

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

**PHSSC 07-2019  
Tuesday, July 9, 2019  
Council Chamber  
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West  
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee: Bellows, Butters, Darte, Diodati, Foster, Gibson, Greenwood (Committee Co-Chair), Heit, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Nicholson, Rigby, Sendzik, Whalen

Absent/Regrets: Bradley (Regional Chair), Chiocchio (Committee Co-Chair), Villella

Staff: A. Alfieri-Maiolo, Director, Clinical Services, A. Biscaro, Director, Family Health, Dr. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, S. Kearns, Director, Environmental Health, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, R. McDougall, Manager, Emergency Medical Services Logistics, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, K. Smith, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Greenwood called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

**3.1 Negotiated Request for Proposals – General Overview**

Bart Menage, Director, Procurement and Strategic Acquisitions, provided Committee Members with information respecting Negotiated Request for Proposals - General Overview. Topics of the presentation included:

- Benefits
- Risks and Challenges
- The Process
- Negotiation Principles
- Negotiation Process

3.2 Environmental Health Hazards: Agencies & Jurisdictions

Peter Jekel, Manager, Environmental Health and Rabia Bana, Medical Resident, provided information respecting Environmental Health Hazards: Agencies & Jurisdictions. Topics of the presentation included:

- Objectives
- Ontario Public Health Standards
- How is This Achieved?
- Role of Public Health
- Relevant Legislation

**Councillor Information Request(s):**

Provide information respecting additional water testing (i.e. ditch water) in rural areas that may be at risk of potential water contamination. Councillor Butters

Provide an update on ticks and lyme disease for the Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting being held on August 6, 2019. Councillor Bellows

4. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

5. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

5.1 PHD-C 06-2019

Motion Respecting Response to Proposed Provincial Restructuring of Local Public Health Agencies

This motion was referred to Committee at the Regional Council meeting held on June 20, 2019.

Moved by Councillor Ip  
Seconded by Councillor Diodati

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has announced restructuring local public health agencies from 35 public health units to 10 new Regional Public Health Entities, governed by autonomous boards of health;

WHEREAS the Province expects to reduce provincial spending on local public health by \$200 million by 2021-22 from a current provincial budget for local public health of approximately \$750 million;

WHEREAS the Province is adjusting the cost-sharing formula with municipalities for local public health;

WHEREAS municipalities such as Niagara, Hamilton, and most others have been contributing more than their 25% share under Provincial policy for many years in order to ensure community needs are met based on the Ontario Public Health Standards, as set out by the provincial government;

WHEREAS the announcements do not contain sufficient detail to be able to fully understand the costs and implications of the proposed restructuring;

WHEREAS the scale of the proposed changes to the governance, organization and funding of local public health is unprecedented in Ontario;

WHEREAS the role of municipal councils is not clear in the proposed restructuring;

WHEREAS local public health agencies that are part of local government such as Niagara already achieve significant administrative efficiencies through the economies of scale from being part of much larger organizations than the future Public Health Entities;

WHEREAS local public health benefits from significant collaboration with social service, planning, recreation, and transportation services all of which address the social determinants of health and determine half of health outcomes;

WHEREAS separating public health agencies that are part of local government may have unintended negative consequences such as reducing municipal leadership on public health issues, reducing transparency and public scrutiny, as well as reducing effectiveness in collaboration on the social determinants of health;

WHEREAS the announcements appear to have a significant likelihood to impact on the delivery of local public health services;

WHEREAS Niagara Regional Council confirms its support of its public health staff in all the work that they do;

WHEREAS lessons from the past show that when the public health system is weakened, serious consequences occur;

WHEREAS expert reports, such as those following Walkerton's drinking water contamination and the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) have highlighted the need for a strong and independent public health sector to protect the health and safety of the public;

WHEREAS local public health has a unique mandate that focuses on upstream approaches to prevent injuries and illness before they occur, as

well as health protection measures that contribute to the safety of our food, water, and environment, and protect us from infectious diseases;

WHEREAS the evidence shows that the success of prevention is largely invisible, but the social and economic returns on these investments are immense with every dollar invested in public health programming saving on average eight dollars in avoided health and social care costs;

WHEREAS to achieve health and reduce “hallway medicine” both a strong health care and a strong public health system are needed;

WHEREAS the independence of the Board of Health and the Medical Officer of Health as the doctor for the community are essential parts of a strong and transparent public health system;

WHEREAS local perspectives add value to provincial priority-setting and decision making;

WHEREAS significant advances in public health have been led through local action, such as the development of tobacco control bylaws; and

WHEREAS the Province has indicated a willingness to consult with boards of health and municipalities on the phased implementation of the proposed changes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Regional Council **THANKS** the Premier and the Minister of Health for responding to feedback by municipalities to delay funding changes to public health and other municipally operated health and social services;
2. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to write a letter to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to request that any restructuring or modernization of local Public Health ensure adherence to the following principles:
  - i. That its unique mandate to keep people and our communities healthy, prevent disease and reduce health inequities be maintained;
  - ii. That its focus on the core functions of public health, including population health assessment and surveillance, promotion of health and wellness, disease prevention, health protection, and emergency management and response be continued;
  - iii. That sufficient funding and human resources to fulfill its unique mandate are ensured;

- iv. That the focus for public health services be maintained at the community level to best serve residents and lead strategic community partnerships with municipalities, school boards, health care organizations, community agencies and residents;
  - v. That there be senior and medical leadership at the local public health level to provide advice on public health issues to municipal councils and to participate in strategic community partnerships;
  - vi. That local public health services be responsive and tailored to the health needs and priorities of each local community, including those of vulnerable groups or those with specific needs such as the indigenous community;
  - vii. That representation of municipalities on any board of health be proportionate to both their population and to the size of the financial contribution of that municipality to the regional Public Health Entity; and
  - viii. That any transition be carried out with attention to good change management, and while ensuring ongoing service delivery;
3. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to work with MARCO/LUMCO and AMO to describe the benefits of Public Health remaining fully integrated with other Niagara Region functions;
  4. That the Medical Officer of Health **BE DIRECTED** to continue to report to the Board of Health in a timely manner as any new developments occur;
  5. That at a minimum, the Chair of the Board of Health or co-Chair (Public Health) of the Public Health & Social Services Committee **PARTICIPATE** in Ministry consultations with boards of health on public health restructuring, and through the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa); and
  6. That this resolution **BE CIRCULATED** to the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all municipalities, all Boards of Health, AMO, MARCO/LUMCO, and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies.

**Carried**

5.2 PHD 12-2019

Approval of 2018 Public Health Audits

Moved by Councillor Diodati

Seconded by Councillor Dart

That Report PHD 12-2019, dated July 9, 2019, respecting Approval of 2018 Public Health Audits, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the draft audited schedule of revenues and expenses and annual reconciliation return for the Public Health General Programs (attached in Appendix 1 and 2 of Report PHD 12-2019), **BE APPROVED**;
2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to co-ordinate with the auditor to finalize the statements as presented; and
3. That this report **BE FORWARDED** to the Region's Audit Committee for information

**Carried**

5.3 PHD 13-2019

Increasing Capacity for Mental Health Services using External Funding

Moved by Councillor Heit

Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Report PHD 13-2019, dated July 9, 2019, respecting Increasing Capacity for Mental Health Services using External Funding, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **APPROVE** creation of two new full time permanent positions in Mental Health, funded using newly approved LHIN funding; and
2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to continue to advocate for additional funding for mental health, consistent with the Mental Health & Well-Being objective of Council's new Strategic Plan.

**Carried**

5.4 PHD 11-2019

Sole Source EMS Interdev Software Support Agreement and Hardware Purchase

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Report PHD 11-2019, dated July 9, 2019, respecting Sole Source EMS Interdev Software Program Agreement and Hardware Purchase, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Council **AUTHORIZE** staff to proceed with the purchase of Panasonic CF33 laptops and a support and service contract from Interdev as a sole source in accordance with section 18 (a) item (i) of Procurement By-law No. 02-2016, as amended on February 28, 2019, which permits sole source procurement if “compatibility of a Purchase with existing equipment, product standards, facilities or service is paramount consideration.”

**Carried**

5.5 COM 29-2019

Procurement of Homelessness Services for Period of April 1, 2020- March 31, 2023

Moved by Councillor Ip  
Seconded by Councillor Diodati

That Report COM 29-2019, dated July 9, 2019, respecting Procurement of Homelessness Services for Period of April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2023, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Negotiated Request for Proposal (NRFP) process **BE INITIATED** in Q3 2019 and that staff **BE AUTHORIZED** to enter into negotiations with the selected proponents based on the multiple NRFP processes, and award in Q1 2020 based on confirmation of funding; and
2. That the evaluation scoring matrix (Appendix A of Report COM 29-2019), to be used to score NRFP submissions from potential proponents, **BE APPROVED**.

**Carried**

5.6 COM 31-2019

Budget Adjustment – Children’s Services

Moved by Councillor Jordan

Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report COM 31-2019, dated July 9, 2019, respecting Budget Adjustment – Children’s Services, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That an adjustment to the previously adopted 2019 Regional Municipality of Niagara (Niagara Region) operating budget in the amount of \$2,293,053, to be fully funded through the Ministry of Education (MEDU) grants, **BE APPROVED**.

**Carried**

5.7 NRH 8-2019

Canada-Ontario Community Housing (COCHI) & Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)

Moved by Councillor Sendzik

Seconded by Councillor Bellows

That Report NRH 8-2019 respecting Canada-Ontario Community Housing (COCHI) & Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI), **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Niagara Regional Council **APPROVE** the Program and Delivery Fiscal Plan (PDFP) for Year 1-3 under the COCHI and OPHI and **APPROVE** the transfer payment agreement;
2. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to demand that the Provincial Government of Ontario provide additional funding for affordable housing programs in Niagara, reinstating the previous funding levels; and
3. That Regional Council **CONSIDER** providing financial compensation for the Provincial funding shortfall to Niagara Regional Housing.

**Carried**

**6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Moved by Councillor Gibson  
Seconded by Councillor Foster

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

PHD-C 03-2019  
Port Colborne Quarry

PHD-C 04-2019  
Mental Health Beds at Niagara Health St. Catharines Site

COM 28-2019  
ProKids Program - Providing Recreational/Cultural Opportunities for  
Children/Youth 2018 Year End Report

COM 30-2019  
School Based Child Care Capital Projects

**Carried**

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of other business.

**8. CLOSED SESSION**

Committee did not resolve into closed session.

**9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION**

9.1 Confidential Report COM 36-2019

A Matter respecting A Position, Plan, Procedure, Criteria or Instruction to be Applied to Any Negotiations Carried on by or on Behalf of the Municipality under s.239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001- Services Transformation

Moved by Councillor Ip  
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Confidential Report COM 36-2019, dated July 9, 2019, respecting A Matter respecting A Position, Plan, Procedure, Criteria or Instruction to be Applied to Any Negotiations Carried on by or on Behalf of the Municipality under s.239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 – Services Transformation, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations therein **BE APPROVED**.

**Carried**

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

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Councillor Greenwood  
Committee Co-Chair

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Kelly Lotimer  
Legislative Coordinator

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk