

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 14-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario on September 12, 2005, commencing at 12:40 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Staff

Part-time: Mr. Diakow, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services Department; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services, P.H.; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director Financial Management & Planning; Mr. Low, Building Services Manager; Ms. Murphy, Manager, Current and Capital Budgets; Ms. Peacefull, Manager of Community Development.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Presentations – Multi Year Financial Plan

152. Multi Year Financial Plan – Linking Strategy to Action

Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director of Financial Management & Planning, introduced the objectives of the Multi Year Financial Plan and provided background information for upcoming budget deliberations. The Treasurer highlighted the timetable, the concept and benefits of the Multi Year Financial Plan and its benefits. Mr. Lockyer outlined the Council Goals and Objectives as follows and presented a brief description of each:

- Optimal Access to Niagara
- Balanced, Planned Land Use
- Environmental Stewardship
- Affordable Service Excellence and Satisfying Work
- Healthy, Safe and Productive Communities
- Sustainable Economic Development

A chart detailing the impact on the tax levy of the Multi Year Plan Base and new initiatives was presented. The summary indicated that the two Council Goals; Optimal Access and Healthy/Safe and Productive Communities had the largest impact on the 2006 tax levy at 2.54% (\$6.4 million) and 1.58% (\$4.0 million) respectively. The predominant challenge created by Optimal Access is "Roads" and is primarily due to debt charges. The second most significant challenge is Healthy, Safe and Productive Community, primarily due to ODSP caseload increase and further development of emergency services.

The analysis excludes Non Tax Revenues, Police and Assessment Growth and does not reflect budget preparation work currently underway.

(Refer to staff direction on page PHSC 77.)

153. Public Health Department – Multi Year Financial Plan

Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health, provided an overview of the Public Health Department Multi Year Plan. Dr. Klooz commented that Goal 5, Healthy, Safe and Productive Communities and its objectives have the largest impact on its budget at a total of \$20,516,764 for 2005, \$19,317,806 for 2006 and \$17,673,130 for 2007.

Dr. Klooz highlighted the following current budget drivers and provided a brief explanation of each:

- Governance
- Medical/Prep
- Chronic Disease Prevention
- Health Protection and Promotion
- Clinical Services
- Population Health
- Emergency Medical Services
- DentalServices/Community Development

The following funding considerations were presented:

- Ministry approval of 2005 budget @55% - Ministry of Health and Long Term Care grant is still pending
- Pending move and furniture capital costs for new building in 2006/2007
- Provincial move to 65%/35% funding in 2006 and 75%/25% in 2007
- Cost complications – New provincial public health expectations around programs and accountabilities, e.g. New Health Promotion Ministry, Tobacco Control, Capacity Review Recommendations

Business Assumptions for 2006/2007 were presented as follows:

- Salaries and benefits to increase
- Service demands related to demographics and service gaps continuing to increase 2%-5% per year (e.g., sexual health services, ambulance call volumes)
- Gasoline cost increase substantially also affecting mileage costs
- Potential of utilities costs to increase more than inflation
- Potential escalation of new building material costs
- Investment in Regional emergency management (infrastructure, people and training) urgently required

Dr. Klooz outlined the strategies put in place to mitigate the impact on the budget as follows:

- Leverage increased Provincial funding to provide tax levy relief
- Review program efficiencies as mandates and agreements allow, e.g. EMS/Dispatch
- Review of user fees

154. Multi Year Financial Plan 2004-2007

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report CSD 77-2005, respecting Multi Year Financial Plan 2004 – 2007, be received.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

155. Staff Announcement

Dr. Sider introduced Fiona Peacefull as the new Manager of Community Development for the Public Health Department.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT (continued)

156. Moving Ahead Together” – A Position Paper of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies

Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, advised that Report MOH 04-2005 reviews the recommendations of The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) to the Local Capacity Review around governance and structure, public health funding, public health accountabilities, public health human resources and research and

knowledge transfer. Seven stakeholder groups provided input to aPHa and a summary chart comparing their positions around governance is included in the report.

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That Report MOH 04-2005, September 12, 2005, respecting “Moving Ahead Together” – A Position Paper of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, be received for information and discussion deferred to the Public Health/Council Business Planning session in October 2005.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page PHSC 78.)

157. Niagara Region Public Health Department User Fees

Dr. Sider highlighted the different Public health Department programs that collect user fees from clients/program participants, noting the benefits for such sources of revenue.

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHD 53-2005, September 12, 2005, respecting Niagara Region Public Health Department User Fees, be received by Committee and Regional Council/Board of Health for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page PHSC 78.)

158. aPHa Health Unit Budget Survey Results

Dr. Klooz provided an overview of the information related to the recent aPHa survey and the potential budget implications. Dr. Klooz commented that assuming the Public Health Department is funded at an “average” level; the 2006 budget exercise should be focused upon opportunities available using the changing funding formula and the leveraging of provincial dollars.

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That Report PHD 54-2005, September 12, 2005, respecting alPHa Health Unit Budget Survey Results, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page PHSC 78.)

OTHER BUSINESS (continued)

159. Defibrillator

Councillor Angelone commented that she attended a training seminar with respect to the Defibrillator and suggested that all members of Council receive a short presentation on the use of the defibrillator. Councillor Angelone also commented that she wanted defibrillators installed in all police vehicles. Councillor Harry commented that many of the Mayors, himself included and some other Councillors have already received training on the use of defibrillators by the local fire departments.

160. Emergency Response Plans

A discussion ensued, as a result of the recent New Orleans natural disaster, on whether there is Regional and local emergency response plans developed and in place. It was suggested that Sean Bertleff, Program Supervisor, Emergency Management, prepare a presentation for Regional Council on the emergency plans that have been developed in the event of a human or natural disaster and to apprise Council of the emergency operations exercises that have taken place to date. It was also suggested that the media be invited to this presentation/meeting so that they can communicate this information to the public. Information with respect to the development of a "Family Disaster Plan" was also requested.

161. West Nile Virus – Influx of Wasps

Dr. Sider advised that Niagara had its first human case of the West Nile Virus and that the person is recovering. He commented that the community must continue to be vigilant in taking the preventive measures necessary over the next several weeks to protect themselves. Statistics on the West Nile Virus as compared to the last few years is not yet available. Dr. Sider commented he does not have any information related to the Influx of wasps but reiterated the importance of those that need it, to carry their anaphylactic pen and that schools continue to maintain an anaphylactic plan.

CLOSED SESSION

162. Moved by Councillor Angelone
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.

163. Public Health Department
30 Hannover Drive, St.Catharines

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That Report PHD 55-2005, September 12, 2005 (PWA 163-2005, September 13, 2005/CSD 133-2005, September 14, 2005) respecting Public Health Department, 30 Hannover Drive, City of St. Catharines, be referred to the Closed Committee of the Whole meeting on Thursday, September 22, 2005, for a further report from the Legal Department.

Carried.

164. 2004 Audit Management Letter – Public Health Programs (CSD 127-2005)

Mr. Lockyer apprised Committee of the current and proposed changes to the process for dealing with Audit Management Letters and Reports.

165. Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTION

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Provide a comprehensive list of all new initiatives for 2006 Budgets for each department and for report to its respective Standing Committees. (Refer to minute 152)

- (ii) Provide options and the rationale behind the “decisions” as referred to in the “Conclusion” of the report. (Refer to minute 156)
- (iii) Provide additional costs associated with staffing and include in fee schedule for the travel health clinic, noting consequences of that and indicate where savings could be applied to other programs. Also provide the specific guidelines/mandate that must be followed. Examine whether information could be provided on the web site with respect to the travel clinic and/or other programs as a cost savings measure. (Refer to minute 157).
- (iv) Provide information on outcomes versus compliance to mandatory program costs per capita. (Refer to minute 158)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 2:45 p.m. to meet again on Monday, October 3, 2005, at 12:30 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Bruce Timms
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk