



June 3, 2021  
**Board of Health Meeting**  
**Minutes**

A meeting of the Board of Health for Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit was held on Thursday, June 3, 2021 virtually through MS Teams commencing at 3:01 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Ms. L. Baldwin-Sands	Board Member
Mr. T. Comiskey	Board Member
Mr. T. Marks	Board Member
Mr. L. Martin	Board Member (Chair)
Mr. D. Mayberry	Board Member
Mr. S. Molnar	Board Member
Mr. J. Preston	Board Member (Vice Chair)
Mr. L. Rowden	Board Member
Mr. D. Warden	Board Member
Dr. J. Lock	Medical Officer of Health
Ms. C. St. John	Chief Executive Officer
Ms. A. Koning	Executive Assistant

**GUESTS:**

Mr. P. Heywood	Program Director
Ms. S. MacIsaac	Program Director
Mr. D. McDonald	Director, Corporate Services and Human Resources
Ms. M. Nusink	Director, Finance
Mr. D. Smith	Program Director
Ms. C. Walker	Program Director
Ms. M. Cornwell	Manager, Communications
Ms. S. Fox	Program Manager
Mr. I. McCallum	St. Thomas Times Journal
Mr. G. Colgan	Woodstock Sentinel-Review
Mr. R. Perry	Aylmer Express

**ABSENT:**

Mr. G. Jones	Board Member
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**1.1 CALL TO ORDER, RECOGNITION OF QUORUM**

## **1.2 AGENDA**

### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-0603-1.2)**

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by D. Warden

That the agenda for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for June 3, 2021 be approved.

Carried.

**1.3** Reminder to disclose Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof when Item Arises.

**1.4** Reminder that Meetings are Recorded for minute taking purposes.

## **2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-0603-2.1)**

Moved by T. Comiskey

Seconded by L. Rowden

That the minutes for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for May 6, 2021 be approved.

Carried.

## **3.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-0603-3.0)**

Moved by T. Marks

Seconded by D. Mayberry

That the Board of Health for the Southwestern Public Health receive and file consent agenda items 3.1 – 3.2.

Carried.

## **4.0 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED REQUIRING ACTION**

P. Heywood reviewed the correspondence.

P. Heywood noted that COVID-19 has exposed great socioeconomic disparities in our country, and we believe that this should force us to change the way we think about innovation and policy development.

P. Heywood noted that SWPH recognizes the need for enhanced paid sick leave accountability by the Ontario government in combination with the growing number of public health experts, municipal leaders, and workers' advocates who have supported this urgent need amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

L. Rowden asked if there will be any enforcement or requirements to be vaccinated. P. Heywood noted that there is no requirement to be vaccinated within the Bill, however sick leave does allow for employees to attend their vaccination appointments.

L. Baldwin-Sands noted that there is an error in the report noting Peggy Sattler is an MPP, not MPP. Heywood noted that this amendment would be made to the draft letter once finalized.

S. Molnar asked for further details regarding the statement "and beyond" for paid sick leave. P. Heywood noted that the Bill 239 states that the leave incorporates personal emergencies such as influenza, beyond COVID-19. S. Molnar noted that many other correspondences received were focused solely on the COVID-19 response and not beyond.

J. Preston asked for the status of this Bill within the legislature. P. Heywood noted that Bill 239 was lost on division at the second reading on March 1, 2021.

D. Mayberry noted that he supports the letter and SWPH is in the business of health protection and prevention, and this is the intent of the letter.

T. Marks noted that he has concerns and does not support the correspondence.

Dr. Lock noted that COVID-19 is not going to go away anytime soon and we need to learn to live with it. She noted that key intervention to contain the spread of COVID-19 is keeping people apart. She noted that vaccines are not going to completely get rid of the virus as it mutates very easily. She noted that allowing and encouraging people to stay home when they are sick is going to be an ongoing public health measure. She noted that this will also support businesses to continue operating, by keeping case counts low.

C. St. John noted that one of our mandates as SWPH is to advocate for health equity and programs and services and advocacy in the area of ensuring equitable health outcomes for all.

The board directed staff to amend the letter to advocate for paid sick leave, not specific to MPP Sattler's Bill, but tie it to SWPH's mandate of seeking better health outcomes for all.

#### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-0603-4.0)**

Moved by D. Mayberry  
Seconded by T. Comiskey

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health defer the Letter of Support for MP Peggy Sattler's Letter re: Paid Sick Leave as presented with noted amendments, until the next meeting.

Carried.

### **5.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR INFORMATION.DISCUSSION.ACCEPTANCE.DECISION**

#### **5.1 Finance and Facilities Standing Committee Report for June 2021**

J. Preston reviewed the report. There were no questions.

#### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-0603-5.1A)**

Moved by D. Warden  
Seconded by T. Marks

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the first quarter financial statements for Southwestern Public Health as presented.

Carried.

#### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-0603-5.1B)**

Moved by T. Comiskey  
Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health ratify the signing of the Annual Service Plan for 2021.

Carried.

#### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-0603-5.1)**

Moved by L. Rowden  
Seconded by T. Comiskey

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Finance and Facilities report for June 3, 2021.

Carried.

#### **5.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report for June 2021**

C. St. John reviewed her report.

C. St. John noted that the most significant challenge of delivery vaccinations is predictable vaccine supply. She noted that SWPH can increase capacity at its Mass Immunization Clinics, however vaccine supply will not allow us to do so. She noted that there are several pop-up clinics that have already occurred and many more planned to ensure our residents in more rural communities have easier access to vaccinations.

C. St. John commended our municipal and community partners on sharing our social media messaging with their communities.

S. Molnar asked if the target of 75% of the SWPH population receiving at least one vaccine includes the entire population or only those 18 years of age and older. It was noted that the target is based on the entire SWPH population.

S. Molnar noted that eLearning should be provided to all board members not just Public Appointees so it is disappointing that the Public Appointments Secretariat does not share the entire eLearning modules afforded to Order in Council appointees.

#### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-0603-5.2A)**

Moved by L. Baldwin-Sands

Seconded by S. Molnar

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the signing of the 2020 program-based grants annual reconciliation report.

Carried.

#### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-0603-5.2)**

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by T. Comiskey

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's report for June 3, 2021.

Carried.

### **5.3 Medical Officer of Health's Report for May 2021**

Dr. Lock reviewed her report.

Dr. Lock noted that the goal to have 90% of our population vaccinated is going to be a challenge as there is a significant percentage of our population that is vaccine hesitant. She noted that SWPH has a lot of work to do in the future to encourage vaccination and educate those who are hesitant to receive the vaccine.

Dr. Lock noted that SWPH will be updating guidance documents that align with provincial direction and encompass the vaccination of our population.

Dr. Lock believes that vaccine coverage, vaccine effectiveness, the relaxing of public health measures and increase of indoor activities will have an impact on whether we will have a fourth wave.

Dr. Lock noted that SWPH would like to resume other public health work in the future and lean on more traditional vaccine channels that deliver immunizations such as pharmacies and primary care offices, which aligns with the direction of the Ministry.

Dr. Lock reviewed a slide that displays first and second dose planning of Pfizer vaccine. She noted that by the week of July 26<sup>th</sup>, we hope to have 150,000 residents vaccinated with at least one dose and by the week of November 15<sup>th</sup>, we hope to have 150,000 residents vaccinated with both doses.

L. Rowden asked what the rate of vaccine hesitancy is within our region. Dr. Lock noted that the province is reporting that there is a significant uptake of vaccine and an increase in uptake from traditional flu vaccines. She noted that locally our vaccinate hesitancy campaign will continue.

#### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-0603-5.3)**

Moved by S. Molnar

Seconded by L. Rowden

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Medical Officer of Health's report for June 3, 2021.

Carried.

D. Mayberry asked if there is a clear and simple message for our community regarding second doses. C. St. John noted that a media release regarding the shortened second dose for those 80 years of age and older will be issued imminently. Dr. Lock noted that the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) statement was issued last week, and effective June 4<sup>th</sup>, they are indicating that the first and second dose of the vaccine can be two different vaccines.

Dr. Lock noted that there are studies that show benefits of delaying the second dose so individuals should not be concerned if they end up having to wait the full 112 days between doses of mRNA vaccines.

## 7.0 TO CLOSED SESSION

### Resolution # (2021-BOH-0603-C7)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health moves to closed session in order to consider one or more the following as outlined in the Ontario Municipal Act:

- (a) the security of the property of the municipality or local board;
- (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;
- (c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;
- (d) labour relations or employee negotiations;
- (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board;
- (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- (g) a matter in respect of which a council, board, committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under another Act;
- (h) information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them;
- (i) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization;
- (j) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the municipality or local board and has monetary value or potential monetary value; or
- (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board. 2001, c. 25, s. 239 (2); 2017, c. 10, Sched. 1, s. 26.

Other Criteria:

- (a) a request under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, if the council, board, commission or other body is the head of an institution for the purposes of that Act; or
- (b) an ongoing investigation respecting the municipality, a local board or a municipally-controlled corporation by the Ombudsman appointed under the *Ombudsman Act*, an Ombudsman referred to in subsection 223.13 (1) of this Act, or the investigator referred to in subsection 239.2 (1). 2014, c. 13, Sched. 9, s. 22.

Carried.

## 8.0 RISING AND REPORTING OF CLOSED SESSION

### Resolution # (2021-BOH-0603-C8)

Moved by S. Molnar

Seconded by J. Preston

That the Board of Health rise with a report.

Carried.

### Resolution # (2021-BOH-0603-C3.1)

Moved by J. Preston

Seconded by D. Mayberry

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Finance and Facilities Standing Committee's report for June 3, 2021.

Carried.

**Resolution # (2021-BOH-0603-C3.2)**

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by J. Preston

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Governance Standing Committee's report for June 3, 2021.

Carried.

**Resolution # (2021-BOH-0603-C3.3)**

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by T. Comiskey

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's report for June 3, 2021.

Carried.

**10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution # (2021-BOH-0603-10)**

Moved by L. Baldwin-Sands

Seconded by S. Molnar

That the meeting adjourns at 4:43 p.m. to meet again virtually on September 9, 2021.

Carried.

Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_

