annual basis through the Budget Review process.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

71. Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Communication PHSC 30-2005, Hazel Lyn, Medical Officer of Health, Grey Bruce Health Unit (April 20, 2005) regarding its Council's resolution respecting "Healthy Weights, Healthy Lives", be received.

Carried.

72. Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That Communication PHSC 31-2005, Connie Bryson, Chair, Thunder Bay District Board of Health (April 25, 2005) regarding its Council's resolution respecting "Amending Bill 164 – Smoke-Free Ontario Act", be received.

Carried.

73. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That Communication PHSC 32-2005, Dean Iorfida, City Clerk (April 12, 2003), City of Niagara Falls regarding its Council's resolution advising that a flat out ban on smoking in public places is not appropriate as it does not speak to all the needs of the commercial sector in Niagara Falls, be received.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

74. Bike to Work Week

The Committee congratulated Councillor Brock taking part in the Bike to Work Week event and biking to the Public Health Services Committee meeting this afternoon.

75. Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health – Secondment

Dr. Williams provided the Committee with an update on Dr. Sider's secondment to Oxford County by the Chief Medical Officer of Health to manage Oxford County's rubella outbreak.

76. 'Ride Out'

Councillor Angelone advised the Committee that she will be taking part in a 'Ride Out' with Niagara's EMS, Paramedic Services on May 19, 2005.

77. Public Health Department - Communications Update

Councillor Goulbourne asked that staff report back on the Public Health Department's Communications Strategy, detailing what the current, past and future Public Health Department's activities are; how the information is being communicated to the public and whether or not the Public Health Department's Communication Strategy requires improvement.

CLOSED SESSION

78. Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

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

Carried.

79. Niagara Ambulance Communication Service – Progress Report

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report PHD 29-2005, May 9, 2005 (HR 18-2005, May 10, 2005/CSD 65-2005, May 11, 2005) respecting Niagara Ambulance Communication Service – Progress Report, be received for information; and

That the Chief Administrative Officer proceed as directed by the Committee and report back to Regional Council on May 19, 2005.

Carried.

80. Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 2:00 p.m. to meet again on Monday, May 30, 2005, at 12:30 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Bruce Timms
Chair

Janet Pilon
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk/
Associate Director of Corporate Strategy