

2012 January 6

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Patricia Coderre (Chair)
Mr. Al Edmondson (Past Chair)
Ms. Viola Poletes Montgomery (Vice Chair)

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Graham Pollett, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
(Recorder)
Mr. John Millson, Director, Finance and Operations Services

Chair Coderre called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Initial discussion focused on recent developments concerning City Council's 2012 budget target for the Board of Health. Also reviewed were the changing economic conditions in London over the past 3-4 months. This included the high unemployment rate (London's rate at 9.6% is second only to Windsor among urban centres in Canada), a situation potentially worsened should the Electro-Motive Diesel plant be permanently closed.

Two options for addressing these developments were considered:

Option 1

Hold to budget submission of 0% (i.e. same level of funding since 2004).

Pros

- 1) This can be defended on basis of there having been no increase in City funding since 2004.
- 2) This can be defended on a service delivery perspective (Provincial direction).
- 3) This can be defended on a legislative basis i.e. HPPA clearly states the Board of Health sets the budget and the obligated municipalities must provide their share of that budget.

Cons

- 1) Gives the perception the Board is not being co-operative in assisting City Council to reach its overall 2012 budget direction.
- 2) Could be perceived that the Board of Health is not being sensitive to the economic conditions in London

Option 2

Direct staff to find \$100,000 of savings through operational efficiencies such as managed gapping.

Pros

- 1) This represents a 1.6% budget reduction to the current level of City funding.
- 2) While not achieving the City Council target set for the Board of Health, it indicates the Board's willingness to co-operate in a meaningful way.
- 3) These savings could be achieved in a manner that would not result in service delivery cuts.

Cons

- 1) Any reduction to the current level of Municipal funding would be permanent.
- 2) The proposed reduction does not meet the City budget target for the Board of Health.

After lengthy discussion, the Board Executive decided to proceed with the implementation of Option 2. The Medical Officer of Health was directed to so notify all members of the Board and to seek their feedback through electronic means.

It was noted, to meet the City Council Services Review Committee January 18, 2012 agenda process deadline, the Board of Health's direction must be conveyed in writing by Monday January 9, 2012.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

Next Board of Health Meeting – **Thursday, January 19, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.**

PATRICIA L. CODERRE
Chair

GRAHAM L. POLLETT
Secretary-Treasurer