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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 3-2004

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, February 9, 2004, commencing at 12:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Timms, Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Baty; Casselman; Davidson; Harry; Redekop.

Staff: Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Mr. Cunnane, Director, Public Safety; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Ms. Morris, Manager, Youth Connection Elementary Program; Ms. Papaiz, Communications Coordinator; Ms. Partington, Director, Population Health; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services Division; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention.
Corporate Services: Ms. Murphy, Manager, Current and Capital Budgets.

PRESENTATIONS

23. Smoking By-law – Private Club Exemptions

Ms. Sandra Bertolozzi, Teddy's Food, Fun & Spirits, attended to express the concerns of restaurant and bar owners on the equities of the Smoking by-law with respect to exemptions for Private Clubs, Race Tracks and Casinos. Ms. Bertolozzi quoted the health risks contained in the smoking by-law and asked "Does the effect of tobacco smoke only affect the public in certain places." "Are the people who work and patronize private clubs, casinos and race tracks not worth protection as well?" Ms. Bertolozzi apprised Committee of the benefits being reaped by the Grimsby Legion since the implementation of the By-law and the negative impact on the restaurants and bars in Grimsby who have to now compete with a not for profit club for business. Ms. Bertolozzi urged the Committee to level the

playing field by removing private club exemptions from the Smoking By-law.

Mr. Gary Thompson, Different Strokes, Grimsby, attended to speak to what he felt was the inequities and hypocrisies of the existing Smoking By-law. He commented that while they have been told that any loss of business experienced due to Smoking By-laws would be temporary, he finds that this is untrue. Mr. Thompson commented that his billiard business is not like the restaurant business where ever changing and creative menus, promotions and specials may help to bring back business losses. Business has dropped approximately 25 to 29% depending on the weather. Mr. Thompson stated that it is not equitable that casinos, race tracks and private clubs are exempt. He also commented that "how can a health issue, namely second hand smoke) have any credibility, if it can be left to choose its own victims". Mr. Thompson also expressed his reluctance to spend approximately \$20,000 to put in a designated smoking room when the Ontario Government has stated that these rooms are soon to be redundant. Mr. Thompson also reiterated the inequity of the By-law given the advantage that the Grimsby Legion has over other restaurant, bar and business owners. Mr. Thompson suggested that Niagara consider timelines that coincide with Hamilton's by-laws while in the process of re-considering its existing by-law.

A report will be brought to Committee to address the concerns of the presenters providing a comparison of private club status in other smoking by-laws; number of complaints received regarding the impact on businesses; comparison of by-laws in nearby jurisdictions with respect to timelines for 100% smoke-free; and information on the Liberal Government's intent with respect to long-range planning and legislation.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

24. aPHa All Members Annual Meeting

Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, provided an overview of the items discussed at the aPHa All Members Annual Meeting held in January, highlighting the matters related to funding and health unit amalgamation. He commented there was little discussion above and beyond what was contributed and summarized in the distributed documents with respect to Provincial Public Health Agency/Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Human Resources. Dr. Sider also highlighted the presentations made by Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of State for Public Health and Mr. George Smitherman, Minister of Health. (Document attached to minutes.)

Councillor Baty advised that the alPHa meeting was very informative, noting appreciation for the alPHa Orientation Manual which he commented was very comprehensive and helpful. Other areas of interest was the Review of Board of Health Liability and the summary of survey responses regarding critical public health issues (information attached), as well as discussions regarding funding for health matters relating to healthy lifestyles, chronic disease and primary care reform.

Committee was advised that they could contact the alPHa web site which will provide information on the alPHa meeting.

25. Request for member for the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Councillor Brian Baty be appointed to the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee.

Carried.

26. Location of Meeting for March 8th, 2004

A discussion ensued regarding holding meetings in other areas of the Region as a means to reach out to the community. One suggestion was the Reception Centre – Gateway into Canada Facility, once it is completed next year. For the March 8th meeting, Committee recommended meeting at the Public Health Building in Niagara Falls which would allow those members who are on the Community Services Committee more time to travel to The Meadows of Dorchester.

Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That the March 8th meeting of the Public Health Services Committee be held at the Niagara Falls Public Health Building.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page PHSC 15.)

MINUTES

Conflict of Interest

Regional Chair Partington declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to budget matters relating to the Public Health Department as his

spouse is an employee of that department, and he therefore took no part in the discussion or voting on these matters.

27. Report 3-2004
Budget Review Committee Minutes

Dr. Williams provided background information on Report CAO 2-2004 and the reductions identified through Core Service Review. Committee reviewed the Budget Review Committee minutes and the recommendations made by Committee with respect to List 1 (Appendix A).

Committee reiterated its earlier decision not to support the items on page 8 and 9 of List 1 (Appendix A) with respect to fees.

CLOSED SESSION

28. Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

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

Carried.

Conflict of Interest

Regional Chair Partington declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to budget matters relating to the Public Health Department as his spouse is an employee of that department and he therefore left the Committee Room and took no part in the discussion of or voting on these matters.

Following review of the Confidential List (Appendix B):

29. Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That item 2 on page 3 of List 2 (Appendix B) in the amount of \$92,000 be referred to the Budget Review Committee for removal from the list; and

That Councillor Timms and Dr. Williams meet with Mike Trojan, C.A.O. as to why this item and other items, that are not supported by the Public Health Services Committee, are on the list.

Carried.

30. Oral Report
Ambulance Services

Committee received an oral report from Mr. John Cunnane, Director of Public Safety, on ambulance services.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

MINUTES (continued)

31. Report 3-2003
Budget Review Committee Minutes

Following further discussion with respect to the Budget Review Committee minutes, it was:

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That items 2 and 3 on page 15 of List 1 (Appendix A) be referred to the Budget Review Committee for removal from the list.

Carried.

(Report 3-2004 is behind BRC tab in Blue Book.)

CORRESPONDENCE

32. Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Communication PHSC 1-2004 from Cheryl Miclette, Town Clerk, Town of Pelham, respecting Physician Recruitment be received.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTION

That staff be directed to:

- Examine opportunities to hold meetings in various Public Health facilities throughout the Region as a means of reaching out to the community.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 3:05 p.m. to meet again on Monday, February 23, 2004 at 12:30 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

D. Bruce Timms
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Acting Regional Clerk