Public health received no increase from the province in funds in 2017

The paramedic portion of the budget is increasing by almost $1.5 million to make way for 12 new employees.

icant increases, but this is quite a bit this year," he said.

One of the big items on the docket was public health, which included public health resources increasing by 3.2 per cent, health environments and communicable disease increasing by 2.6 per cent, healthy families, decreasing by 0.7 per cent, and clinical health families increasing by 5.8 per cent. A $150,000 provincially-funded program will give first-aid responders naloxone kits, which are temporary but immediate kits to fight opioid overdoses.

The paramedics portion of the budget is increasing by almost $1.5 million to make way for 12 new full-time employees and to make room for re-

lief hours: an item that has not appeared on the budget previously.

Relief hours are classified as regional paramedics who are readily-available to work when current full-time staff are not, due to training, sickness or vacation.

"We've been running unfavourable variances related to personal compensation," Scinocca explained.

"A lot of it has to do with budgeting for the appropriate level of relief hours."

The capital budget is an estimated $4.2 billion.

Ruf spoke reminding committee that regional

council approved the paramedic 10-year master plan in 2015, and the planning outlined in the document features expected growth in paramedic stations.

There are two stations that will be focused on next year, one in east Milton at Fifth Line and Derry Road and one in southwest Oakville at Rebecca Street.

An additional station in Milton will be looking at design in 2018.

Ruf said emergency and non-emergency calls have risen by 55 per cent since last year, and they are expected to continue to rise next year.