

Meeting Minutes Capital Regional Hospital District Board

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

1:45 PM

6th Floor Boardroom

Present:

Directors: R. Atwell, M. Alto, D Blackwell, S. Brice, J. Brownoff, V. Derman, B. Desjardins, A. Finall, C. Hamilton, L. Helps, M. Hicks, B. Isitt, N. Jensen, R. Kasper, P. LeBlond (for D. Howe), W. McIntyre, C. Plant, S. Price, J. Ranns, D. Screech, L. Seaton, K. Williams, R. Windsor and G. Young

Staff: R. Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer; L. Hutcheson, General Manager, Parks and Environmental Services; D. Lokken, General Manager, Finance and Technology; T. Robbins, General Manager, Integrated Water Services; K. Lorette, General Manager, Planning and Protective Services; C. Culham, Senior Manager, Capital Region Housing Corporation Operations, M. Rachwalski, Senior Manager, Health and Capital Planning; S. Santarossa, Corporate Officer; Committee Clerks A. Boyd, N. More and P. Perna; and S. Norton, Deputy Corporate Officer (Recorder)

Also Present: M. Hargraves, CRD solicitor

INAUGURAL AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER - Chief Administrative Officer

R. Lapham called the meeting to order at 2:20 pm.

ELECTION OF CHAIR (pursuant to Section 13 of the Hospital District Act)

R. Lapham called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Capital Regional Hospital District Board for 2016. He noted that only one nominator is required and no seconder is necessary.

Director Brice nominated Director Howe. It was noted that Director Howe has accepted the nomination by email.

R. Lapham called for nominations a second and third time and hearing none, declared nominations closed and declared Director Howe Chair of the Hospital District Board for 2016 by acclamation.

ELECTION OF ACTING CHAIR (pursuant to Section 13 of the Hospital District Act)

R. Lapham called for nominations for the position of Acting Chair of the Capital Regional Hospital District Board for 2016. He noted that only one nominator is required and no seconder is necessary.

Director Brice nominated Director Desjardins. Director Desjardins accepted the nomination.

R. Lapham called for nominations a second and third time and hearing none, declared nominations closed and declared Director Desjardins acting Chair of the Hospital District Board for 2016 by acclamation.

Acting Chair Desjardins assumed the Chair.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOVED by Director Helps, SECONDED by Director Derman,
That the agenda and the supplementary agenda be approved.
CARRIED**

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1. 15-1290 Minutes of Capital Regional Hospital District Board Meeting of November 4, 2015

**MOVED by Director Helps, SECONDED by Director Seaton,
The the minutes of the November 4, 2015 meeting be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED**

3. REPORT OF THE CHAIR - none

4. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

4.1 Presentations

4.2 Delegations

Director Finall left the meeting at 2:23 pm.

4.2.1. 15-1326 Eko Goldberg, Homes for All, re Items 5.1 and 6.1

Eko Joshua Goldberg spoke in favour of the recommendations in Item 5.1. Using a PowerPoint presentation, he reviewed: a definition of "home"; impacts of homelessness on the individuals and the community; community support for provision of affordable housing; statistics on homelessness in the CRD; principles of a "Housing First" model; next steps to complement the recommendations. The delegation provided a PowerPoint presentation, on file at Legislative and Information Services.

4.2.2. 15-1331 Stephen Portman, Together Against Poverty Society, re Items 5.1 and 6.1

Directors Finall and Windsor returned to the meeting at 2:26 pm.

Stephen Portman spoke in favour of the recommendations in Item 5.1. He noted the hardship on individuals without the basic right of shelter. Further to the staff recommendations, he requested that the homeless people should be

involved in the design and development of the program to ensure that the money being spent meets their needs.

4.2.3. 15-1332

Colin Nielsen re items 5.1 and 6.1

Colin Nielsen spoke in favour of the recommendations in Item 5.1. He thanked City of Victoria Council for bringing the initiative to the Hospital District Board and CRD staff for the report and recommendations, and noted that homelessness is a regional problem, which has previously been ranked as an important issue along with the related issues of cost of living, mental health and cost of housing. In closing, he urged the Board to move forward on the recommendations to provide the homeless with the basic need of shelter. The delegation provided a written submission, on file at Legislative and Information Services.

4.2.4 15-1333

Kathy Stinson, Victoria Cool Aid Society & Downtown Service Provides Committee re Items 5.1 and 6.1

Kathy Stinson spoke in favour of the recommendations in Item 5.1. on behalf of the Cool Aid Society and the Downtown Service Providers (DSP). She noted that Island Health, as a member of DSP, abstained support because this type of advocacy was outside the mandate of the participants at the table. Speaking to each recommendation, she noted that: the funding will help housing for the homeless to be created; service supports are critical to the success of the homeless people in this housing; and the policy and program framework will bring together willing partners. K. Stinson advised that the Cool Aid Society has a plan to rebuild or repurpose a 360-unit apartment building for the homeless and has made a commitment of raising \$5 million from the community. She noted that 185 of those units could be delivered now if sufficient capital funds were made available from government partners.

4.2.5 15-1334

Beth Burton-Krahn re Item 5.1

Councillor Burton-Krahn spoke in favour of the recommendations in Item 5.1. She provided personal and professional examples of the affect of alcoholism and drug addiction toward a spiral of destruction for the individual. Councillor Burton-Krahn remarked that the proposed Housing First Strategy outlined in the staff report will help people at various risk levels to rebuild their lives with secure shelter and the necessary supportive services. In endorsing the recommendations, she noted that the region will take an active leadership role and capitalize on renewed partnership opportunities.

4.2.6. 15-1327

Councillor Jeremy Loveday re items 5.1 and 6.1

Councillor Jeremy Loveday spoke in favour of the recommendations in Item 5.1. He noted that this historic decision shows that the region as a whole is ready to work collaboratively with other partners to end homelessness.

4.2.7. 15-1328

Jon Ede, Freedom from Homelessness Society Inc. re items 5.1 and 6.1

Jon Ede spoke in favour of the recommendations in Item 5.1. He advised that he is currently living in the tent city as a choice. He referenced the website that

has been set up by the Society. He introduced Cara, who, by providing personal examples, explained the need to have well managed and safe housing as well as support services.

5. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

5.1. 15-1293 Regional Housing First Strategy “Feasibility Study”

R. Lapham reviewed the staff report and recommendations for the Capital Regional Hospital District or the Capital Regional District to serve as the lead agency to develop and implement a plan for new housing units with supports to substantially reduce homelessness in the capital region by 2018. He responded to questions regarding:

- the requirement to seek borrowing authority for the land banking and housing function for the proposed \$30 million seed money
- seeking matching funding from the Province
- reporting back to the Board on the borrowing authority and involvement of other partners, which could include the federal government
- various CRD entities which could be involved
- spreading the borrowing over a few years
- role of the Regional Housing Trust Fund Commission to focus more on those people categorized as hard to house

A motion was put forward that combined recommendations a) and b) of the staff report, and renumbered c) as b).

This Action Report was recommended for approval.

Discussion ensued on the motion. There was support for the motion and staff were thanked for the report and proposed action plan. Concern was expressed regarding presenting this issue to the Hospital District Board. Staff noted that the motion was recommended to the CRD Board and that the Hospital District could provide funding for some projects.

Director Blackwell left the meeting at 3:34 pm.

The question on the motion was called.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Blackwell returned to the meeting at 3:36 pm.

Referring to the comments made by the speakers about the importance of involving the people affected by homelessness in the program design and development, an additional motion was put forward.

MOVED by Director Isitt, SECONDED by Director Helps,

c) That staff be directed to work with partners to engage street-involved people on housing and support needs, and desired housing forms, to inform recommendations on operational models in the policy and program framework referenced in the previous motion.

CARRIED

6. MOTION WITH NOTICE

6.1. 15-1079 Improved Health Outcomes through a Regional Housing First Strategy

MOVED by Director Isitt, **SECONDED** by Director Helps,
That the following previous motion of October 14, 2015 be received for
information:

That the Capital Regional Hospital District Board:

- 1) Write the Prime Minister of Canada and federal Cabinet requesting that - in the context of developing a National Housing Strategy - the Federal Government immediately commit funding in partnership with other funders to provide 367 individuals with housing options and support services needed to address chronic homelessness in the Capital Region. This would reduce or eliminate the requirement for local taxpayer funding toward the capital costs and reflect the Government of Canada's traditional role in supporting the health outcomes and housing needs of Canadians;
- 2) Write the Premier of British Columbia and Cabinet requesting a Provincial commitment toward the annual operating costs of housing with supports for at least 367 individuals, estimated at \$8.2 million annually (based on \$22,219 per person per year) for the necessary clinical and social supports, and an additional 182 rental supplements estimated at \$982,800 annually. Specific amounts and type of supports would be determined on a project by project basis.
- 3) Refer this motion and attachments to member municipalities and Electoral Areas of the Capital Regional Hospital District (CRHD), to Island Health and to BC Housing requesting feedback by November 6, 2015;
- 4) Direct staff to undertake the following and return to the CRHD Board with recommendations:
 - a) was considered on October 14, 2015 which resulted in the staff report for Agenda Item 5.1];
 - b) Develop detailed annual servicing cost estimates (principal and interest) and property tax impact for an initial 185 new units of supportive housing based on capital costs of \$30 million in time for potential inclusion in the 2016 budget;
 - c) Explore options for alternative funding and financing of the estimated \$30 million capital costs of housing with supports to reduce the burden on local taxpayers. Options would include social impact investing, contributions from other levels of government, contributions of land and other non-financial tangible assets, and philanthropic and/or private contributions.

CARRIED

7. NEW BUSINESS - none

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Director Helps, **SECONDED** by Director Brice,
That the meeting be adjourned at 3:29 pm.
CARRIED

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER