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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 1-2003

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, December 15, 2003 commencing at 11:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Staff

Part-time: Mr. Banting, Director, Legal Services; Mr. Bousfield, Manager, Properties & Facilities Management; Mr. Cunnane, Director, Public Safety; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Mr. Lorenzo, BEO Supervisor; Mr. McQueen, Project Manager, Public Safety; Mr. Nicol, Commissioner of Human Resources; Ms. Rix, Manager, Tobacco Program; Mr. Roberts, Manager, Land Ambulance Services; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention.

CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

1. Procedure to Select the
Committee Chair and Vice-Chair
of each of the Standing Committees

Peter Partington, Regional Chair, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Public Health Services Committee.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Councillor Timms be nominated for the position of Chair of the Public Health Services Committee.

Carried.

The Chair called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Chair of the Public Health Services Committee.

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That nominations for the position of Chair of the Public Health Services Committee be closed.

Carried.

There being no other nominations, Regional Chair Partington, with the agreement of Councillor Timms, declared him Chair of the Public Health Services Committee.

Councillor Timms, newly elected Chair, highlighted some of his priorities as Chair of the Committee:

- 1) Ensure committee/board members are fully aware of the Board's mandate, our flexibility and range within that mandate.
- 2) To ensure Members of Council understand the roles and mandates of the Medical Officer of Health and the Board of Health and the difference between them.
- 3) To raise the profile within the community of Regional Council's role as the Board of Health.
4. To ensure the priorities of the general public and taxpayer are heard and given due consideration by the Region as the Board of Health.
5. To ensure reports to Committee and Council identify the precise articles of the Provincial Mandate used to form the basis of the reported plan or action or budget request.
- 6) To ensure committee members are informed of the budget for each program we deliver.

Councillor Timms, Committee Chair, called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Public Health Services Committee.

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Councillor Baty be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Public Health Services Committee.

Carried.

Councillor Timms called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Public Health Services Committee.

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Public Health Services Committee be closed.

Carried.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Timms, with the agreement of Councillor Baty, declared him Vice-Chair of the Public Health Services Committee.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report CLK 35-2003, December 15, 2003, respecting the selection of the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair for each of the Standing Committees, be received.

Carried.

2. Day and Time of Regular Meetings for Standing Committees

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report CLK 34-2003, December 15, 2003, respecting Day and Time of Regular Meetings for Standing Committees, be received.

That regular meetings of the Public Health Services Committee be held on Monday at 11:00 a.m. in accordance with a schedule approved, from time to time, by Regional Council.

That special meetings be held at such times and such places as may be appropriate, pursuant to the provisions of the procedural by-law.

Carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

3. Closure of Capital Projects

Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report CSD 152-2003, October 29, 2003, respecting Closure of Capital Projects, be received.

That total net transfers from the Niagara Transportation Superbuild Reserve Fund (0030-0975) of \$539,394.04 be approved to accommodate substitution of previously approved debenture financing and close-outs of Roads capital projects as shown in Appendix 1.

That total net transfers from the Capital Levy Reserve (0035-0960) of \$164,473.20 be approved to accommodate substitution of previously approved debenture financing and close-outs of buildings and Equipment capital projects as shown in Appendix 1, Community Services project SC0211 and Public Health project GR0201.

That total net transfers from the Solid Waste Reserve Fund (0030-0970) of \$104,312.57 be approved to accommodate substitution of previously approved debenture financing and close-outs for Waste Management capital projects as shown in appendix 2.

That total net transfers from the Wastewater Capital Works Reserve Fund (0030-0961) of \$46,040.22 be approved to accommodate substitution of previously approved debenture financing and closeouts for Wastewater Capital Projects as shown in Appendix 2.

That total net transfers from the Water Operations Capital Works Reserve Fund (0030-0962) of \$909,657.70 and total net transfers of \$50,000 to the Development Charges Water Reserve Fund (0030-0988) be approved to accommodate substitution of previously approved debenture financing and close-outs for Water Capital Projects as shown in Appendix 2.

That previously approved debenture financing (1-10 years) in the amount of \$50,000 be transferred from Project ZGL0201/GL0201 Leachate Collection Elm Street Landfill Site to Project ZGL9901/GL0228 Leachate Collection Elm Street Landfill Site to allow the tender award approved in PWA 91-03 to be tracked in a single project and that project ZGL0201/GL0201 be closed as indicated in Appendix 2.

That project closeouts be completed as indicated.

That copies of this report be circulated to the Public Works and Utilities and the Community and Health Services standing committees for information.

That the Regional Clerk be instructed to prepare the appropriate by-law(s) for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

4. Physician Recruitment and Retention Program for 2004

Committee considered Communication PHSC 1-2003, from Gary Zalot, Executive Director, District Health Council, regarding the request for funds for the Physician Recruitment and Retention Program for 2004. The following concerns were expressed by Committee:

- This program should be funded by the Provincial Government and the Region should aggressively pursue this matter with Mr. McGuinty, Premier of Ontario.
- The Provincial Government should be implementing initiatives that would encourage medical students and foreign doctors to consider family medicine.
- A stable funding source needs to be developed and the feasibility of funding this program through the Economic Development area should be examined.

Dr. Sider advised that he would prepare a comprehensive report for Committee that would include discussions with area municipalities to address equity in developing a broad based Physician Recruitment Program for the Region of Niagara.

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That one time funding from the contingency reserve be approved in the amount of \$94,000 for the Physician Recruitment and Retention Program for 2004.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Dr. Sider prepare a comprehensive report on the development of a broad based Physician Recruitment Program for the Region of Niagara; and

That Regional Chair Partington address the matter of Physician Recruitment with Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Carried.

ACCOUNTS

5. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ending November 30, 2003 in the following amount be approved:

Public Health	\$1,395,553.49
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Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

6. Flu Immunization

Councillor Casselman commented that the Public Health Department has done a good job with the promotion of flu shots and providing flu shots through their clinics and asked if it was possible for the department to track how many shots have been given out by family physicians. Dr. Sider advised that, while it is difficult to determine this activity without a rapid turnaround methodology in place to determine tracking of flu shots, he would address this matter with staff and report back with the information available.

7. Orientation – Public Health

Dr. Sider recommended that an Orientation Session be held at the Public Health Department on a Monday afternoon during a non-committee week. The orientation session will address the issues of roles of responsibility, mandate and other legislative matters. A view of the facilities will assist members in seeing the many diverse programs that the Public Health Department provides. Committee recommended that the orientation session be held on Monday January 19th, 2004, time to be advised.

8. aLPHa All Members Meeting

Councillor Timms advised that information regarding the aLPHa All Members Meeting to be held on January 29th and 30th, 2004 was distributed to Committee for information. Any members wishing to attend this meeting should contact Gail Reilly in the Clerk's Department.

CLOSED SESSION

9. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Baty

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

Carried.

10. Oral Report – Legal Matter

Committee received an oral report regarding a legal matter with respect to the Smoking By-law.

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Regional Council authorize staff to proceed as per staff's recommendation and as directed by this Committee.

Carried.

11. Lease of Office Space – Public Health Department

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report PHD 76-2003, December 15, 2003 (PWA 191-2003, December 16, 2003) respecting Lease of Office Space – Public Health Department, be received and the recommendation contained therein be approved.

Carried.

12. Proposed EMS Station Acquisition from
Hotel Dieu Health Sciences Hospital

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 74-2003, December 15, 2003, (PWA 190-2003/CSD 162-2003) regarding Proposed EMS Station Acquisition from Hotel Dieu Health Sciences Hospital be referred to staff for further information including the option(s) for Partnership with respect to the location for this facility and report to the next round of Standing Committee meetings.

Carried.

13. Transfer of Land Ambulance To Regional Direct Delivery Model
Update for Discussions

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report PHD 75-2003, December 15, 2003 (HR 46-2003, December 16, 2003), respecting Transfer of Land Ambulance to Regional Direct Delivery Model – Update of Discussions, be received for information and that staff proceed with human resources and management staff recruitment to initiate the first phase of the land ambulance transfer.

Carried.

14. Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTION

That staff be directed to:

- 1) Provide Councillors with a map of all ambulance dispatch centres and facilities and identify which are owned or leased.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 1:10 p.m. to meet again on Monday, January 12, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

D. Bruce Timms
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick
Regional Clerk