

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 17-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario on November 14, 2005, commencing at 12:35 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Staff

Part-time: Ms. Rix, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Ms. Beyer, Health Promoter; Ms. Hague, Manager, Infectious Disease Program; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services, P.H.; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Mr. Brcic, Director, Water & Wastewater; Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection & Promotion; Mr. McQueen, Manager, Emergency Services; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

189. **Adverse Water Response at
Niagara Falls Water Treatment Plant**

Messrs. Christensen and Brcic provided the Committee with an overview of the report, which provided the Committee with a chronological listing of the actions taken when staff responded to an adverse drinking water report in the City of Niagara Falls.

The Committee was advised that the testing for the two parasites, Cryptosporidia and Giardia are done three to four times per year, however, there is no need to test for such parasites, as the treatment in place eliminates them.

The Committee members who were contacted during the event commended staff for their proactive response to the report.

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 70-2005/PWA 200-2005, November 14, 2005, respecting the Adverse Water Response at Niagara Falls Water Treatment Plant, be received for information; and

That staff prepare a written contingency or action plan for responding to positive findings.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PHD 70-2005 (PWA 200-2005) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

PRESENTATION

190. MADD Niagara Region Chapter

Mr. Jeff Kaufman, Chapter Vice-President provided the Committee with an overview of the MADD Niagara organization, which is just newly formed, as the 83rd Chapter, but the first in Niagara Region.

The Chapter encompasses all of Niagara Region and they will begin with the Red Ribbon campaign on November 22, 2005; a Candlelight Vigil in the City of Niagara Falls on a date, not yet set and they are hoping to schedule multi community walkathons, to get more people involved.

Mr. Kaufman noted that the Chapter is looking for volunteers and as much support as possible. The Chapter will have two volunteers trained to handle Victim Services and will be looking for corporate sponsors to help offset the costs of showing the educational films in Niagara's secondary and public schools.

The Committee was advised the MADD Niagara Region Chapter will be working with various partners, such as SADD.

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Mr. Jeff Kaufman, Chapter Vice-President presentation respecting MADD Niagara Region Chapter the presentation by, be received with gratitude.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT (Continued)

191. Overview of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act

Ms. Rix provided the Committee with a presentation that detailed the history that led up to the implementation of the Smoke Free Ontario Act (SFOA) on May 31, 2006, which repeals the Smoking in Workplace Act and Tobacco Act.

Ms. Rix reviewed the requirements of the SFOA as of May 31, 2006, noting that there will be no exemptions for private clubs or casinos; employees such as Home Healthcare Workers will be able to ask a person not to smoke in their presence while they are providing health care services and will be permitted to leave if the person refuses to comply.

With the banning of all Designated Smoking Rooms (DSRs), they will be permitting Controlled Smoking Area (CSAs) in long-term care facilities; retirement homes; supportive housing residence; psychiatric facilities as designated by regulation; facilities for veterans as designated by regulation with strict conditions. Hotels will be permitted to designate hotel rooms as smoking with the room being fully enclosed by floor to ceiling walls, ceiling and doors that separate it physically from areas where smoking is prohibited.

The Committee was advised that it is common practice among Home Healthcare Worker suppliers that Home Healthcare Workers are matched to a patient with similar smoking habits, in order to avoid any animosity between the client and the employees.

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 66-2005, November 14, 2005, respecting an Overview of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, be received for information; and

That any questions or concerns from Committee and Council with respect to regulations or enforcement protocols be referred to the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care.

That staff report back on the effects legally and financially of repealing the Niagara Region's Smoking By-law when the Province's By-law takes effect.

Carried.

- (Refer to Staff Directions)
192. Niagara Region Public Health Department Travel Clinic

Dr. Sider provided the Committee with an overview of the report, which summarizes the Public Health Department's Travel Health Clinic's objectives, activities, budget structure and partial cost-recovery mechanisms for clinic expenditures.

Ms. Hague advised the Committee that Niagara's Travel Health Clinic's counseling times are the same as other municipalities and that the fees are on the high end in comparison to other municipalities.

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 67-2005, November 14, 2005, respecting the Niagara Region Public Health Department Travel Clinic, be received for information; and

That the present partial cost-recovery structure be re-affirmed by the Board of Health.

Carried.

There be a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Chair determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to five members, pursuant to Part II, Section 11.7 of the Procedural By-law 7174-93.

193. Resolutions for Consideration at the 2005 aIPHa Annual General Meeting

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHD 68-2005, November 14, 2005, respecting the Resolutions for Consideration at the 2005 aIPHa Annual General Meeting, be received; and

That Committee and Council review the staff recommendations with respect to the resolutions for consideration at the 2005 Associate of Local Public Health Agencies (aIPHa) Annual General Meeting (AGM), and adopt a Board position.

Carried.

194. Ridgeway Ambulance Station
Contract RN 05-41
Town of Fort Erie

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 69-2005 (PWA 193-2005 / CSD 156-2005), November 14, 2005, respecting the Ridgeway Ambulance Station, Contract RN 05-41 in the Town of Fort Erie, be received.

That Contract RN 05-41 for the construction of the Ridgeway Ambulance Station be awarded to the lowest bidder, Aldor Builders Ltd., at their bid price of \$537,900.00.

That \$100,000.00 be approved and initiated fro ZGR0101/GR0303, Ridgeway Land Ambulance Building with Capital Levy Reserve financing as included in the 2004 Public Health Capital Budget.

That \$34,500.00 of long-term financing be transferred from ZGR0503/GR0504, Smithville Ambulance Stations to ZGR0101/GR0303, Ridgeway Land Ambulance Building.

That all project costs be charged to ZGR0101/GR0303, Ridgeway Land Ambulance Building.

That the Regional Chair and the Clerk be authorized to execute the Site Plan Agreement with the Town of Fort Erie.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PHD 69-2005 (PWA 193-2005 / CSD 156-2005) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

195. Immigrants on Medical Surveillance for TB – Update

Dr. Sider advised the Committee that he would be bringing forward a memorandum at the December 5, 2005 Public Health Services Committee meeting that would provide the Committee with an update respecting the immigrants on medical surveillance for TB.

CORRESPONDENCE

196. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the following communications be received:

- PHSC 54-2005 Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion,
(September 28, 2005) regarding the health risks of
artificial tanning.
- PHSC 55-2005 Deb Morton, Executive Director, Niagara Regional
Police Services Board (November 1, 2005) respecting
the Traffic Safety – Regional Niagara Road Safety
Committee (RNRSC)

Carried.

197. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That the following communication be received:

- PHSC 56-2005 David Lorenzo, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention
(November 14, 2005) respecting additional
information on the Youth Action Alliance (YAA) – PHD
61-2005, that was requested by the members of the
Public Health Services Committee at their October
24th meeting.

Carried.

There be a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Chair determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to four members, pursuant to Part II, Section 11.7 of the Procedural By-law 7174-93.

OTHER BUSINESS

198. Public Health in the Future:
Better Delivered, Managed, Governed and Funded

As discussed at the October 20th Council Business Planning Session, it was agreed that following the receipt of the interim Capacity Review Committee's report that comprehensively assesses local health units' capacity to provide the public health services Ontarians need in the most effective way possible. The Capacity Review is looking at public health as it could be in the future, as a system – as it could be better delivered, managed, governed and funded.

The Committee agreed by consensus to meet in Committee of the Whole on November 24, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. to support either the Board of Health recommendations; the aPHa recommendations or the Medical Officers of Health recommendations.

Staff will provide the Committee of the Whole with the recommendations as listed above; the governance pages from the Capacity Review Committee's report and the aPHa summary.

STAFF DIRECTION

That staff be directed to:

- (i) provide the Committee with the details within the SFOA that pertain to a outdoor patio. (Refers to Minute Item #191)
- (ii) provide the Committee with ONA's comments on the SFOA, as it relates to Home Healthcare Workers. (Refers to Minute Item #191)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 2:25 p.m. to meet again on Monday, December 5, 2005, at 12:30 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Bruce Timms
Chair

Janet Pilon
Legislative Assistant

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Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk