

MINUTES

Timiskaming Health Unit Board of Health

Special Meeting held on March 25, 2024 at 4:30 P.M.

Microsoft Teams

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Board of Health Members

Stacy Wight	Chair, Municipal Appointee of Kirkland Lake
Casey Owens	Municipal Appointee for Town of Kirkland Lake
Jeff Laferriere	Municipal Appointee for Temiskaming Shores
Curtis Arthur	Provincial Appointee
Guy Godmaire	Municipal Representative for Township of Brethour, Harris, Harley & Casey, Village of Thornloe
Steve McIntyre	Municipal Appointee for Township of Armstrong, Hudson, James, Kerns & Matachewan
Carol Lowery	Municipal Appointee for Town of Cobalt, Town of Latchford, Municipality of Temagami, and Township of Coleman
Paul Kelly	Municipal Appointee for Township of Larder Lake, McGarry & Gauthier
Cathy Dwyer	Provincial Appointee
Todd Steis	Provincial Appointee
David Lowe	Provincial Appointee

Regrets

Mark Wilson	Municipal Appointee for Temiskaming Shores
Gord Saunders	Municipal Appointee for Township of Chamberlain, Charlton, Evanturel, Hilliard, Dack & Town of Englehart
Jesse Foley	Vice-Chair, Municipal Appointee for Temiskaming Shores

Timiskaming Health Unit Staff Members

Dr. Glenn Corneil	Acting Medical Officer of Health/CEO
Randy Winters	Director of Corporate and Protection Services
Erin Cowan	Director of Strategic Services and Health Promotion
Rachelle Cote	Executive Assistant

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION #1S-2024

Moved by: Jeff Laferriere

Seconded by: Guy Godmaire

Be it resolved that the Board of Health adopts the agenda for its special meeting held on March 25, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

4. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE**

None.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **BOH Merger Working Group Minutes**

Minutes of February 27 were shared for information.

b. **Proposed Recommendations for Discussion**

i. **Board of Health Sub-Committee**

MOTION #2S-2024

Moved by: Paul Kelly

Seconded by: Casey Owens

Be it resolved that the Board of Health approves the creation of a Finance Board of Health sub-committee for the merged public health agency.

CARRIED

ii. **Formal Intent to Merge**

Dr. Corneil reaffirmed the benefits of voluntary merging with Porcupine Health Unit. After many meetings, discussions and planning, the PHU-THU will be submitting the merger application to the ministry on April 2, 2024, including the following motion:

MOTION #3S-2024

Moved by: Guy Godmaire

Seconded by: Casey Owens

WHEREAS the Boards of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit have long recognized the opportunity to strengthen local public health across the combined region through a voluntary merger with funding from the Ministry of Health and direction from the Boards of Health to move forward exploring this since 2020; and,

WHEREAS the Boards of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit, each passed a resolution in October-November 2023 to direct their Medical Officers of Health/Chief Executive Officers (MOH/CEOs) to work towards a voluntary merger between the Porcupine and Timiskaming Health Units; and,

WHEREAS the Boards of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit do not support discussions nor work towards mergers beyond these two health units; and,

WHEREAS the MOH/CEOs for the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit have since undertaken a process of collaboration, negotiation, and joint engagement, along with the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit

Boards of Health and senior management teams to pursue this merger with the development of the required Ministry of Health Voluntary Merger Business Case; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit agrees to voluntarily merge to strengthen public health across their combined region, subject to the following conditions:

- a. The Government approves the intended merger; and,
- b. The Government commits to providing adequate and appropriate funding to the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit to support the intended merger, including transition costs and business continuity funding.

FURTHERMORE, that the Boards of Health authorize the MOH/CEO to forward a copy of this resolution to the Ministry of Health;

AND FURTHER, that the Boards of Health authorize the MOH/CEO to forward the Voluntary Merger Business Case to the Ministry no later than April 2, 2024, fully signed by the MOH/CEOs and Board Chairs for the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit, confirming agreement on intent to merge Porcupine Health Unit and Timiskaming Health Unit, pending government approval.

CARRIED

iii. **Board of Health Composition**

A briefing note was shared for information. Dr. Corneil briefed the board on the discussions and criteria agreed on by the BOH Merger Working group. The proposed composition based on agreed principles, both geographical and population-based considerations was utilized to determine municipal representation.

Note: should any of the PHU grouping of municipal representation be modified, the THU motion will not be affected, if the changes are minor.

MOTION #45-2024

Moved by: Casey Owens

Seconded by: Curt Arthur

Be it resolved that the Board of Health approves the Board of Health composition for the merged local public health agency as presented.

CARRIED

Municipality	Current Health Unit Area	Number of Appointees (10)	Population Size
City of Timmins	Porcupine Health Unit	2	41,145
Temiskaming Shores	Timiskaming Health Unit	1	9,634
Kapuskasing	Porcupine Health Unit	1	8,057
Kirkland Lake	Timiskaming Health Unit	1	7,750
Cochrane and surrounding (Smooth Rock Falls,)	Porcupine Health Unit	1	6,608
Hearst and surrounding (Mattice Val Cote, Moonbeam, Val Rita Harty, Opasatika, Fauquier-Strickland, Hornepayne)	Porcupine Health Unit	1	8,885
Iroquois Falls and surrounding (Black River Matheson, Larder Lake, McGarry, Gauthier, Matachewan)	Porcupine Health Unit / Timiskaming Health Unit	1	8,733
Rural South (Charlton & Dack, Englehart, Chamberlain, Evanturel, Armstrong, Bréthour, Casey, Cobalt, Coleman, Harley, Harris, Hilliard, Hudson, James, Kerns, Latchford, Temagami, Thornloe)	Timiskaming Health Unit	1	9,878
Moosonee (James Bay and Hudson Bay region)	Porcupine Health Unit	1	1,471

6. **DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

The next regular Board of Health meeting will be held on April 3, 2024 at 6:30 pm in New Liskeard.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION #5S-2024

Moved by: Todd Steis

Seconded by: Guy Godmaire

Be it resolved that the Board of Health agrees to adjourn the special meeting at 5:26 pm.

CARRIED

Stacy Wight, Board Chair

Rachelle Cote, Recorder