THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION

PHSSC 1-2021
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
Council Chamber/Video Conference
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON

Committee Members Present in the Council Chamber:	Greenwood (Committee Co-Chair)
Committee Members Present via Video Conference:	Bradley (Regional Chair), Butters, Darte, Foster, Gibson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Nicholson, Rigby, Sendzik, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen
Other Councillors Present via Video Conference:	Easton
Absent/Regrets:	Bellows, Chiocchio (Committee Co-Chair)
Staff Present in the Council Chamber:	S. Guglielmi, Technology Support Analyst, Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Staff:	C. Cousins, Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement, S. Kearns, Director, Environmental Health, H. Koning, Director, Senior Services, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, L. Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, D. Woiceshyn, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Regional Housing

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

3.1 Call for Nominations for Committee Co-Chair aligned to Public Health

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Co-Chair of the Public Health and Social Services Committee aligned to the Public Health Department for the 2021-2022 term.

Moved by Councillor Insinna
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Councillor Greenwood **BE NOMINATED** as Co-Chair of the Public Health and Social Services Committee aligned to the Public Health Department for a two-year term (2021-2022).

3.2 Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Co-Chair aligned to Public Health

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Public Health and Social Services Committee Co-Chair aligned to the Public Health Department. There being no further nominations, it was:

Moved by Councillor Gibson
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That nominations for the position of Co-Chair of the Public Health and Social Services Committee aligned to the Public Health Department for the 2021-2022 term, **BE CLOSED**.

Carried

3.3 Voting for the Position of Committee Co-Chair aligned to Public Health

There being only one nominee for the position, the Regional Clerk announced that Councillor Greenwood would be the Public Health and Social Services Committee Co-Chair aligned to the Public Health Department for the 2021-2022 term.

3.4 Call for Nominations for Committee Co-Chair aligned to Community Services

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Co-Chair of the Public Health and Social Services Committee aligned to the Community Services Department for the 2021-2022 term.

Moved by Councillor Butters
Seconded by Councillor Darte

That Councillor Chiocchio **BE NOMINATED** as Co-Chair of the Public Health and Social Services Committee aligned to the Community Services Department for a two-year term (2021-2022).

3.5 Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Co-Chair aligned to Community Services

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Pubic Health and Social Services Committee Co-Chair aligned to the Community Services Department. There being no further nominations, it was:

Moved by Councillor Butters
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That nominations for the position of Co-Chair of the Public Health and Social Services Committee aligned to the Community Services Department for the 2021-2022 term, **BE CLOSED.**

Carried

3.6 Voting for the Position of Committee Co-Chair aligned to Community Services

There being only one nominee for the position, the Regional Clerk announced that Councillor Chiocchio would be the Public Health and Social Services Committee Co-Chair aligned to the Community Services Department for the 2021-2022 term.

At this point in the meeting, Committee Co-Chair Greenwood assumed the chair.

4. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

5. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 COM 1-2021
Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Investment Plan 2021-22

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Butters

That Report COM 1-2021, dated January 12, 2021, respecting Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Investment Plan 2021-22, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Ministry mandated Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Investment plan for the 2021-22 funding allotment **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

At this point in the meeting, Dr. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health/Commissioner, Public Health, provided an update respecting the status of COVID-19 in Niagara.

Moved by Councillor Sendzik
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That a taskforce **BE CREATED** respecting the COVID-19 vaccination program in Niagara.

The following friendly amendment was accepted by the Committee Chair and the mover and seconder of the motion as follows:

That a taskforce **BE CREATED *forthwith*** respecting the COVID-19 vaccination program in Niagara; and

That the taskforce REPORT to the Board of Health biweekly at the Public Health COVID-19 Status Update Workshops.

The Committee Chair called the vote on the motion, as amended, as follows:

That a taskforce **BE CREATED** forthwith respecting the COVID-19 vaccination program in Niagara; and

That the taskforce **REPORT** to the Board of Health biweekly at the Public Health COVID-19 Status Update Workshops.

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Ensure the taskforce reports include the plan of action, distribution details and weekly results respecting vaccinations. Councillor Villella.

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That the following items **BE RECEIVED** for information:

PHD-C 1-2021
COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Public Health & Emergency Services

COM-C 1-2021
COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Community Services

COM-C 2-2021
Request for Declaration of State of Emergency for Mental Health, Homelessness and Addiction

CWCD 339-2020
Extra Legislative Development of Undefined Regional Initiatives that Challenge and Undermine the Legal Authority of Local Public Health Boards and Negatively Affect Their Effectiveness in Addressing Community Health Needs

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide information respecting the role that Ontario Health has played through the pandemic and how it has conflicted with normal public health governance. Councillor Insinna.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Well Water Testing

Councillors expressed their concern with the continued suspension of well water testing for residents due to the pandemic and requested staff explore all possible options for the collection of water samples. Dr. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health/Commissioner, Public Health, advised that staff are continuing to explore options.

8.3 Collection of Socks and Tougues for the Homeless

Councillor Greenwood advised that she has been dropping off donations of new socks and touques to Cathy Cousins, Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement, for distribution to the homeless and encouraged Councillors to consider doing this.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Councillor Greenwood
Committee Co-Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk