



A meeting of the Board of Health for Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit was held on Thursday, October 7, 2021 virtually through MS Teams commencing at 3:03 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Ms. L. Baldwin-Sands	Board Member
Mr. T. Comiskey	Board Member
Mr. G. Jones	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. M. Cornwell	Manager, Communications
Ms. C. Richards	Program Manager
Ms. W. Lee	Administrative Assistant
Mr. R. Perry	Aylmer Express

**1.1 CALL TO ORDER, RECOGNITION OF QUORUM**

**1.2 AGENDA**

### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-1.2)**

Moved by D. Mayberry  
Seconded by S. Molnar

That the agenda for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for October 7, 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-1007-2.1)**

Moved by J. Preston  
Seconded by T. Comiskey

That the minutes for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for September 9, 2021 be approved.

Carried.

## **3.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

S. Molnar asked if there is an appetite for SWPH to advocate to the Ministry for a local public health presence, as he is aware that modernization of public health is still on the minds of many. C. St. John advised that she believes these conversations at the Ministry are on pause at this time. She noted that reiterating to the Ministry, the importance of local public health presence will be important at a future date.

L. Rowden noted that there is frustration within the community that local public health units are not aligned regarding vaccination policies for their staff and why they are not communicating. C. St. John noted that 34 health units are well connected and in regular contact with each other. She noted that in the case of vaccination policies, it would be appreciated if the Ministry applied a policy to all health units. At the same time, she noted there is great value in health units having the authority to make their own decisions based on local needs and data.

### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-3.0)**

Moved by T. Marks

Seconded by T. Comiskey

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

Carried.

#### **4.0 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED REQUIRING ACTION**

##### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-4.0)**

Moved by L. Baldwin-Sands

Seconded by L. Rowden

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health direct staff to write a letter of support related to correspondence 4.1 from Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit's, reiterating the need for a commitment to fund 100% of the costs related to the COVID-19 response and COVID-19 recovery, as well as the continuation of mitigation funding for the year 2022 and beyond.

Carried.

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

##### **5.1 Finance Standing Committee Report for September 9, 2021**

J. Preston reviewed the report.

##### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-5.1A)**

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by D. Mayberry

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Finance & Facilities Standing Committee's recommendation to approve the second quarter financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2021.

Carried.

S. Molnar noted that the Committee discussed the need for the review of policies by the Committee be timely based on upcoming municipal elections, as it will be in the best interest of future board members.

##### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-5.1B)**

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by S. Molnar

That the Board of Health accept the Finance and Facilities Standing Committee's recommendation to revise policy BOH-FIN-020 Board Members' Renumeration as presented.

Carried.

**Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-5.1C)**

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by T. Marks

That Board of Health accept the Finance and Facilities Standing Committee's recommendation to receive and file the Amending Agreement between the Ministry of Health and Southwestern Public Health.

Carried.

**Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-5.1D)**

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by T. Marks

That the Board of Health accept the Finance and Facilities Standing Committee's recommendation to send an additional levy letter to each obligated municipality requesting their proportionate share of a total of \$4,000,000 to ensure Southwestern Public Health's financial obligations are met until such time as the Province of Ontario reimburses Southwestern Public Health for its COVID-19 expenditures.

Carried.

It was noted that no communication has been sent to the obligated municipalities as the levy has not yet been approved by the Board.

D. Mayberry asked if there are any updates or further communication from the Ministry since the Finance and Facilities Standing Committee. C. St. John noted that the Ministry has indicated they are awaiting the second quarter financial reports from some public health units and the Ministry staff will move as quickly as possible, as they are very much aware of the cash flow concerns of health units.

T. Marks and J. Preston noted that they will reiterate to their Councils that these funds are needed urgently and that the funds will be reimbursed once SWPH has received them.

S. Molnar suggested that SWPH and obligated municipalities send correspondence to the Ministry that expresses their concern regarding the delay in receiving funds. The Board directed the staff to draft a letter, with the three obligated municipalities, to the Ministry that expressed the need for expeditious receipt of funding to manage SWPH cash flow concerns.

**Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-5.1)**

Moved by L. Baldwin-Sands  
Seconded by D. Mayberry

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Finance and Facilities Standing Committee's Report for October 7, 2021.

Carried.

## **5.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report for September 9, 2021**

C. St. John reviewed her report.

C. St. John noted that Dr. Ahmed has been appointed as the new Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Southwest Region and she and Dr. Lock have worked with him previously, in his past role as MOH for Windsor-Essex region and we look forward to working with him in his new role.

C. St. John noted that the teams are very busy responding to community inquiries via email and through our call centre.

C. St. John noted that program planning is a key driver for developing the budget and that this work is currently underway. She noted that program planning is vital to ensuring that SWPH is doing the right work, at the right time, in the right way.

L. Rowden asked about the reference to the Ontario Human Rights code and how that impacts the vaccination policy application. D. McDonald noted that SWPH addresses the application of the Ontario Human Rights code on an individual basis and works with affected employees to see how this would be applied based on their position at SWPH. He noted that we continue to work with our legal council to ensure the Human Rights code is applied appropriately.

Dr. Lock noted that the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal did publish a statement regarding COVID-19 vaccination policies and the fact that it is acceptable to have a policy of this nature. She noted that the policy would need to consider a variety of matters.

S. Molnar thanked SWPH for endorsing the Open Letter to the Community in Oxford County.

L. Baldwin-Sands noted that another hospital in the region has terminated staff due to non-compliance of their COVID-19 vaccination policy.

#### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-5.2A)**

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by L. Baldwin-Sands

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve Board Policy – BOH-HR-060 – COVID-19 Immunization Policy as presented.

Carried.

D. Mayberry asked if there is follow-up when individuals attend pop-up clinics, to ensure they obtain their second dose. S. MacIsaac noted that all individuals who attend pop-ups are followed up by SWPH to ensure they are given an opportunity to obtain their second dose. S. MacIsaac noted that when individuals have become eligible for a third dose, SWPH will contact them to ensure we provide the opportunity for them to obtain a third dose.

C. St. John noted that there is a significant difference in efficacy of the vaccine between one dose and a second dose which is why the second dose is so important. Dr. Lock advised that the efficacy of the second dose is significant and provides sufficient coverage for the Delta Variant. She noted that the Delta Variant is now the dominant variant and therefore, it is extremely important to obtain the second dose.

#### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-5.2)**

Moved by L. Baldwin-Sands

Seconded by S. Molnar

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's report for October 7, 2021.

Carried.

### **5.3 Medical Officer of Health's Report for September 9, 2021**

Dr. Lock reviewed her report.

Dr. Lock noted that she is optimistic that the SWPH region can obtain 90% vaccination rate for both first and doses.

Dr. Lock noted that the recently issued Letter of Instruction bridged a gap between vaccination policies in sports and recreation facilities. She noted that the hope is to keep these sports and recreation facilities open, with high vaccination rates for those who attend these facilities.

L. Rowden asked if there is a policy recommendation for return to work, if you obtain vaccine and are symptomatic. Dr. Lock noted that if symptoms are milder and are within the first 48

hours of vaccination administration, testing is not suggested. However, if you have more severe symptoms and/or the time-period is greater than 48 hours after vaccination administration, then you should obtain testing. She noted that there may be different guidance based on workplace settings, therefore individuals should consult their workplace policies.

L. Martin noted that he was contacted regarding the Letter of Instruction that was issued this week by Dr. Lock. He noted that he was asked what the death rate between 12–19-year-olds, who have contracted COVID-19, that are not vaccinated. Dr. Lock noted that she would obtain this information and share the rate with L. Martin. Dr. Lock noted that many outbreaks last fall/winter did originate in sports settings and there is evidence that there needs to be additional protection.

#### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-5.3)**

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by D. Mayberry

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Medical Officer of Health's report for October 7, 2021.

Carried.

## **7.0 TO CLOSED SESSION**

#### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-C7)**

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by D. Mayberry

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-1007-C8)**

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by S. Molnar

That the Board of Health rise with a report.

Carried.

### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-C3.1A)**

Moved by S. Molnar

Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health notify Oxford County of SWPH's desire to extend SWPH's current lease for office space in Woodstock for an additional two (2) years.

Carried.

### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-C3.1B)**

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by G. Jones

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health direct staff to restart the search for a new facility for Southwestern Public Health's Woodstock site and report back to the Finance and Facilities Standing Committee.

Carried.

### **Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-C3.1)**

Moved by L. Baldwin-Sands

Seconded by T. Comiskey

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Finance and Facilities Standing Committee's report for October 7, 2021.

Carried.



**Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-C3.2)**

Moved by S. Molnar

Seconded by J. Preston

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's report for October 7, 2021.

Carried.

**Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-C3.3)**

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by L. Baldwin-Sands

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Board Chair's report for October 7, 2021.

Carried.

While not the subject of the Chair's report to the Board, the Board did briefly discuss the Harm Reduction program at SWPH and the Board directed staff to bring forward a presentation with respect to Harm Reduction to a future meeting as an education session. J. Preston noted that he would work with C. St. John, P. Heywood, and other interested Mayors within the SWPH catchment to further these conversations along. It was noted that an education session would be appreciated first, prior to conversations occurring with SWPH and others.

**10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution # (2021-BOH-1007-10)**

Moved by S. Molnar

Seconded by J. Preston

That the meeting adjourns at 5:13 p.m. to meet again virtually on November 4, 2021.

Carried.

Confirmed:

