



# REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, August 16, 2011  
9:02 a.m.  
Regional Council Chamber  
150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario

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Present were: Vice Chair J. Mitchell, L. Armstrong, J. Brewer, T. Cowan, D. Craig, R. Deutschmann, T. Galloway, J. Haalboom\*, B. Halloran\*, R. Kelterborn, G. Lorentz, C. Millar\*, K. Seiling\*, J. Wideman and C. Zehr\*

Members absent: S. Strickland

J. Mitchell welcomed J. Brewer back to the Regional Council Chamber.

## **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST UNDER THE *MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT***

R. Deutschmann declared a non-pecuniary interest related to Item 7b) in the closed session since his business is located at 10 Duke Street and is within the catch basin of the approved project and his business property is managed by Dundee Realex.

## **DELEGATIONS**

a) Christine Heffer, Waterloo Region Lyme Disease Group, addressed the Committee on the issue of support for the Lyme Disease Petition endorsed by Sarnia-Lambton M.P.P. Bob Bailey; a copy of her [presentation](#) is appended to the original minutes. She requested that Regional Council endorse the petition and provided an overview of the symptoms, health impact and currently available testing for Lyme disease. She acknowledged the local volunteer efforts to raise community awareness, as well as the efforts by the Region's Public Health Unit. She highlighted the risks associated with the disease and she expressed her concern for unreported and misdiagnosed cases.

\* J. Haalboom joined the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

\* C. Zehr joined the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

\* C. Millar joined the meeting at 9:12 a.m.

## **REPORTS – Public Health**

a) PH-11-038, Lyme Disease in Waterloo Region

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Associate Medical Officer of Health, made introductory comments. She responded to Committee questions related to carriers of the disease, the impact of climate change and the protocol for physician reporting. She advised that Public Health continues to monitor the local trends; the incident rate of Lyme disease in Waterloo Region is only a few cases per year.

Dr. Liana Nolan, Commissioner/Medical Officer of Health, advised that there are no punitive mechanisms to deal with non-reporting of incidents but there are significant opportunities to raise the profile of the disease and enhance physician training.

\* B. Halloran joined the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

In response to Committee inquiries about testing options as presented by the delegation, Dr. Wang stated that the tests being administered in Ontario are the best validated tests available and are recommended by U.S. Centre for Disease Control. She advised that it is the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario who is responsible for advocating and making recommendations to the provincial government about the inclusion of non-validated tests on the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) schedule of fees. She agreed that early detection is vital but that while the available testing is 100% funded by OHIP, the tests alone may not be 100% accurate and supplementary testing is often recommended. She added that the tests referred to in the delegation's presentation are U.S. tests and not currently validated by health authorities.

The Committee determined not to support the delegation's petition, as presented, given staff's concerns with the technical information contained within it.

MOVED by J. Wideman  
SECONDED by T. Cowan

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo request that the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario continue to stay abreast of the evolving science related to Lyme disease and continue providing Public Health Units with the latest evidence-based information and guidance to continuously improve provincial and local Lyme Disease Programs, pursuant to Report PH-11-038, dated August 16, 2011;

AND THAT a copy of this report be sent to the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario.

CARRIED

b) Linda Terry, Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries, addressed the Committee regarding the "Put Food in the Budget" Campaign; a copy of her [presentation](#) is appended to the original minutes. She highlighted the activities of the Cambridge Poverty Roundtable and asked that Regional Council support the advocacy initiative to encourage the provincial government to provide an additional \$100 per month to social assistance recipients for a healthy food supplement.

The Committee discussed the options for supporting this initiative. Mike Schuster, Commissioner, Social Services, advised that the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) is seeking immediate direction from local municipalities and he recommended that Regional Council support the motion as presented by the delegation rather than prepare a submission for the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario.

The Committee agreed that notification of an approved motion be forwarded to the Commission, as well as to the provincial government.

MOVED by D. Craig  
SECONDED by C. Millar

THAT the Region of Waterloo endorse the "Put Food in the Budget" campaign, and request that the Provincial government introduce a \$100 Healthy Food Supplement for all adults on social assistance as a first step towards meeting basic needs;

AND THAT notification of the endorsement be forwarded to the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario.

CARRIED, as amended

**REPORTS – Public Health (Continued)**

## b) PH-11-036, Bishop Street Community TCE Public Meeting Update

Chris Komorowski, Manager, Health Protection and Investigation, summarized the report, stating that significant remediation has taken place and that Public Health will continue to communicate with the residents.

\* K. Seiling left the meeting at 9:41a.m.

In response to a Committee question about health impacts and the undertaking of a health study, C. Komorowski advised that the lead agency, the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP), has determined that a study is not warranted and it is unlikely that a correlation could be made between exposure to trichloroethylene (TCE) and any increased incidents of cancer. Dr. Wang stated that, according to data from the OAHPP, it is reasonable to expect 600-675 cancers in this community if there was no exposure to TCE. If there was low level exposure, it is estimated that the number of cases would increase by less than one additional cancer and there would be no distinguishable features to link it to TCE exposure, therefore it wouldn't be possible to detect any increases in cancer due to TCE exposure.

In response to a Committee inquiry about the monitoring process, C. Komorowski provided the process and details about the seasonally-based timing and indicated that Public Health is anticipating that further remediation won't be required by the end of this year.

\* K. Seiling returned to the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

D. Craig extended his appreciation to Regional staff for their continued efforts to assist the residents in this community.

Received for information

## c) PH-11-035, Quarterly Charged/Closed Food Premises Report

Received for information

## d) PH-11-037, Human Papillomavirus Immunization in Waterloo Region

Dr. Nolan introduced Linda Black, Manager, Vaccine Preventable Disease, who provided a summary of the report. She advised that participation rates are low in the Region and province-wide and cited lack of awareness of health impacts for the low rates.

Received for information

## e) PH-11-018, New Provincial Funding for Public Health Nurses Positions in Support of Priority Populations

Dr. Nolan stated that this report relates to a budget issue paper previously approved by Regional Council and that it accommodates the provincial requirements to receive cost-shared funding.

MOVED by J. Wideman  
SECONDED by T. Galloway

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the funding strategy for 2.0 Full Time Equivalent Public Health Nurses to support priority populations impacted by the determinants of health, as outlined in report PH-11-018;

AND THAT a 1.0 full time equivalent position be removed from the Public Health Department's cost shared complement effective January 1, 2012.

CARRIED

### **REPORTS – Social Services**

#### f) SS-11-030, Early Learning Update

M. Schuster made introductory comments. Nancy Dickieson, Director, Children's Services, provided a [presentation](#); a copy is appended to the original minutes. She provided background information and highlighted the impact of the implementation phases. She advised that there will be a significant impact on licensed early learning and child care providers as the phases roll out but that the Region will continue to support these providers throughout the process.

N. Dickieson summarized the human resources impact, the role of the Region and next steps. She stated that a working group has been formed to develop potential formats across the Region.

The Committee inquired about long-term commitment from members of the provincial legislature, the fee structure for school-based care and the Region's role upon full implementation. N. Dickieson advised that the Region's mandate will change and our involvement may decrease as the school boards develop their expertise.

Received for information

#### g) SS-11-031, Early Years System Plan

M. Schuster stated that the plan will be guided by the principles in place and that a progress report will be prepared for the Committee at a later date.

Received for information

#### h) SS-11-032, Review of Social Assistance in Ontario

M. Schuster encouraged participation in the public consultation process since the review is an opportunity to create a system that could have major impacts on how the social assistance program is administered in Ontario. He stated that the deadline for input into the initial consultation phase is September 1, 2011 and that province-wide consultation should be complete by June 2012.

The Committee inquired about the most effective means for providing input during the review. M. Schuster advised that a staff submission isn't planned unless directed by Council. He indicated that staff will prepare a response after the first round of consultations has taken place and once recommendations have been developed.

Received for information

#### i) SS-11-033, Homemaking and Nursing Services Program Update

M. Schuster advised that the service demands exceed current funding but that staff will continue to negotiate with the service providers.

Received for information

### **INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE**

a) Memo: Measuring Board of Health Outcomes as Required by the Ontario Public Health Standards

Dr. Nolan stated that staff will update the Committee once completed surveys have been returned and reviewed.

Received for information

b) Memo: On the Teeter Totter: The Challenges and Opportunities for Licensed Child Care in Rural, Northern and Remote Ontario

Received for information

d) Memo: Child Care Special Needs Resourcing Partnership Recognized for Local Municipal Champions Award

Received for information

c) Memo: Ontario Works Caseload: July 2011

M. Schuster stated that the presumed reason for the increase in caseload may, in part, be associated with the recent postal strike and the processes linked to the transmission of benefit information via the postal system. He advised that staff anticipate an adjustment in the August 2011 caseload figures.

Received for information

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

a) Council Enquiries and Requests for Information Tracking List was received for information.

**NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday, September 6, 2011

### **MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION**

MOVED by L. Armstrong

SECONDED by J. Haalboom

THAT a closed meeting of the Administration & Finance Committee be held on Tuesday, August 16, 2011 immediately following the Community Services Committee meeting in the Waterloo County Room in accordance with Section 239 of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, for the purposes of considering the following subject matters:

- a) labour relations
- b) proposed or pending acquisition of land in the City of Kitchener
- c) labour relations and employee negotiations

CARRIED

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

CARRIED

**COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR, *J. Mitchell***

**COMMITTEE CLERK, *S. Natolochny***