

BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, October 21, 2020, 9:00 a.m., Zoom/Classroom 420/421
MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillor John Bell, Chair
Ms. Susan Brown, Vice-Chair
Mayor David Bailey
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, Manager, Finances
Ms. Janet Kwansah, Director, Program Standards
Mr. Gerry Moniz, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention and Injury Prevention
Mr. Brent Richardson, Director, Human Resources

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.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

Mayor Davis requested the addition of a Resolution regarding the Brantford-Brant Community Drugs Strategy, which was added to Item 6.2.

Moved by: Mayor Bailey

Seconded by: Mr. Colombo

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

Carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Brant County Board of Health Minutes, September 9, 2020

Moved by: Ms. Brown

Seconded by: Councillor Van Tilborg

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health Minutes dated September 9, 2020, be approved as distributed.”

Carried.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

5.1 Financial Statement ended September 30, 2020

Ms. DiDonato presented the Financial Statement ended September 30, 2020, as distributed with the agenda. There was no significant change since the previous report. A surplus of \$133,470 is forecast for year-end. At this time, the Health Unit anticipates that the existing level of municipal funding will be sufficient to the end of 2020.

5.2 COVID-19 Financial Projections Update

Ms. DiDonato presented the COVID-19 Financial Projections Update, dated October 21, 2020, as distributed with the agenda. The current expense rate is forecast to continue for the remainder of 2020, with an expected total of \$400,000+ in COVID costs. Gapping, benefits savings, and reduced spending on suspended programs allowed for the coverage of COVID expenditures.

5.3 Finance and Audit Committee Report

Ms. O'Donnell reported that the Finance and Audit Committee met on October 6, 2020. The focus of that meeting was on the 2021 budget which will be discussed later.

Moved by: Mayor Davis
Seconded by: Mayor Bailey

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health accept the Financial Statement ended September 30, 2020; the COVID Financial Projections Report; and the Finance and Audit Committee Report, all as presented.”

Carried.

Ms. DiDonato left the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 Report from the Chair

Chair Bell reported that the recommendations from the Ministry of Health Audit Phase 2 are mostly done. The focus is currently on working through the recommendations from Phase 2.

6.1.1 Board of Health Self-Evaluation 2020

Chair Bell introduced the Board of Health Self-Evaluation 2020 Form, as provided with the agenda. The Chair requested the forms be submitted for compilation and reporting at the November Board meeting. The self-evaluation is required every two years under the Ontario Public Health Standards. The form was approved by the Chair and had minor updates from the 2018 and 2016 versions. Over time, the evaluation questions were gathered from the Ministry of Health Audit Division, Ontario Hospital Association, and other public health units. Members requested to see copies of the previous version and other forms used.

Members decided to move the due date for the Board of Health Self-Evaluations until after the Board’s Education Program has been completed.

6.2 Report from the Acting Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Urbantke presented the Medical Officer of Health Report, dated October 21, 2020, as distributed with the agenda. Dr. Urbantke stated that the Needle Exchange Program (NEP) is a mandated program and is delivered in partnership with community agencies to prevent infectious disease transmission, provide a contact point for substance users for when they are ready to enter treatment, and facilitate safe needle disposal. In opening discussion on the motion to the City about the NEP, Chair Bell called Members to be mindful of their role as Board of Health members at this meeting.

Councillor Van Tilborg spoke to his motion to City Council to ask the Health Unit to suspend the NEP until evidence is reported to the City on the program’s effectiveness. There was discussion regarding infection rates, needle return rates, impact of COVID, education, areas where more needles are found, stigma, and respect for residents. Pending approval by Public Health Ontario, an evaluation will be conducted and should answer some questions. Members suggested incentives or deposits to return used needles and innovative program delivery. Chair Bell requested that the NEP discussion be continued at a future Board meeting.

Mayor Davis introduced a motion for the Brant County Health Unit to commit coordinator and administrative support to the Brantford-Brant Community Drugs Strategy, requesting a report to the Board in January 2021.

Moved by: Mayor Davis
Seconded by: Councillor Sless

“WHEREAS the Brant County Health Unit has a critical role in addressing the current substance abuse crisis in the City of Brantford and the County of Brant; and

WHEREAS public health units across Ontario are demonstrating leadership in regards to the opioid crisis, cannabis legalization, substance use prevention, and the development of community-wide harm reduction strategies; and

WHEREAS in September 2018 the Brant County Health Unit committed to leading the Brantford-Brant Community Drugs Strategy and dedicated staffing resources to provide the administrative and coordination functions; and

WHEREAS on February 27, 2019 the Brant County Health Unit coordinated a meeting of the Drug Strategy Advisory Committee and reaffirmed their commitment to lead the Brantford-Brant Community Drugs Strategy; and

WHEREAS effective coordination of the Brantford-Brant Community Drugs Strategy will facilitate a more rapid response to substance use challenges in our community; and

WHEREAS effective progress reporting will ensure that civic and elected leaders are aware of program gaps that require advocacy to other levels of government to secure needed resources; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff BE DIRECTED to consult with the Brantford-Brant Community Drugs Strategy Coordinating Committee and the Integrated Strategic Planning Table for Substance Use and provide a report at the January 2021 meeting of the Board of Health that includes the following:

- i) Summary of public health staff resources that will be utilized for the continued leadership of the Brantford-Brant Community Drugs Strategy, and
 - ii) A Drug Strategy Action Plan for 2021 that includes the role and function of the coordinator, meeting dates and reporting schedules, and
 - iii) An Evaluation Framework for the Brantford-Brant Community Drugs Strategy inclusive of indicators, data sources and reporting frequencies.”
- Carried.

6.3 Report from the Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Tober presented the Chief Executive Officer Report, dated October 21, 2020, as provided with the agenda. Dr. Tober’s report provided an update on the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program; Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services staff redeployment extension; seasonal influenza vaccine availability; and Health Unit staff working remotely.

6.4 Food Safety Disclosure Report No report.

Moved by: Councillor Van Tilborg
Seconded by: Ms. O’Donnell

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health accept reports 6.1 through 6.4 as presented.” Carried.

Mr. Moniz joined the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 COVID-19 Report

Dr. Urbantke and Dr. Tober presented the joint COVID-19 Report, dated October 21, 2020, as provided with the agenda. In addition to the written report, Dr. Urbantke advised that there have been 226 positive cases in Brant; there are 20 active cases and one long-term care outbreak. Last week, Brant’s incidence rate was 10.43, and the positivity rate was 0.7%. The average number of new cases per week has increased significantly requiring more redeployment of program staff into COVID duties. Dr. Urbantke responded to questions on hospitalization, death rate, age of cases, and support of Ohsweken Public Health with their cases and data.

Councillor Sless joined the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

7.2 Immunization Program Report

Ms. Kwansah presented the Immunization Program Report, dated October 21, 2020, as provided with the agenda. Student suspensions were not enforced in Spring 2020; however, staff continued to work with parents to get their children up to date with required immunizations.

7.3 Chronic Disease Prevention and Injury Prevention Programs Report

Mr. Moniz presented the Chronic Disease Prevention and Injury Prevention Programs Report, dated October 21, 2020, as provided with the agenda. The report outlined activities in Mental Health Promotion, Healthy Living, Injury Prevention, Health Equity, and Youth Wellness. When possible, adapted activities were continued to support

residents with isolation and exercise during COVID. The school boards took the lead in responding to student fears and mental wellness.

Ms. Kwansah and Mr. Moniz left the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Moved by: Councillor Van Tilborg
Seconded by: Mayor Bailey

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health accept reports 7.1 through 7.3 as presented.” Carried.

7.4 Property Easement Amendment Report

Mr. Richardson presented the Property Easement Amendment Report, dated October 21, 2020, as included with the agenda. Mr. Richardson explained the background to this request from the City of Brantford for water main access.

Moved by: Councillor Van Tilborg
Seconded by: Mayor Bailey

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health approve the amendment to the existing easement to allow the city of Brantford to access the water main and register this easement on the title.” Carried.

8. CORRESPONDENCE *(Board members may request a copy of items that are not attached from Board of Health Secretary)*

- 8.1** Correspondence received from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, dated September 18, 2020, re COVID-19 and long-term care reform.
- 8.2** Correspondence received from Ministry of Health, dated September 10, 2020, re approval of 2020-21 one-time funding.
- 8.3** Correspondence received from Peterborough Public Health, dated September 17, 2020, re basic income.
- 8.4** Correspondence received from BCHU ONA Allied Members, re thank you for recognition bonus to staff.
- 8.5** Correspondence received from Sudbury & Districts Public Health, dated October 13, 2020, re basic income.

9. IN-CAMERA MEETING

Moved by: Mr. Colombo
Seconded by: Mayor Bailey

“THAT the meeting move to In-Camera at 10:41 a.m. regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual.” Carried.

The regular Board of Health meeting resumed.

Motion were passed during the in-camera session for Items 2.1.5, 3.1, and 3.3.

10. QUESTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11.1 Strategic Planning (2021)

12. NEXT MEETING DATES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Ms. Brown

“THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 12:20 p.m.” Carried.

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date