

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 9-2004

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on May 10, 2004, commencing at 12:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Mr. Trojan, C.A.O.; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Mr. Bousfield, Manager, Property & Facilities Management; Mr. Bowles, Executive Assistant; Mr. Cunnane, Director, Emergency Services Division; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention.

Others: Councillor Rigby.

PRESENTATION

96. New Hospital in the West End of St. Catharines

The presentation regarding the new hospital in the west end of St. Catharines was referred to the Planning Services Committee on Wednesday, May 12, 2004.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

97. The New World for Public Health: A Review of Walker's "For the Public's Health: A Plan of Action" and Campbell's SARS and Public Health in Ontario"

Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, provided highlights of The Campbell Commission of Inquiry and the Walker Panel Report. The report SARS and Public Health in Ontario (Campbell) was focused on public health renewal and identifies 21 recommendations in support of this renewal and suggested directions to be taken by the government address

identified deficiencies. Dr. Williams outlined the process of the Walker Panel, noting that the final report covered the following key issues:

- Agency Design
- Role of the Chief Medical Officer of Health
- Public Health Renewal
- Regional Communicable and Infection Control Networks
- Impacts at the point of care

Dr. Williams advised that *The Ontario Health Protection and Promotion Agency* is to be established and highlighted the core functions of the agency. Under the new proposals, the Chief Medical Officer of Health will have the authority to report to the legislature and would increase the scope of authority for the CMOH to speak and report independently on matters of public health urgency. The appendices of the actual recommendations from each of the reports are attached to Report MOH 01-2004.

Moved by Councillor Almas
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report MOH 01-2004, May 10, 2004, respecting The New World for Public Health: A Review of Walker's "For the Public's Health: A Plan of Action" and Campbell's SARS and Public Health in Ontario, be received for information.

Carried.

98. Regional Niagara's Board of Health Resolution Regarding Funding for Public Health Programs

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That the following resolution be supported:

Whereas under Canada's constitutional arrangements, health was delegated as a provincial responsibility, and

Whereas the Mandatory Guidelines are established under the *Health Protection & Promotion Act (HPPA)* by the Province and establishes the minimum public health services that a Board of Health is required to provide, and

Whereas municipalities, including Niagara are experiencing severe budgetary restrictions based on the limited ability to generate tax revenue from the municipal property tax base, and

Whereas there is increased understanding of the importance of public health services to the health of the people of Ontario (recent experiences with SARS, WNV etc.), and

Whereas the Walker Report "For the Public's Health: A Plan of Action" calls for a review of the funding for local public health services,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Province of Ontario be requested to review the current funding formula for public health services delivered through public health departments taking into consideration:

- The need for local municipal accountability and participation at some level in funding is important to maintain
- The need to review the current mandated program funding with increased participation of the provincial contribution to 75% with a municipal funding level of 25% and
- The need for new programs required by the Province of Ontario would be funded 100% in perpetuity with full costs allowed for implementation and administration of such programs.
- The need for sustainable funding with 3 year budgeting cycles put in place to allow efficient and consistent planning and delivery of public health services

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

99. Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That Communication PHSC 13-2004, letters from Gord Harry, Mayor, Township of Wainfleet, Vance Badawey, former Mayor, City of Port Colborne and Tim Hudak, M.P.P. in support of the Excessive Heat Alert Response Plan, be received.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT (continued)

100. Mandatory Program Objectives and 2003 Compliance
With Requirements and Standards – Chronic Disease Prevention

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHD 37-2004, May 10, 2004, respecting Mandatory Program Objectives and 2003 Compliance with Requirements and Standards – Chronic Disease Prevention, be received for information.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

101. Respiratory Cases – SARS

Councillor Timms requested a brief update on concerns about a second wave of SARS.

Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, advised that Health Care Industries are taking proactive measures and heightening vigilance and control methods on severe respiratory cases that might be interpreted as SARS.

ACCOUNTS

102. Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ending April 30, 2004, in the amount of \$1,552,996.86, be approved.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

103. Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Harry

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

Carried.

104. Oral Report – Ambulance Services

Mr. Cunnane, Director, Emergency Services Division, provided an oral report on Ambulance Services.

105. Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That this Committee do now rise without report.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 2:15 p.m. to meet again on Monday, May 31 2004, at 12:30 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

D. Bruce Timms
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Acting Regional Clerk