

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Bryna Warshawsky, Acting Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2013 February 19

FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE – DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Recommendation

It is recommended the Board of Health review and approve the draft Terms of Reference for the Finance and Property Committee attached as [Appendix A](#).

Key Points

- The Board of Health shall strive to achieve the needed capacity and resources required to meet the Ontario Public Health Standards, as required by the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.
- To provide the needed attention to the financial management of the Health Unit as a result of limited resources, the Board of Health wishes to form a Finance and Property Committee, the draft Terms of Reference of which is attached as Appendix A.

Background

The [Health Protection & Promotion Act](#) sets out the obligations that boards of health must meet including the requirements of both the [Ontario Public Health Standards](#) (OPHS) and the [Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards](#) (OPHOS). In addition, boards of health have other duties and responsibilities which relate to their role as employers, holders of personal and personal health information, corporate entities, service providers and so on.

A foundational standard of the OPHS is that “all boards of health shall strive to achieve the needed capacity and resources required to meet the standards”. Understanding local public health capacity and the resources required to achieve desired outcomes is essential for providing effective public health programs and services.

However, the current economic climate of fiscal restraint makes it challenging for the Board to meet its obligations and requirements as described above. Therefore, in an effort to better understand how best to utilize limited resources to achieve desired public health outcomes, the Board of Health has decided to form a Finance and Property Committee.

Finance and Property Committee – A New Standing Committee

The need for a Finance and Property Committee has been identified and considered over the past year. Reduced growth in provincial grants, along with the desire for local municipal governments to achieve zero (or near zero) growth in property taxes have placed increased pressure on the Board of Health to reduce operational costs.

At the January 17th, 2013 Board of Health meeting the following resolutions were made after a discussion of having standing committees in 2013.

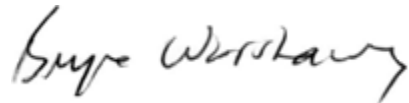
It was moved by Ms. Poole, seconded by Ms. White;

1. *That the Board of Health establish, in principle, a standing committee on property and finance; and further,*
2. *That staff be directed to develop a draft Terms of Reference for the committee for discussion at a future Board of Health meeting.*

In previous years the Board of Health has met as a whole Board. The addition of a Finance and Property Committee will allow the Board to give added attention to the financial management and oversight of the Health Unit, while maintaining their ability to give full attention to governing public health programs and services in Middlesex-London.

Attached as [Appendix A](#) is a draft Terms of Reference for a Finance and Property Committee for the Board's consideration.

This report was prepared by Mr. John Millson, Director, Finance and Operations.



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