

BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Friday, March 5, 2021, 4:30 p.m., Zoom (Classroom 420/421)
MINUTES—Special Meeting

PRESENT: Councillor John Bell, Chair
Ms. Susan Brown, Vice-Chair
Mayor David Bailey
Ms. Nancy Church
Mr. Mario Colombo
Mayor Kevin Davis
Ms. Joy O'Donnell
Councillor John Sless
Councillor Brian Van Tilborg
Dr. Elizabeth Urbantke
Dr. Jo Ann Tober
Ms. Lorraine Johnson (recorder)

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Alexey Babayan, Director, Foundational Standards
Ms. Lisa DiDonato, Director, Finance
Ms. Janet Kwansah, Director, Program Standards
Mr. Brent Richardson, Director, Human Resources

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chair Bell reminded Members to declare a conflict of interest, if one so arises, at the time the item is discussed.

3. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Moved by: Councillor Van Tilborg
Seconded by: Ms. Brown

“THAT the Board of Health approve the Agenda as presented.”

Carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deferred.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

No report.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 COVID-19 Mass Immunization

Chair Bell introduced the presentation. Provincial directives for COVID-19 vaccine rollout change quickly. Residents have raised concerns about the location of the mass immunization clinic located at 1 Market St./Laurier. Criteria for selecting the Paris Fairgrounds and Market St. sites will be presented; Health Unit staff toured potential locations to deliver vaccinations quickly and safely. The County offered the use of municipal buildings for the cost of cleaning. It was hoped that the City would do likewise. The Brant County Health Unit (BCHU) aims to ensure services in the most fiscally-responsible manner. Chair Bell noted the Board's governance role, that staff's operations role, and that the Board avoid unnecessary overlap with the local Joint Emergency Operations Committee.

6.1.1 Mass Immunization Plan

A Mass Immunization Plan was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health as required. The Plan evolves in step with provincial sequencing guidelines and vaccine directives. As of March 5, 10,000 doses will have been administered. Staff, residents, and essential caregivers at long-term care and retirement homes are complete. Specific clinics for health care workers are occurring for highest priority, very high priority, and moving into high priority

groups. Clinics are open to Indigenous adults. BCHU is working with the Aboriginal Health Centre, and supporting Six Nations with vaccine. Clinics for the 80+ age group have started. Phase 1 population for Brant is ~40,000 people. Clinics are booked to the extent of vaccine supply. Health Canada recently approved AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Ontario announced that all second doses will be pushed out to 4 months. Pharmacies are being piloted to delivery AstraZeneca vaccine.

6.1.2 Mass Immunization Sites

Dr. Tober presented the Mass Immunization Sites Selection Criteria Report, dated March 5, 2021, as provided to Members prior to the meeting. The plan is to operate a City and a County mass immunization site as well as parallel mobile and pop-up clinics in various locations to increase access for residents. Henry St. is a pop-up clinic. Discussions are underway about future pop-up clinics in Burford and St. George. Members discussed weighted criteria, accessibility, perception, downtown safety, and additional locations. City Members advised that the City priority is to accommodate public health for COVID-19 clinics, and suggested using Woodman Community Centre or portions of the Wayne Gretzky Centre.

Dr. Tober stated that operating one mass clinic is more efficient than smaller-scale mass clinics. The mass clinic sites were selected for the full range of eligible population. The Civic Centre auditorium would be a suitable site, possibly for dose 2 if it becomes available. It is expected that some pharmacies and general practitioner physicians will also be giving vaccinations in the future. Eighty percent of the 80+ population will be done soon. Members asked if Henry St. could be replaced. There was mixed support for closing the Market St. mass clinic site.

Moved:

Ms. Brown

Seconded:

Mayor Bailey

“THAT the Board of Health approve retaining 1 Market Street (Laurier) as a main mass immunization site; AND THAT the Brant County Health Unit select options for a pop-up clinic(s) within the City options.”

Carried.

6.1.3 Mass Immunization Clinic Accessibility

See Item 6.1.2

6.1.4 Mass Immunization Clinic Online Booking

Dr. Tober advised that bookings for clinics are done through the BCHU online booking system and the BCHU COVID Call Centre for 80+ appointments. For health care workers, a link is provided to their agencies for gated access to appointments in accordance with sequencing guidelines. This is in place until the centralized provincial booking system goes live on March 15. The provincial booking system will be linked to COVax so clients' data will be pre-populated into the database. As more vaccine is received, more clinics will be opened.

6.1.5 Mass Immunization Communications

Dr. Tober confirmed that multiple channels of communication are utilized to promote clinics, and that signage is used at clinic sites, e.g., 355 Henry St., to assist attendees. Chair Bell encouraged the City and BCHU to maintain communication, including regarding the list of potential City sites for clinic location. Chair Bell also requested that the Board be provided any Mass Immunization Plan for future events requiring this type of response.

6.1.6 Weekly Vaccination Update Meetings

Chair Bell inquired whether Members would like a weekly meeting to update them on issues. Dr. Tober advised that statistics are posted daily to the BCHU website and Members are emailed weekly summaries. Members requested enhanced weekly updates with the option to call additional Board meetings if needed.

Moved:

Councillor Van Tilborg

Seconded:

Mayor Bailey

That the Board of Health direct staff to provide a weekly report to the Board on immunization clinics, vaccine rates, and other specifications as will be set by the Chair and Vice-Chair.”

Carried.

7. NEW BUSINESS None.

8. CORRESPONDENCE None.

9. IN-CAMERA MEETING None.

10. QUESTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS None.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

12.1 Needle Exchange Program (*Q1 2021*)

12.2 Brant Brantford Community Drugs Strategy (*Q1 2021*)

12. NEXT MEETING DATES

Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Mr. Colombo

“THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 6:08 p.m.”

Carried.

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date