

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 20-2004

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on November 22, 2004, commencing at 12:35 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Timms, Chair; Almas; Angelone; Baty; Casselman; Harry; Redekop.

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

Staff

Part-time: Mr. Bertleff, Program Manager, E.M.S.; Ms. Dawson, Community Dietitian; Mr. Hunter, Manager, Health Protection & Promotion; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services, P.H.; Ms. Kalailieff, Manager, Vaccine Preventable Disease; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Mr. Pilon, Media Relations Coordinator; Mr. Roberts, Senior Manager, NEMS; Mr. Spencer, Manager, Sexual Health Program; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services; Ms. Waite, P.H. Nurse; Mr. Young, Manager, Health Protection & Promotion.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

204. News Article – Flu Vaccination

Councillor Timms, Committee Chair, apprised Committee of a newspaper article and misleading headline in which a doctor commented that he did not agree with the vaccination policy. Dr. Sider clarified that it was a Chiropractor who was quoted and that he would follow up on this matter. Councillor Timms urged everyone to get the flu vaccination.

PRESENTATIONS

205. AIDS Awareness Week

Dr. Spencer, Manager, Sexual Health Program, introduced LeeAnn Pocknell, Prevention and Education Coordinator, AIDS Niagara, who attended to apprise Committee of AIDS Awareness week. AIDS Awareness Week runs from November 24 to December 1, 2004 with December 1st as World AIDS Day. Ms. Pocknell outlined the many activities taking place that include:

- A presentation on COGECO Cable throughout the week
- The display of the AIDS Quilt, which remembers those who lost the fight to HIV/AIDS.
- The Quilt will be displayed at the Public Health Department from November 24 to November 26; at the St. Catharines Public Library November 26 to November 28; and at Regional Headquarters from November 29 to December 1.
- There will be a candlelight walk and vigil, November 27th at 7:00 p.m. The walk will be from the AIDS Niagara office to St. Catharines City Hall and there will be a light reception afterwards.
- AIDS Niagara and the Public Health Department's Sexual Health Program will provide AIDS 101 education sessions through the region in partnership.
- A poster campaign will raise awareness of issues around HIV.
- On December 1, AIDS Niagara will partner with AIDS Family Services of Buffalo. At Mather Arch in Fort Erie the two organizations will join forces in the fight against AIDS. A wooden ribbon will be joined to show solidarity and commitment in the continuation of mutual prevention work.
- At 7:00 p.m. December 1, St. Kevins Church in Welland will be offering a non-denomination memorial service to remember those lost.
- Red ribbons will also be distributed throughout the Region.

206. Bill 3 – An Act to Protect Anaphylactic Students

Cindy Paskey, together with Debbie Monnovafessler, attended on behalf of Niagara Anaphylaxis Support & Knowledge (NASK) to seek support for the passage of Bill 3. NASK is a nonprofit volunteer group serving individuals and families living with anaphylaxis throughout Niagara. NASK is dedicated to raising awareness of anaphylaxis by providing information, education and support. Bill 3 will require that every school principal establish a school anaphylactic plan. The plan would develop and maintain strategies to reduce the risk of exposure that could result in anaphylactic shock at the school, communicate information about life-

threatening allergies, arrange for training, develop emergency procedure plans for each anaphylactic student and maintain current information on file. With consent, school staff could administer or supervise the administration of medication that is required to be taken during the school day. In the event of an emergency involving an anaphylactic student, school staff would be permitted to administer medication without consent. No action for damages resulting from administering medication would be permitted unless the damages were the result of gross negligence. The presenters requested Committee and Council urge the Provincial government to support the passage of Bill 3.

Members of Committee spoke in support of the Bill in principle, noting that further review and amendments to the Bill would need to be amended.

It was:

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That this Committee recommend that Regional Council support Bill 3, Anaphylactic Students Protection Act, 2003 in principle, and

That the Regional Chair forward a letter to Premier McGuinty seeking support for the passage of Bill 3; and

That a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Standing Committee on General government and local M.P.P.s for their endorsement; and

That a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa).

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page PHSC 102.)

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT (continued)

207. User Fees for Public Health Department Programs and Services

Dr. Sider provided an overview of the policy issues related to the opportunities, feasibility, impacts and potential consequences related to expanding the use of user fees for Regional Niagara Public Health Department programs and services.

Members of Committee concurred that further information was required before giving policy directions related to User Fees and requested the following:

- Review of the results of the alPHa survey recently electronically circulated to public health units re. present and future plans for user fees.
- Obtain results from Hamilton advocacy re. the Ministry considering revenue generation as part of the municipal contribution to public health budgets.
- Refer matter to legal and corporate services to review legislation regarding the authority for licensing and other legal implications

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That Report PHD 78-2004, November 22, 2004, respecting User Fees for Public Health Department Programs and Services be received; and

That staff continue to examine the opportunity for User Fees for Public Health Department Programs and Services and provide a further report addressing the comments/suggestions of Committee.

Carried.

208. Nutritious Food Basket Survey 2004

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHD 79-2004, November 22, 2004, respecting Nutritious Food Basket Survey 2004, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page PHSC 102.)

209. Provincial Immunization Strategy
- Pre-Adolescent and Adolescent Meningococcal Campaigns

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That Report PHD 80-2004, November 22, 2005, respecting Provincial Immunization Strategy – Pre-Adolescent and Adolescent Meningococcal Campaigns, the meningococcal vaccine update, be received for information.

Carried.

210. Emergency Management Program Enhancements for 2005

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 81-2004, November 22, 2004, respecting Emergency Management Program Enhancements for 2005, be received for information; and

That consultation take place with local municipalities to ascertain what plans and resources they have implemented in order to comply with new provincial standards for Community Emergency Programs.

Defeated.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 81-2004, November 22, 2004, respecting Emergency Management Program Enhancements for 2005, be received for information; and

That this report be forwarded to Budget Review Committee for consideration during the 2005 budget process.

That consultation take place with local municipalities to ascertain what plans and resources they have implemented in order to comply with new provincial standards for Community Emergency Programs.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

211. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Communication PHSC 29-2004 from Norm Mino, Chairperson, Board of Health and Dr. Pat Logan, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Timiskaming Health Unit (October 4, 2004) seeking support to solicit government support and collaboration for the *Call to Action: Creating Healthy School Nutrition Environment*, be received.

Carried.

212. Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Communication PHSC 30-2004, being the Job Description for the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Technician, be received.

Carried.

213. Moved by Councillor Almas
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Communication PHSC 31-2004, regarding Report PHD 08-2004, January 26, 2004 regarding 2004 Budget and Potential Revenue Generation and Report PHD 47-2004, July 12, 2004, regarding Tobacco Vendor Licensing Fees, be received.

Carried.

214. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Communication PHSC 32-2004 from Connie Bryson, Thunder Bay District Board of Health, (October 21, 2004) regarding Improved Legislation for ATV use among children and youth, be received and forwarded to aPHa.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

215. Alternate for Budget Review Committee

Councillor Baty advised he would be unable to attend the next two Budget Review Committee meetings and suggested that an alternate be appointed to represent the Public Health Services Committee (as an alternate for this Committee had not yet been appointed as allowed in the Terms of Reference).

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Councillor Almas be appointed to serve on the Budget Review Committee as alternate representative for the Public Health Services Committee.

Carried.

216. 2005 Current Budget – Public Health Department

Councillor Timms distributed copies of the Letter of Transmittal and Budget Summary for the 2005 Public Health Department Current Budget for Committee's review.

217. Budget Scenario

Councillor Timms requested Dr. Sider prepare a budget scenario, using the 55/45 split to produce a net 1% decrease in the net budget from 2004.

CLOSED SESSION

218. Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Almas

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

Carried.

219. Property Matter – Glenridge Avenue

Dr. Sider provided an update on the Glenridge Avenue property matter as requested by the Committee Chair.

220. Moved by Councillor Almas
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That this Committee do now rise without report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTION

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Provide information on the School Board's position with respect to Bill 3. (Refer to minute 206.)
- (i) Provide information on staff time and costs for completing the Nutritious Food Basket Food Costing Survey (mandatory program). (Refer to minute 208.)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 2:55 p.m. to meet again on Monday, December 6, 2004, at 12:30 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Bruce Timms
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk/
Associate Director of Corporate Strategy