



**Board of Health**  
**Special Board Meeting**  
**MINUTES**

Date: Monday, March 18, 2024  
Time: 10:00 a.m.

The Special board meeting of the Renfrew County and District Health Unit’s Board of Health was held virtually on Zoom

**Members:**

Joanne King	Chair
Neil Nicholson	Vice-Chair
James Brose	Member
J. Michael du Manoir	Member
Peter Emon	Member
Ethel LaValley	Member
Jim Manion	Member
Jennifer Murphy	Member
Troy Purcell	Member
Heather Saar	Member
Carolyn Watt	Member

**Staff:**

Heather G. Daly	Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Ian Gemmill	Physician Consultant
Dr. Jason Morgenstern	Medical Officer of Health
Melissa Ziebarth	Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

**Regrets:**

None

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Joanne King called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

RCDHU is located on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe People.

We honour the land and peoples of the Algonquin Anishinaabe, whose ancestors have lived on this territory since time immemorial, and whose culture and presence have nurtured and continue to nurture this land.

We honour all First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples, their elders, their ancestors, and their valuable past and present contributions to this land.

Migwech.

### 3. **Agenda Approval**

The agenda was approved, as presented.

#### **Resolution: #1 SBoH 2024-Mar-18**

Moved by J. M. du Manoir;

Seconded by J. Brose;

Be it resolved that the Board approve the meeting agenda as presented.

Carried

### 4. **Delegations**

There were no delegations.

### 5. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

No declarations of Conflict of Interest.

### 6. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The meeting minutes for the Special Board meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2024, were approved.

#### **Resolution: #2 SBoH 2024-Mar-18**

Moved by J. Murphy;

Seconded by T. Purcell;

Be it resolved that the Board of Health approve the meeting minutes from the Special Board meeting held on Thursday, March 14, 2024, as presented.

Carried

### 7. **Closed**

#### **Resolution: #3 SBoH 2024-Mar-18**

Moved by T. Purcell;

Seconded by N. Nicholson;

Be it resolved that the Board move into a closed meeting at 10:05 a.m. to discuss: (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees, per *Municipal Act 2001, c. 25, s. 239 (2)(b)*. and to discuss: xi. a position, plan procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations, carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board.

Chair King verified that all Members were alone and in a secure location before the meeting moved into the closed session.

The Board of Health meeting resumed at 11:04 a.m.

The Chair rose to report that the Board met in a closed meeting to discuss (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees, per *Municipal Act 2001, c. 25, s. 239 (2)(b)*. and to discuss: xi. a position, plan procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations, carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board.

These motions were brought forward following discussion during the closed session:

**Resolution: #4 SBoH 2024-Mar-18**

Moved by T. Purcell;

Seconded by J. Brose;

**Whereas**, the Ministry of Health in August 2023 announced its Strengthening Public Health initiative which includes funding voluntary Health Unit mergers (as outlined in the Outcomes and Objectives to Support Voluntary Mergers October 2023 document), revising the Ontario Public Health Standards and a new Public Health funding formula; and

**Whereas**, a merger of health units could enhance efficiency, strengthen public health programs, improve services, enhance surge response and emergency capacity, and to foster collaboration with local partners; and

**Whereas**, the ministry has indicated that the goals of mergers are not to reduce staffing and resources; and

**Whereas**, the Boards of Health for the Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) passed a resolution in November 2023 to seek provincial funding to hire an external consultant to study the feasibility of a voluntary merger of RCDHU with neighbouring health units; and

**Whereas**, RCDHU and North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (NBPSDHU) jointly pursued a feasibility study, resulting in the Merger Feasibility Report by Sense & Nous Consultancy dated February 2024, delivered to the RCDHU and NBPSDHU Boards of Health; and

**Whereas**, RCDHU jointly pursued a feasibility study for a three health unit merger with the Boards of Health for Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) and Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit (LGLDHU) resulting in the Merger Feasibility Report by Sense & Nous Consultancy dated March 2024, delivered to the three Boards of Health; and

**Whereas**, the feasibility of the three health unit merger of EOHU, LGLDHU and RCDHU did not provide for an optimum merger solution and was not pursued further; and

**Whereas**, RCDHU and NBPSDHU serve their respective communities with dedication; and

**Whereas**, the merger is expected to be finalized in 2025, pending government approval.

**Therefore, Be it Resolved**, that the Board of Health for Renfrew County and District Health Unit:

Agrees in principle to merge with NBPSDHU, subject to the following conditions:

1. The Government of Ontario approves the intended merger and this Board in its sole discretion is satisfied that this approval will enable RCDHU and NBPSDHU to successfully complete the intended merger; and
2. This Board in its sole discretion is satisfied that the funding commitment from the Government of Ontario is sufficient to enable RCDHU and NBPSDHU to successfully complete the intended merger, including one-time and ongoing transition costs during the transition period, (e.g., service and wage harmonization) and business continuity/stabilization funding in amounts sufficient to ensure program and service delivery stability while change is underway; and
3. The legal merger of RCDHU and NBPSDHU (if any) will only be affected in accordance with the terms and conditions of a merger agreement to be negotiated through an additional process that will address important issues including but not limited to, composition of the membership for the new board of health, physical office locations, improving services related to indigenous populations to ensure equitable service delivery, the design of senior management structure, including the MOHs and CEO, maintaining key positions within both health units for continuity and resolution of the current discrepancy in municipal funding levels between RCDHU and NBPSDHU; and
4. The negotiation, due diligence, consultations and implementation plan activities do not identify any material issue that this Board in its sole discretion determines will undermine its assessment of the feasibility of the intended merger with NBPSDHU such that the Board no longer supports the intent to merge; and,
5. The NBPSDHU Board of Health has expressed its intent to merge with RCDHU by resolution on March 11, 2024, and that this Board in its sole discretion is satisfied this resolution is substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RCDHU resolution.

The RCDHU MOH, CEO and Board Chair, along with two (2) other RCDHU Board of Health members appointed to the Joint Merger Working Group be directed to further negotiate within the Joint Merger Working Group to complete a Voluntary Merger Business Case for submission to the Ministry no later than April

2, 2024, fully signed by the Board Chair, MOH and CEO for RCDHU and the Board Chairperson and MOH/EO for the NBPSDHU.

- The RCDHU MOH and CEO communicates this resolution to key stakeholders including the Ministry and the NBPSDHU Board Chairperson.
- The RCDHU MOH, CEO and Board Chair ensure timely reporting back to the Board on this matter at future meetings to enable subsequent Board engagement and direction.
- Once (and if) the Ministry of Health has provided information on the terms of approval of this merger, this Board will meet for deliberation and decision-making regarding whether to proceed with the intended merger.

Carried

**Recorded Vote**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>Name of Board Member</b>	<b>No</b>
	Brose, James	X
	du Manoir, J. Michael	X
	Emon, Peter	X
X	King, Joanne	
X	LaValley, Ethel	
	Manion, Jim	X
	Murphy, Jennifer	X
X	Nicholson, Neil	
X	Purcell, Troy	
	Saar, Heather	X
	Watt, Carolyn	X
4	<b>Totals</b>	7
	<b>Carried by:</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Defeated by:</b>	<b>7</b>

C. Watt left the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

T. Purcell left the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

**Resolution: #5 SBoH 2024-Mar-18**

Moved by P. Emon;

Seconded by J. Murphy;

Be it resolved that the Board of Health request staff meet with and discuss shared/combined service delivery models with the County of Renfrew, South Algonquin, City of Pembroke, and Ottawa Public Health. Understanding that the information shared, discussions and possible recommendations in some instances may be confidential and should be labelled and treated as such.

Carried

**Recorded Vote**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>Name of Board Member</b>	<b>No</b>
X	Brose, James	
X	du Manoir, J. Michael	
X	Emon, Peter	
X	King, Joanne	
X	LaValley, Ethel	
X	Manion, Jim	
X	Murphy, Jennifer	
X	Nicholson, Neil	
	Purcell, Troy	
X	Saar, Heather	
	Watt, Carolyn	
9	<b>Totals</b>	0
	<b>Carried by:</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>Defeated by:</b>	<b>0</b>

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Chair King thanked Dr. Ian Gemmill for his consulting services to the project.

**9. Adjournment**

**Resolution: #6 SBoH 2024-Mar-18**

Moved by J. Brose;

Seconded by J. Murphy;

Be it resolved that the Special board meeting be adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Carried

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Committee Chair

These minutes were approved by the Board at a Regular Board of Health meeting held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.