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## **THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE**

#### **REPORT 4-2004**

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, February 23, 2004, commencing at 12:30 p.m.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

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

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

#### **Staff**

Part-time: Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection and Promotion; Mr. Cunnane, Director, Public Safety; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Mr. Lorenzo, Tobacco Supervisor; Ms. Papaiz, Communications Coordinator; Ms. Partington, Director, Population Health; Ms. Rix, Manager, Tobacco Program; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention; Ms. Young, Manager, Health Protection and Promotion.

Others: Councillor Trombetta.

#### **Conflict of Interest**

Councillor Partington declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to any 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 of, or voting, on these matters.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

33. **Niagara Healthy Environment Initiative**  
**Cosmetic Use of Pesticides in Niagara Region**

Mike Tomaino, on behalf of The Niagara Healthy Environment Initiative, attended to encourage municipalities in Niagara to pass by-laws restricting the cosmetic use of pesticides. The group is made up of the Breast Cancer Research & Education Fund, the Learning Disabilities Association

of Niagara as well as several other local groups including the CAW Environmental Council. Mr. Tomaino commented that the word “cosmetic” pertains to residential use only and that agricultural use would not be affected by such a by-law. He advised that the City of Thorold has passed a by-law and that they are continuing to work with the local municipal councils to enact same. Mr. Tomaino suggested that a regional pesticide by-law would ensure regional, uniform coverage on this important public health issue, similar to the Regional Smoking By-law. A list of the pesticides used in our Communities and the Human Health and Environmental Impacts of each was distributed for information.

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That the presentation from Mr. Tomaino, The Niagara Healthy Environment Initiative with respect to restricting cosmetic use of pesticides, be received and referred to staff for report .

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page PHSC 15.)

### **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

34. Smoking By-law Update

Moved by Councillor Davidson  
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHD 11-2004, February 23, 2004, respecting Smoking By-law Update, be received for information.

Carried.

35. West Nile Virus 2003 Summary Report

Mr. Young, Manager, Health Protection and Promotion, provided a brief slide presentation summarizing the various strategies that were utilized in 2003 by the Public Health Department to monitor and prevent the spread of West Nile Virus in Niagara. Mr. Young advised that it is the intention of the department to continue in 2004 with its Integrated Pest Management approach to minimize the health risks associated with West Nile Virus. He commented that experts have warned that WNV activities should not be reduced based on one year's data.

Committee members expressed their concerns on the \$140,250 that was cut from the Public Health Department's budget that would impact on the continuation of the West Nile Virus strategies at their existing levels, and it was:

Moved by Councillor Davidson  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the Budget Review Committee be requested to put \$140,250 back in the Public Health Department Budget for the West Nile Virus Integrated Pest Management Program.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Casselman  
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHD 12-2004, February 23, 2004, respecting West Nile Virus 2003 Summary Report, be received for information.

Carried.

36. Request for Capital Budget and Financing Approval  
For Public Health Capital Project ZGR0502 –  
Ambulance & Related Equipment

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report PHD 14-2004, February 23, 2004 (CSD 37-2004, February 25, 2004), respecting Request for Capital Budget and Financing Approval for Public Health Capital Project ZGR0502 – Ambulance & Related Equipment, be received.

That the budget allocation from the approved 2004 Public health Capital Budget in the gross amount of \$850,000 and net amount of \$425,000 be approved for Capital Project ZGR0502 – Ambulance & Related Equipment;

That the debenture financing (1-5 years) of \$360,806 for Capital Project ZGR0502 – ambulance & Related Equipment be approved; and

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws are prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

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Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

37. Moved by Councillor Casselman  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Communication PHSC 2-2004 from Bill Russell, Chairperson, Board of Health, regarding North Bay and District Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2003/11/09 requesting the Province to 100% fund all Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines be received; and

That staff be directed to draft a resolution to request what they feel would be the appropriate funding formulas for the Regional Niagara Public Health Department's programs and services and forward the resolution to Committee for support.

Carried.

**ACCOUNTS**

38. Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That the Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the Period ending January 31, 2004 in the amount of \$1,905,787.67 be approved.

Carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

39. Agenda Package Distribution

Councillor Casselman inquired as to whether there was a way to distribute the Public Health Services Committee agenda package earlier than the existing process to provide more time for review of reports.

Dr. Williams and Mr. Trojan commented on the tight timeframes that exist due to the two week cycle and time required for preparation and review of reports. Staff will investigate if there is a way to get reports out electronically on a timelier basis.

40. Appointment to Committee

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Councillor Katie Trombetta be appointed as a member of the Public Health Services Committee.

Carried.

41. Process for Recommending List of Cuts  
as per the Core Services List in Report CAO 2-2004

Mike Trojan advised that he met with Councillor Timms and Dr. Williams regarding the process for recommending the list of budget cuts for the Public Health Department as contained in the Core Services Lists in Report CAO 2-2004. He commented that there is a need to take a look at the potential conflict of the MOH as Commissioner within the regional corporate context vs. Medical Officer of Health and obligations under the governing Public Health legislation. Mr. Trojan commented that we may have to take a slightly different approach during the Budget Review Committee process by attempting to identify the different roles both at staff and council level in the future and how this impacts the budget process.

**STAFF DIRECTION**

That staff be directed to:

- (i) In preparing the report in response to the presentation respecting the restriction of the cosmetic use of pesticides, that the report address such issues as: costs for education and enforcement of by-law; impact of pesticides identified on air quality – both commercially and residentially and should the Region or municipalities take the lead on this initiative. (Minute item 33.)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned at 1:55 p.m. to meet again on Monday, March 8, 2004 at 12:30 p.m. at the Niagara Falls Public Health Department in Niagara Falls. (Directions to facility will be provided.)

D. Bruce Timms  
Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy  
Acting Regional Clerk