



A meeting of the Board of Health for Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit was held on Thursday, January 25, 2024 commencing at 1:04 p.m.

PRESENT:

Ms. C. Agar	Board Member
Mr. J. Couckuyt	Board Member
Mr. J. Herbert	Board Member
Ms. B. Martin	Board Member (Vice Chair)
Mr. D. Mayberry	Board Member
Mr. S. Molnar*	Board Member
Mr. M. Peterson	Board Member
Mr. J. Preston	Board Member (Chair)
Mr. L. Rowden	Board Member
Mr. M. Ryan	Board Member
Mr. D. Shinedling	Board Member
Mr. D. Warden	Board Member
Ms. C. St. John	Chief Executive Officer
Dr. N. Tran*	Medical Officer of Health
Ms. W. Lee	Executive Assistant

GUESTS:

Ms. M. Cornwell*	Manager, Communications
Ms. K. Chambers	Registered Dietitian, Healthy Communities
Ms. J. Gordon	Administrative Assistant
Mr. P. Heywood	Program Director
Ms. R. Gregoire	Public Health Nurse, Healthy Communities
Mr. D. McDonald	Director, Corporate Services and Human Resources
Ms. M. Nusink*	Director, Finance
Mr. I. Santos	Manager, Information Technology
Mr. D. Smith	Program Director
Ms. M. Van Wylie	Program Manager, Healthy Communities
Ms. R. Wallace	Public Health Nurse, Healthy Communities

MEDIA:

Mr. R. Perry*	Aylmer Express
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*represents virtual participation

REGRETS:

Mr. G. Jones	Board Member
Ms. S. Maclsaac	Program Director

**REMINDER OF DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF
WHEN ITEM ARISES**

1.1 CALL TO ORDER, RECOGNITION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 1:04pm.

C. St. John welcomed Stephen Molnar and Catherine Agar to the Board of Health as Order in Council Provincial Appointees, effective January 18, 2024. Both have received 3-year appointments.

1.2 AGENDA

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0124-1.2)

Moved by M. Ryan

Seconded by D. Warden

That the agenda for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for January 25, 2024 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.

1.5 Election of Officers:

J. Herbert asked for clarity regarding guidelines for electing officers and their expected term of office. He offered his view that a one-year term is insufficient to address larger concerns or issues, suggesting a two- or three-year term for greater continuity.

C. St. John noted the By-Laws and Board policies for the Board of Health regarding the election of officers specifies a one-year term, wherein a second one-year term may be served consecutively, after which a one-year break from the role served is required before being re-elected for another term.

D. Warden noted that the historical approach of the Elgin St. Thomas Board of Health alternated between electing members from Elgin County and the City of St. Thomas to ensure courteous and fair urban and rural representation.

C. St. John indicated she would take these nuances into consideration during her biennial Board policy review and then bring forward a report with her recommendations for consideration.

D. Warden nominated B. Martin for the position of Chair for 2024. B. Martin allowed her name to stand for nomination. J. Preston seconded the nomination.

J. Herbert nominated J. Preston for the position of Chair for 2024. J. Preston respectfully declined the nomination, citing his full commitments as Mayor of St. Thomas, and expressed his wish to remain an active Board member, nevertheless.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0124-1.5A)

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by J. Preston

That Bernia Martin be Chair of the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health for the year of 2024.

Carried.

D. Warden expressed his thanks to J. Preston for his tremendous contributions and service to the Board of Health and his hope that he remains with the Board, respecting his many commitments.

D. Mayberry nominated G. Jones for the position of Vice Chair for 2024. G. Jones indicated via text message with D. Mayberry his acceptance of this nomination in absentia.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0124-1.5B)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by D. Warden

That Grant Jones be Vice-Chair of the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health for the year of 2024.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0124-1.5C)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by M. Ryan

That the Board of Health Chair for Southwestern Public Health delegate the Chief Executive Office as acting “Head” for the purpose of ensuring day-to-day fulfilment of Southwestern Public Health’s compliance obligations under the Municipal Freedom and Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) for the year 2024.

Carried.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0124-2.1)

Moved by D. Shinedling

Seconded by M. Peterson

That the minutes for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for November 22, 2023 be approved.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0124-2.2)

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by M. Peterson

That the minutes for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for December 22, 2023 be approved.

Carried.

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA

No Items.

4.0 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED REQUIRING ACTION

C. St. John reviewed the letters of correspondence.

M. Ryan applauded the letter written by the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) regarding voluntary mergers and expressed his hope for a report indicating criteria and measures used to assess the suitability of potential merger partners.

C. St. John responded that it was the recommendation of the Board to enlist the support of a consultant to develop measurable indicators of what success would look like if a merger happened, acknowledging the Board's commitment to the importance of improved health outcomes in its communities.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0124-4.1)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by J. Preston

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health support correspondence:
4.1 Intimate Partner Violence Public Health Action Letter to the Premier; 4.2 Voluntary Mergers Component of the Strengthening Public Health Initiative; and
4.3 Investing in a Sustainable Federal School Food Policy

Carried.

5.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR INFORMATION.DISCUSSION.DECISION

5.1 Monitoring Food Affordability in the SWPH-Region and Effective Policy-Based Solutions for January 25, 2024

Kendall Chambers and Randie Gregoire presented the report, acknowledging the contributions of their colleague, Rebecca Wallace (who attended virtually).

J. Herbert asked how those who face food insecurity are able to get by. K. Chambers noted that many residents regularly access food banks, community programs, and shelters.

D. Shinedling asked how organizations become involved in the living wage program. Randie Gregoire cited the Ontario Living Wage Network (OLWN) which certifies organizations through an employer program.

M. Ryan asked if SWPH is a certified living wage employer. C. St. John confirmed that Southwestern Public Health will be applying to become a Living Wage Employer as noted in the recommendations.

M. Peterson asked if there are measures in place in schools for students who may be in need. K. Chambers noted that staff have been hearing of more concerns about food insecurity in the community and that SWPH works to support schools with programs where possible. K. Chambers highlighted that SWPH is trying to work toward more income-based solutions to support people for while there may be many individuals accessing these programs, it typically only represents a fraction of those that are in need.

P. Heywood indicated that the letter the Board just endorsed earlier, Investing in a Sustainable Federal School Food Policy, is a \$1 billion dollar investment to provide healthier choices in schools and generate healthier outcomes as well.

M. Ryan praised the report and is strongly in favor of the recommendations. He suggested adding correspondence from SWPH to its funding municipal partners to consider endorsing measures such as advocacy and seeking certification as a living wage employer, supporting the amendment of the motion to the Board.

S. Molnar concurred, praising the report, and asked if there were any additional advocacy measures that can be done regarding the federal government.

P. Heywood noted Bill S-233 (guaranteed livable basic income) is currently with the Senate and they have completed the second reading and will be going to committee. When consultation opens, SWPH will be present to provide insight regarding household food insecurity as well as universal income.

L. Rowden referenced Harvest Hands, a local non-profit that redistributes foods to prevent wastage and connect people with food resources and asked if such operations should be used more. K. Chambers agreed such initiatives are very positive and has been used by community groups. She noted that SWPH has looked at food access as part of a larger food systems discussion that could be framed as a way of supporting community food security.

D. Shinedling asked what the financial impact of becoming a Living Wage Employer would be to SWPH.

C. St. John noted that the cost is negligible since all permanent positions are paid above the living wage threshold. She did note that SWPH will also work with external agencies providing services to SWPH to also consider paying a living wage.

D. Shinedling asked if there is a plan to write a report or go in person to present when consultations open regarding Bill S-233.

P. Heywood explained that when a consultation period opens, respective agencies are notified and given a set timeframe to respond. SWPH generates a response via collaboration with community partners and agencies to inform recommendations based on a review of the legislation via a consultation package.

D. Shinedling asked if there was a more detailed breakdown of where these groups fall within the catchment areas and if there are any regional areas of concern.

K. Chambers noted that SWPH's Foundational Standards team could provide more local data based on Statistics Canada, but also noted that some information was more anecdotal than fact-based. R. Gregoire added that they could look to their local Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) for additional data if possible.

M. Ryan reiterated his support for the income-based solutions in the report as effective preventative measures that could be integrated in community safety well-being plans. D. Mayberry supported the amendment to the motion, asking that the report and handout be circulated to all area municipalities.

B. Martin indicated her full support of the addition to the motion.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0124-5.1)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by M. Ryan

That Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the report entitled "Monitoring Food Affordability in the SWPH-Region and Effective Policy-Based Solutions" for January 25, 2024, including SWPH's application to become a Living Wage Employer, and as amended with the additional recommendation that the report be circulated to member municipalities for consideration and adoption.

Carried.

K. Chambers, R. Gregoire, and M. Van Wylie left the meeting at 2:05pm.

5.2 Medical Officer of Health's Report

Dr. Tran reviewed his report.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0124-5.2)

Moved by J. Preston

Seconded by M. Peterson

That Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Medical Officer of Health's report for January 25, 2024.

Carried.

5.3 Chief Executive Officer's Report

C. St. John reviewed her report.

S. Molnar asked for clarity regarding section 1.1 regarding the report's reference to municipalities. C. St. John noted the use refers to all local municipalities, and not just obligated municipalities.

Regarding the Land Acknowledgement (LA), M. Ryan asked if SWPH has had meaningful consultations with the relevant First Nations that are mentioned.

M. Cornwell noted SWPH connected with the Indigenous agency, Atlohsa, and some cultural safety trainers, and there will be additional work regarding consultation processes as the LA will be an iterative practice that develops over time.

M. Ryan noted that the work SWPH has done thus far is excellent, but also noted that, based on his awareness of an array of positive and negative responses to Land Acknowledgements from local First Nations, suggested the organization not move forward in its use of the LA until more meaningful conversations have occurred.

M. Ryan noted that it befits SWPH as an organization to treat the LA as address to the First Nations in our region. M. Peterson identified that some local groups are sensitive to being referenced without consultation. C. Agar agreed with M. Ryan that it would be worthwhile to meet with local groups and to learn if they wish to be referenced. J. Preston concurred, noting there is a duty to consult with regards to the Truth and Reconciliation process.

C. St. John noted the user guide was developed as a starting point to reach out and seek consultation with local First Nations and staff will provide a follow-up report for the Board's consideration later in the year.

J. Herbert asked that the use of the Land Acknowledgement be deferred pending the CEO's follow-up report. B. Martin agreed that an amendment would be noted in the motion. D. Mayberry and M. Ryan supported the amendment.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0124-5.2)

Moved by M. Ryan

Seconded by M. Peterson

That Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's report for January 25, 2024 as amended.

Carried.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

M. Peterson noted the high levels of sodium in the Town of Bright and that many residents indicated a lack of awareness regarding this issue, asking that SWPH provide more active notice to those residents.

P. Heywood noted that annual reminders such as health information advisories are included in their utility bills, as well as general health advisories.

C. St. John & M. Cornwell noted that a general advisory on higher sodium and fluoride levels in the Oxford region went out on SWPH's social media channels but they would review the messaging re: timing and clarity.

Dr. Tran noted that after general messaging is provided, more specific messaging can be more complex, but further strategies to distribute information would be considered by the team.

7.0 TO CLOSED SESSION

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0124-C7)

Moved by D. Shinedling

Seconded by M. Peterson

That the Board of Health move 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 # (2024-BOH-0124-C8)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by M. Peterson

That the Board of Health rise with a report.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0124-C3.1)

Moved by J. Herbert

Seconded by M. Peterson

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's Report for January 25, 2024.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0124-C3.2)

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by L. Rowden

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the Special Ad Hoc Strengthening Public Health Report for January 25, 2024.

Carried.

9.0 FUTURE MEETING & EVENTS

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

That the meeting adjourns at 3:46 p.m. to meet again on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0124-10)

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by J. Preston

That the meeting adjourns at 3:46 p.m.

Carried.

Confirmed: _____

