



Board of Health Meeting Summary

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Wastewater Surveillance

Dr. Thomas Piggott, Medical Officer of Health and CEO of Peterborough Public Health was joined by Dr. Christopher Kyle, Professor of Forensic Science at Trent University, to present to the Board of Health. They shared an update regarding the end of provincial wastewater surveillance funding and the impact this would have on current and future disease surveillance for the region. Dr. Piggott shared that wastewater surveillance became a critical tool for the community during the COVID-19 Omicron wave in 2021, as testing capacity was limited, and wastewater data was used to gain a more accurate understanding of local transmission and disease prevalence. In addition, wastewater surveillance can be used to detect the presence of new and rare diseases and is the most cost-effective way to monitor local transmission. As the provincial funding for this program is ending at the end of July, the Board of Health approved funding locally to maintain the program for the rest of 2024 and 2025, and advocate to the province to reconsider the funding cut.

Stewardship Committee Report: 2023 Draft Audited Financial Statements

Mayor Matthew Graham discussed the most recent meeting of the Stewardship Committee and their review of the Audited Financial Statements for the 2023 budget year. Graham relayed that there were no issues identified by the auditors and that the results indicated that the 2023 budget was managed effectively and in accordance with the Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) Review

Dr. Thomas Piggott, Larry Stinson, Director of Operations, Donna Churipuy, Director of Health Protection, and Hallie Atter, Director of Health Promotion presented a summary of the draft changes to the OPHS and the impact these may have on current programs and capacity. Overall, the draft provided no drastic changes from the current standards. As there are already capacity limitations in meeting the current standards, the draft standards are expected to lead to the same issue if approved as is. It was noted that funding is anticipated to be needed beyond the 1% per year increase that the province previously committed to be compliant with all the standards.