



BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES 11-005

9:30 a.m.

April 26, 2011

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

- Present:** Mayor R. Bratina, Chair
Councillor L. Ferguson, Vice Chair
Councillors S. Merulla, B. Johnson,
J. Partridge, R. Powers, B. McHattie, J. Farr, T. Whitehead,
T. Jackson, S. Duvall
- Absent:** Councillors R. Pasuta, M. Pearson, C. Collins, B. Clark
- Also Present:** Dr. E. Richardson, Medical Officer of Health
Dr. C. Mackie, Associate Medical Officer of Health
Dr. N. Tran, Associate Medical Officer of Health
D. Barr-Elliott, Director, S. Brown Healthy Living Division
R. Hall, Director, E. Mathews, Health Protection Branch
G. McArthur, Director, Clinical and Preventative Services
Division
D. Sheehan, Director, Family Health Division
A. Grozelle, Legislative Assistant, Office of the City Clerk

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:

- 1. Mutual Aid Agreement for Public Health Services (BOH11011) (City Wide)
(Item 5.1)**
(Morelli/Merulla)
 - (a) That the City of Hamilton be authorized to obtain or give public health assistance to the Regional Municipalities of Halton, Niagara, Waterloo; The Corporation of Norfolk County, Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit; Brant County Health Unit; and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit; in the

event of an emergency, urgent project or need for medical officer of health coverage;

- (b) That the Medical Officer of Health be authorized to execute an agreement between the City of Hamilton and the Regional Municipalities of Halton, Niagara, Waterloo; The Corporation of Norfolk County, Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit; Brant County Health Unit; and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit, in the same or substantially the same form as attached as Appendix A to this report, or as otherwise satisfactory in form to the City Solicitor, to implement the above recommendation. **CARRIED**

2. Information on Actions to Control and Prevent Bed Bugs in Hamilton (BOH11010) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

(Partridge/Johnson)

That report BOH 11010, respecting Information on Actions to Control and Prevent Be Bugs in Hamilton, be received. **CARRIED**

3. Public Health Services Strategic Business Plan Goal C Update (BOH11007) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

(Farr/McHattie)

That report BOH11007 respecting, Public Health Services Strategic Business Plan Goal C Update, be received. **CARRIED**

4. Water Fluoridation: New Data and Recent Developments BOH08024(b) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)

(Partridge/ Ferguson)

- (a) That report BOH08024(b), respecting Water Fluoridation: New Data and Recent Developments, be received.

- (b) That staff be directed to provide annual reports to the Board of Health on Water Fluoridation. **CARRIED**

5. CORRESPONDENCE (Item 11)

- (i) Public Health Supporting Early Learning and Care (Item 11.1 (a))**

(Whitehead/Partridge)

Recommendation: Be received

CARRIED

- (ii) **The Price of Eating Well Report 2010 – North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (Item 11.1 (b))**

(Whitehead/Merulla)

Recommendation: Be received

CARRIED

- (iii) **Violence in Hockey - Middlesex-London Health Unit (Item 11.1 (c))**

(Merulla/Jackson)

(a) That the correspondence from the Middlesex-London Health Unit respecting violence in Hockey, be received.

(b) That staff report back to the Board of Health on the issue of sports related injuries, specifically head injuries in minor sports.

CARRIED

- (iv) **Correspondence from the Minister of Health respecting Hamilton City Council's endorsement of the Sudbury and District Board of Health's resolution concerning immunization registration**

(Ferguson/Johnson)

Recommendation: Be received

CARRIED

- (v) **Correspondence from the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport respecting Hamilton City Council's endorsement of a report by The Peterborough County-City Health Unit respecting energy drinks**

(Farr/ Merulla)

Recommendation: Be received

CARRIED

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

- (a) **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)**

The Clerk advised of the following change to the agenda:

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.2 Board of Health Budget Deliberations minutes, dated March 29, 2011

(Ferguson/Johnson)

That the agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

Councillor B. Johnson declared a conflict of interest with Agenda Item 11.1 (e) regarding energy drinks as her husband is an employee of Coca-Cola. Councillor Johnson refrained from discussion and voting on the Item.

(c) MINUTES (Item 3)

(i) Board of Health minutes, dated March 29, 2011. (Item 3.1)

(Powers/Johnson)

That the minutes from the March 29, 2011 Board of Health Meeting, be approved.

CARRIED

(ii) Board of Health Budget Deliberations minutes, dated March 29, 2011 (Item 3.2)

(Powers/Johnson)

That the minutes from the March 29, 2011 Board of Health Meeting Budget Deliberations, be approved.

CARRIED

(d) CONSENT ITEMS (Item 5)

(i) Community Food Security Stakeholder Advisory Committee – Minutes, dated March 2, 2011 (Item 5.2)

(Morelli/Merulla)

That the minutes from the Community Food Security Stakeholder Advisory Committee, be received.

CARRIED

(e) PUBLIC HEARINGS/DELEGATIONS (Item 6)

(i) Delegation by Chris Hacon, respecting the removal of fluoride from

**City water (approved at March 29, 2011 Board of Health meeting)
(Item 6.1)**

Chris Hacon addressed the Board of Health with the Aid of a PowerPoint Presentation. Highlights included but were not limited to the following:

- Discussed why fluoride is used in water to fight tooth decay
- Discussed the Supreme Court of Canada ruling on fluoride as a preventative health measure
- Discussed the unregulated nature of the fluoride as it is not overseen by food or drug administration
- Discussed how fluoride is a hazardous substance
- Indicated that he believed that fluoride is a drug and should be treated as such

Board members asked questions of Mr. Hacon. Highlights included but were not limited to the following:

- Councillor Ferguson asked what professional qualifications Mr. Hacon has related to this subject
- Mr. Hacon indicated that he had no relevant qualifications however had been conducting research
- Mr. Hacon indicated there is a large amount of material available on this subject

(Powers/Partridge)

That the presentation by Chris Hacon respecting, the removal of fluoride from City water, be received.

CARRIED

(f) PRESENTATIONS (Item 7)

(i) Information on Actions to Control and Prevent Bed Bugs in Hamilton (BOH11010) (City Wide) (M. Lawson) (Item 7.1)

Matthew Lawson, Program Manager, Public Health Services, addressed the Board of Health with the aid of a PowerPoint Presentation. His comments included but were not limited to the following:

- Discussed the resurgence of bed bugs in recent years
- Indicated the reasons behind this resurgence are believed to be, increased resistance to treatment, increased global mobility and lack of public education
- Showed the large increase in bed bug complaints in Hamilton as illustrated on a PowerPoint Chart

- Discussed the work of the Bed Bug Action Group BBAG; a community group that is supported by City departments
- Discussed the funding announcements made by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to Local Health Integration Networks
- These announcements indicate that the City of Hamilton can expect to receive funding in the range of \$144,000 - \$240,000 to address the issue of bed bugs
- Indicated this funding would go towards education and helping vulnerable populations

Board members asked questions of staff. Highlights included but were not limited to the following:

- Councillor Johnson asked why so many of the complaints received regarding bed bugs come from rental housing
- Staff indicated property standards enforcement results in more reporting from owners of rental units and landlords
- Staff indicated that private resident owners often call in a pest control company and address bed bug problems themselves
- Councillor Johnson asked if there was some way to track which complaints were related to rental units or private residents
- Staff indicated that at the time a complaint is made they do not differentiate between private owners or renters so the numbers presented encompass both groups
- Councillor Powers inquired about public education materials
- Staff indicated that the Province is taking the lead in public education and will be providing information flyers for the City Of Hamilton to distribute
- Staff indicated there is also a provincial website where people can get more information, [www. bedbugsinfo.ca](http://www.bedbugsinfo.ca)
- Councillor Powers requested that some education flyers be distributed to Councillors offices when they become available
- Mayor Bratina indicated that as the former Councillor for Ward 2 his office received numerous bed bug complaints. The Mayor asked if these numbers were captured in the complaint numbers
- Staff indicated that the numbers presented were only for complaints made to the Public Health telephone line
- Mayor Bratina asked if there was a unified approach being undertaken by City Housing Hamilton to address bed bugs
- Staff indicated that they have a comprehensive protocol to address bed bug infestation when it arises

- Mayor Bratina asked about the best practices for getting rid of bed bugs
- Staff indicated that the Province is creating the best practices to address bed bugs and the City of Hamilton is working with these best practices
- Staff discussed the 'hot box', a piece of equipment that allows them to heat furniture up quickly to a high temperature. Staff indicated the 'hot box' approach allows for the furniture to be saved while killing bed bugs
- Councillor McHattie thanked City Housing Hamilton and the Inn of the Good Shepherd for their efforts on this issue
- Councillor Morelli indicated that in Ward 3 bed bugs are a big issue and he hopes it has reached a plateau
- Councillor Morelli asked about those who don't live in City Housing Hamilton and are unable to pay to address bed bug infestations
- Staff indicated that \$100,000 of the provincial funding would be set aside for unit preparation costs that would allow The Good Shepherd to go into these units to assist these individuals
- Councillor Whitehead asked how bed bugs are transported and how to avoid bringing them into the home
- Staff indicated that bed bugs are hitchhikers and if you are in an area known to have had an infestation you need to be vigilant
- Staff suggested not putting items on the floor, not sitting in furniture and performing visual inspections of clothes
- Staff indicated that these measures are of use when visited an area that is known to have bed bugs; however are not necessary when in commonly used areas like a bus
- Councillor Whitehead asked whether there was a map indicating the areas in the City Of Hamilton with bed bug infestations
- Staff Indicating that they do not have the geospatial mapping of bed bug infestations nor do they perform this level of surveillance.
- Staff indicated that the approach being taken is one of public education with the hopes of removing the negative stigma around infestation

(Partridge/Johnson)

That the staff presentation on report BOH11010, respecting Information on Actions to Control and Prevent Bed Bugs in Hamilton, be received.

CARRIED

For further disposition on this Item refer to Item 2.

(ii) ONBOIDS Report Summary (Dr. C. Mackie) (no copy) (Item 7.2)

Dr. Chris Mackie, Associate Medical Officer of Health, addressed the Board respecting, a summary of the Ontario Burden of Infectious Diseases (ONBOIDS) Report, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included but were not limited to the following:

- Discussed the need to address infectious diseases throughout Ontario
- Indicated that nearly 5000 people in Ontario die each year of infectious diseases
- With the aid of detailed slides discussed each of the top ten infectious diseases
- Indicated that in Hamilton many of these cases of infectious diseases have immigrated to the area
- These cases are often caused by infections at hospitals abroad due to reuse of contaminated equipment
- Discussed that in Hamilton in 2009 there were 215 cases of Hepatitis C Virus, 50 of Streptococcus Pneumoniae, 80 cases of Hepatitis B Virus, 6 cases of Escherichia Coli, 25 cases of Human Immunodeficiency Virus, 3 outbreaks of Staphylococcus Aureus, 788 cases of influenza and 1 outbreak of Clostridium Difficile.
- Indicated that Human Papillomavirus and Rhinovirus are not reportable diseases as such are not tracked
- Indicated that of the top ten infectious diseases vaccines are provided where they are available.
- Staff are currently looking to work with hospitals and care facilities on Clostridium Difficile
- Discussed the highest risk factors for getting an infectious disease
- Indicated that communities already facing challenges with socio-economic conditions have a greater risk of infectious diseases

Board members asked questions of Dr. Mackie. Highlights included but were not limited to the following:

- Councillor Partridge asked about a Hepatitis C Virus vaccine
- Staff indicated that he had not yet heard of a vaccine for Hepatitis C; however the virus can now be treated
- Staff indicated that the treatment for Hepatitis C is long and difficult
- Staff indicated that the most important preventative measure taken in the City Of Hamilton in relation to Hepatitis C is the needle exchange

- Councillor Partridge asked about the vaccine program for HPV in schools
- Staff indicated that it is available in all the schools; however it hasn't received the uptake they wished to see
- Staff indicated that part of this problem was with the quick roll out of the program as well as the philosophical problems with this vaccine which has been criticized by some groups as promoting sex
- Council Partridge asked about hand sanitizers
- Staff indicated that they don't eliminate everything, only thorough hand washing can do that; however hand sanitizers are a good step forward towards prevention
- Councillor Ferguson asked if there was another pandemic such as SARS or H1N1 on the way
- Staff indicated that he couldn't answer that question; however there are a lot of factors that could create new pandemics, increased travel, urbanization in developing countries and increased interactions with humans and animals
- Staff indicated that anecdotally there are some areas that are seeing some cases of a anti-biotic resistant genes that are being transferred from one bacteria to another and this could create new super bugs in the future

(Powers/Partridge)

That the presentation respecting the ONBOIDS report summary, be received.

CARRIED

(g) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 8)

**(i) Water Fluoridation: New Data and Recent Developments
BOH08024(b) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)**

Councillor Ferguson requested that the record show that the medical Officer of Health recommended continuing the Fluoridation of the City Of Hamilton's water as the medical evidence indicates that it is of benefit to the residents.

For further disposition on this Item refer to Item 4.

(h) CORRESPONDENCE (Item 11)**(i) Violence in Hockey - Middlesex-London Health Unit (Item 11.1 (c))**

The Item was split for the purposes of voting:

- (a) That the correspondence from the Middlesex-London Health Unit respecting violence in Hockey, be received. **CARRIED**
- (b) That staff report back to the Board of Health on the issue of sports related injuries, specifically head injuries in minor sports.

Sub-section (b) **CARRIED** on the following Recorded Votes:

Yeas:	R. Powers, B. Johnson, J. Partridge, S. Duvall, T. Whitehead, J. Farr, T. Jackson, S. Merulla
Total:	8
Nays:	L. Ferguson, B. McHattie
Total:	2
Absent:	R. Bratina, M. Pearson, R. Pasuta, C. Collins, B. Clark, B. Morelli
Total:	6

(i) ADJOURNMENT (Item 13)**(Partridge/Ferguson)**

That the Board of Health, be adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor B. Bratina, Chair
Board of Health

Andy Grozelle
Legislative Assistant
Board of Health

April 26, 2011