SUBJECT: Public Health Services Reserve BOH07051 (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That the Public Health Services Reserve be established and that it be funded in the amount of $42,300 to be transferred to the Public Health Services reserve from revenue account # 45630-677135.

(b) That any future surpluses of Enhanced Hepatitis Strain Surveillance System funding be directed to the Public Health Services reserve.

(c) That in keeping with Council’s reserve-use policy, that staff be directed to seek Council’s approval for the use of these funds either through the Budget Process or through a specific report to Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Public Health Services (PHS) entered into an agreement with the Public Health Agency of Canada in June 2006 to deliver the Enhanced Hepatitis Strain Surveillance System (EHSSS). The contract provides for the collection of additional risk factor data for Hepatitis B and C cases and is for the period June 1, 2006 through March 31, 2009. 100% funding is provided at $50,000 per fiscal year and any surplus funding remains with the City.
Staff are recommending that surplus funds be transferred to a Public Health Services reserve for use in delivering public health programs including emergency planning, emergency response and investigations that overwhelm the annual PHS budget.

**BACKGROUND:**

In June 2006, the Public Health Agency of Canada approached various health units to deliver the Enhanced Hepatitis Strain Surveillance System (EHSSS). The agreement outlines the program deliverables and provides 100% funding of $50,000 per fiscal year through to March 31, 2009.

Program staff have identified a potential surplus of $42,300 in the program for 2007. As the Public Health Agency of Canada does not require these funds to be returned if not fully utilized, these funds are available for use by PHS.

The establishment of a reserve will provide flexibility against uncertainties which inevitably arise in today’s changing health environment. PHS will be able to access these funds as required in meeting their future program needs. This may include provisions for emergency planning, emergency response and investigations that are currently not funded through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care or City’s budget, but are a vital component of PHS’ role.

**ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:**

Public Health Services is primarily funded through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care at either 75% or 100% dependant on the program. These annual budgets are capped and any excess expenditures are not subsidized. The availability of reserve funds will ensure PHS is able to provide public health programming if required outside of the traditional funding envelopes while reducing financial risks to taxpayers in the future.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

Annual surplus funding may be directed towards the Public Health Services’ year end position. This is not recommended as previous major investigations have required additional expenditures including the 1999/2000 MDR/TB investigation and the SARS response.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Not applicable.

**POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:**

Reserve-use policy.
RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

Consultation has occurred with the Corporate Services Department, Budgets and Finance Division.

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
Public services and programs are delivered in an equitable manner, coordinated, efficient, effective and easily accessible to all citizens.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
Resources to respond to emergencies and health hazards including environmental hazards /emergencies.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
Reserves provide flexibility against uncertainties, which inevitably arise in today’s changing environment.

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? ☑ Yes ☐ No