



**705-382-2900**  
**[www.almaguin-health.org](http://www.almaguin-health.org)**

**Minutes: May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 via Zoom**

**Present:** Norm Hofstetter, Brad Kneller, Marianne Strickland, Dennis Banka, Rod Ward, Lyle Hall, Tom Bryson

**Regrets:** Carol Ballantyne, Cathy Still, Barbara Marlow

**Guests:** Kevin MacLeod (Executive Director BFFHT)

Call to order at 10:00am by Chair Bruce Campbell.

1. 2020-012 Moved by Lyle Hall and Seconded Rod Ward  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** The Almaguin Highlands Health Centre Committee adopt the minutes from March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as circulated. Carried.

2. Delegation: None at this time.

3. Resolutions to be passed:

2020-013 Moved by Marianne Strickland and Seconded Rod Ward

**WHERE AS** the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre Committee in 2017 learned the Burk's Falls Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) site would cease to operate due to aging equipment and lack of compatibility with other OTN sites;

**AND WHERE AS** Ontario Telemedicine Network sites are not financially supported by any Ministry or other health care service provider outside of salaries for staffing;

**AND WHERE AS** the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre Committee solicited and received ongoing funding from 12 Almaguin Highlands municipalities to replace expiring Ontario Telemedicine Network equipment.

**AND WHERE AS** the North East Local Health Integration Network provided onetime funding for the purchase of said equipment, leaving the municipal funding untouched to date;

**AND WHERE AS** The Almaguin Highlands Health Centre Committee has received service numbers from April 2016 -March 2019 based on the fiscal calendar for OTN indicating a continued increase in service delivery;

**AND WHERE AS;** In order to provide adequate service delivery, the OTN Coordinator has requested a renovation to the existing site, allowing for an expansion in square footage;

**AND THEREFORE** the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre Committee has discussed, reviewed and authorized the Secretary to explore the financial impact, with approval of the Village of Burk's Falls Council as owners of the facility to renovate the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre lunch room into a larger OTN site;

**AND THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre Committee has received, accepted and approves quotes to facilitate such expansion at a maximum cost of \$8,000.00. Carried

4. Items for Discussion

a) Financial support request for ongoing operating costs:

Members discussed the resolutions received in response to the Village of Burk's Falls Resolution #2020-16. The Committee requested a follow up letter be sent to the municipalities which have not provided correspondence. D. Banka brought forward a suggestion of contribution by population. The Committee confirmed the request for funding will remain as previously requested, future requests will be reevaluated.

b) Financial support request for onetime physician retention:

The Secretary confirmed the municipalities that have contributed to the incentive package. Of the five catchment municipalities, all but one has provided communication in favor, the fifth has not confirmed at Council their support as of the date of the meeting May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

c) Ontario Health Team update:

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, Ontario Health Teams have been paused.

d) Website and Facebook:

R. Ward provided the Committee with a review of the newly created AHHC Facebook page and the revised Website through screen sharing on Zoom.

e) Kevin MacLeod Family Health Team Executive Director provided the Committee with an update on the current procedures for the physicians and seeing patients virtually. The Ontario Telemedicine Network site for Burk's Falls is currently closed due to shortage of staff due to COVID-19.

f) Letter to the editor:

R. Ward brought forward a letter written regarding high-speed connectivity and the strain working from home during COVID-19 has placed on the usage. Advocating for improved service in the Almaguin Highlands area.

Resolution: 2020-14 Moved by Marianne Strickland and Seconded by Tom Bryson

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** The Almaguin Highlands Health Centre adjourn at 10:50am to meet again on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 10:00am. Carried.