
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report CSS-03-2024 Update on Voluntary Health Merger and Appointment of Council Member to Board of Health



For Consideration by Council in Committee on December 10, 2024

OBJECTIVE:

To provide an update on the newly approved public health unit merger of the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit and the Brant County Health Unit. Further, to appoint a member of Haldimand County Council to serve as a member of the Grand Erie Public Health Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report CSS-03-2024 of the General Manager, Corporate & Social Services with respect to Update on Voluntary Health Merger and Appointment of Council Member to the new Board of Health be received;
2. AND THAT Councillor _____ be appointed to the new Board of Health for Grand Erie Public Health, effective January 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted: Megan Jamieson, CHRL, General Manager, Corporate & Social Services

Approved: Cathy Case, Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The recently approved merger between Haldimand-Norfolk Public Health Unit and the Brant County Health Unit will result in a new Board of Health (BOH), taking effect January 1, 2025. This report seeks an appointment of one (1) municipally appointed representative for the new BOH to represent Haldimand County.

BACKGROUND:

Following the 2023 Ministry of Health's announcement to support and fund mergers among local public health agencies, the Boards of Health for the Haldimand-Norfolk Public Health Unit and the Brant County Health Unit voted in favour of merging. A business case supporting the two-way merger was completed and submitted to the province detailing the proposed logistics of combining the two entities, including significant financial investments that would be required by the Province over the next five years.

On Monday, December 2, 2024, the proposed merger, including required funding, was approved by the Ministry of Health. Accordingly, on January 1, 2025, both the Board of Health for Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit and the Board of Health for Brant County Health Unit will cease to exist and operate. The new health unit, operating as Grand Erie Public Health (GEPH) will have one autonomous Board of Health under the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA).

ANALYSIS:

The approved Board of Health governance structure provides for a Board with a maximum of 11 members:

- Six (6) directly municipal appointed representatives:
 - Two from City of Brantford
 - Two from Norfolk County
 - One from County of Brant
 - One from Haldimand County
- As per HPPA, up to five representatives (i.e. one less than the number of municipal appointees) may be appointed by the Province of Ontario.

The GEPH Board will be making recommendations to the province based on nominations submitted by each geographical area, in order to enhance equal representation and bring community voices with diverse backgrounds to the board.

Therefore to have the representatives in place for the commencement of the new entities operation each Municipal Partner is required to appoint its allocated members in advance of January 1st 2025.

Haldimand County will require one municipally appointed representative.

This appointment, and subsequent participation on the board, will ensure that Haldimand has representation at the associated Board of Health for the first time since the County's inception in 2001.

Since this is a newly formed governance model, it is uncertain what the time commitment will be for the municipal representative. Additionally, there is not any information available currently on expense reimbursement, stipends, professional development, etc. that may or may not apply. It is expected that such parameters will be established within the coming months. Until such time that this is determined, the Council appointee will be eligible to submit travel expenses through their normal Councillor expense reimbursement process.

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

Not applicable.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

REFERENCES:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.