

A regular meeting of the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit was held on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, via teleconference. The proceedings were audio live-streamed for the public.

**PRESENT:**

**Nipissing District:**

Central Appointee

Dave Butti

Central Appointee

Nancy Jacko (*Chairperson*)

Central Appointee

Stuart Kidd

Central Appointee

Scott Robertson

Central Appointee

Tanya Vrebosch

Eastern Appointee

Dean Backer

Western Appointee

Dan Roveda

**Parry Sound District:**

Western Appointee

Don Brisbane (*Vice-Chairperson*)

South Eastern Appointee

Marianne Stickland

**Public Appointees:**

Mike Poeta

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Medical Officer of Health/Executive Officer

Dr. Chirico

Master of Public Health Student

Dr. Carol Zimbalatti

**REGRETS:**

North Eastern Appointee (Parry Sound District)

Blair Flowers

Public Appointee

Gary Guenther

**RECORDER:**

Management Administrative Assistant

Sheri Beaulieu

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**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Nancy Jacko, Board of Health Chairperson, called the Board of Health meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**2.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the September 23, 2020, Board of Health meeting was reviewed and the following motion was read:

**Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2020/09/01 \*Poeta/Robertson**

***Be It Resolved, that the Board of Health Agenda, dated September 23, 2020, be approved.***

The recorded vote was as follows:

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Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Dean Backer	X			Stuart Kidd	X		
Don Brisbane	X			Mike Poeta	X		
Dave Butti	X			Scott Robertson	X		
Blair Flowers				Dan Roveda	X		
Gary Guenther				Marianne Stickland	X		
Nancy Jacko	X			Tanya Vrebosch	X		

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*“Carried”*

### 3.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

### 4.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

#### 4.1 Board of Health Minutes – June 24, 2020

The minutes from the Board of Health meeting held on June 24, 2020, were reviewed and the following motion was read:

**Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2020/09/02 \*Brisbane/Stickland**

***Be It Resolved***, that the minutes from the Board of Health meeting held on June 24, 2020, be approved as presented.

The recorded vote was as follows:

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Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Dean Backer	X			Stuart Kidd	X		
Don Brisbane	X			Mike Poeta	X		
Dave Butti	X			Scott Robertson	X		
Blair Flowers				Dan Roveda	X		
Gary Guenther				Marianne Stickland	X		
Nancy Jacko	X			Tanya Vrebosch	X		

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*“Carried”*

### 5.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: November 25, 2020

Time: To be determined

Location: To be determined

## 6.0 BUSINESS ARISING

There was nothing under Business Arising

## 7.0 REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

The [Report of the Medical Officer of Health](#) dated September 23, 2020, was presented to the Board of Health for information purposes.

An additional verbal update from the Medical Officer of Health was also provided, as well as questions by Board members addressed. The discussion was as follows:

- The need to address the systemic problems in the system related to COVID-19 and health equity; it's a call to action to take a critical look at those most vulnerable
- There has been a significant increase in cases globally, nationally, and provincially
- Locally, there has been a slight increase; the district is now up to 40 cases with one death
- Provincially, the trend over the summer months was 80-120 new cases per day; that is now up to 400 new cases per day, with it trending upward
- The percentage of positivity is increasing as well
- In order to address this, the province has revised the limits for indoor and outdoor gatherings
- The health care system is currently not overwhelmed with the increase in cases
- More data is needed before it can be determined if this is a resurgence due to increased travel and/or social interaction, or if this is the start of a second wave
- Regardless, it is concerning and it coincides with schools re-opening
- The province is already seeing outbreaks in schools in geographic areas with higher case counts
- The Health Unit has been working very closely with school boards in our district for months now preparing for school re-openings to be as safe as possible
- Collaboration between public health, Ontario Health, community partners, school boards, the government, and the public is ongoing in an effort to protect the public
- People need to do their part and adhere to public health recommendations by respecting gathering limits, staying within their social circle, use face coverings, physically distance, and be vigilant with simple hygiene methods
- Individually, these measures have an effect, but a comprehensive approach will make the difference
- There is still no indication of a vaccine in the near future
- The most important thing at this point is to flatten the curve, as was done in the first wave
- Collectively, we can get ahead of this by supporting the provincial initiative for stringent gathering limits
- There are concerns for the potential of a twin pandemic with influenza season approaching
- It is more important than ever to get the flu shot

- The Health Unit is already seeing more interest and more demand this year
- It is anticipated that the first shipments of influenza vaccine will be received by the end of this month or early October
- The initial focus will be high risk groups
- The Health Unit is working with pharmacies on a coordinated response
- In following the statistics of the southern hemisphere, which is always ahead of us, they did see a reduction in the number of flu cases with this year's vaccine
- Work is already underway to prepare for various options for influenza clinics across our district

Q: Do we have any sense of the uptake of the COVID-19 app?

A: While we do not have a lot of information on the national app, it does require a significant amount of the population engaged for it to work really well. All initiative in place to stop the spread of COVID-19 is helpful.

Q: Are the vast majority of schools supporting the use of face coverings?

A: Yes, compliance has been great. Students and teachers alike have adjusted to the recommendations. Masks alone is not the answer, a comprehensive approach that is needed. Every little bit helps. The situation is fluid, and we will have to be flexible with the measures required to slow the spread. The public really needs to be congratulated for all of their efforts.

Q: What about upcoming activities like Halloween and public Christmas events? Municipalities are being approached regarding cancellation of events.

A: Things are changing rapidly; we will have to make changes according to what the numbers are showing. As it is, the numbers are going in the wrong direction. Unless this is brought under control very quickly, the Health Unit does not think it is in the best interest of the public to have kids out door-to-door, or in any type of social gathering outside of their immediate social circles. It may look different this year, but there are creative ways to celebrate safely within people's own social circles.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has made their recommendation that Halloween is a high-risk situation.

Both the province and the Health Unit will be coming out with statements and recommendations related to upcoming events and holiday celebrations. Municipalities will need to refer to public health guidelines and recommendations.

Q: Safe consumption site; the province is looking for feedback from the City. What is the Health Unit's opinion?

A: The Health Unit has been in favour of safe consumption sites for quite some time. Substance misuse is a pandemic in itself. The Health Unit feels that the only way to approach it is from a harm reduction point of view, and would advocate for more safe consumption and treatment sites in Ontario.

The difference between safe consumption site and safe supply was addressed.

Q: British Columbia has changed their daily checklist for children going to school to seven symptoms, is there any consideration for the province following suit?

A: Based on clinical data on how it presents in children, yes, the province is considering changing their checklist. The province recognized it as an issue and is currently in consultations with Public Health Ontario to make it more manageable.

Q: Substance misuse in the community, namely sharps?

A: The Health Unit is working with municipal councils for placement of sharps bins. We currently have a sharps bin in West Nipissing. The Health Unit has limited budget and capacity, but will work with municipalities by supplying the bin; however, municipalities would be responsible for disposal of the sharps.

## **8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **8.1 Personnel Policy, Employee and Labour Relations Committee**

A Personnel Policy, Employee and Labour Relations Committee meeting was held prior to the Board of Health meeting.

Direction was provided during an in camera session. There was no other actions to report.

### **8.2 Finance and Property Committee**

A Finance and Property Committee meeting was held prior to the Board of Health meeting.

The following motions were read:

#### **Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2020/09/03 \*Stickland/Brisbane**

*Whereas, the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit has received funding approval for 2020 from the Ministry of Health; and*

*Whereas, the Board of Health must approve all funding from the Ministry of Health in order to receive the transfer payments;*

**Therefore Be It Resolved**, that on the recommendation of the Finance and Property Committee that the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit approve the 2020 Ministry of Health Program-Based Grant, dated September 10, 2020, which reconciles the Board of Health approved budget to \$20,828,669.

Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Dean Backer	X			Stuart Kidd	X		
Don Brisbane	X			Mike Poeta	X		
Dave Butti	X			Scott Robertson	X		
Blair Flowers				Dan Roveda	X		
Gary Guenther				Marianne Stickland	X		
Nancy Jacko	X			Tanya Vrebosch	X		

“Carried”

**Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2020/09/04 \*Robertson/Poeta**

**Whereas**, the Board of Health previously approved the 2020 Municipal levy on December 4, 2019; and

**Whereas**, the Ministry of Health has provided funding to reduce the required levy; and

**Whereas**, the municipalities have already paid a portion of the annual levy; and

**Whereas**, a portion of the 2020 municipal levy has been paid from the Municipal Reserve (#BOH/2019/12/04);

**Therefore Be It Resolved**, that on the recommendation of the Finance and Property Committee that the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit approve the municipal levy be reduced by a total of \$494,413, with the \$183,735 paid from the Municipal Reserve in December 2019 being returned to the Municipal Reserve, leaving a \$310,678 reduction on the amount owing by municipalities for December 2020, on a per capita basis; and

**Furthermore Be It Resolved**, that the member municipalities be informed of the changes to the municipal levy payment schedule as soon as possible.

Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Dean Backer	X			Stuart Kidd	X		
Don Brisbane	X			Mike Poeta	X		
Dave Butti	X			Scott Robertson	X		
Blair Flowers	A			Dan Roveda	X		
Gary Guenther	A			Marianne Stickland	X		

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Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Nancy Jacko	X			Tanya Vrebosch	X		

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*“Carried”*

## 9.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Board of Health correspondence listed for the September 23, 2020, meeting is made available for review by Board members in the Board of Health online portal.

## 10.0 NEW BUSINESS

There was nothing to discuss under New Business.

## 11.0 IN CAMERA

There was no in camera session.

## 12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the Board of Health Chairperson adjourned the Board of Health meeting at 7:21 p.m.

*Original Signed by Nancy Jacko*

*2020/12/09*

Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

*Original Signed by Sheri Beaulieu*

*2020/12/09*

Sheri Beaulieu, Recorder

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)