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Minutes: Special Meeting- November 24, 2023, 1:00 pm via Zoom and at the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre

Present: Rod Ward (Chair), Delynne Patterson, Margaret Ann MacPhail, Brad Kneller, Chris Hope, Fraser Williamson (Vice Chair), Vicky Roeder-Martin, Tom Bryson, Norm Hofstetter, Jim Ronholm, Jill Sharer, Camille Barr (Secretary)

Regrets: Cheryl Philip

Called to order at 1:01pm by Chair R. Ward

1. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

a) Need to replace X-ray equipment at the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre

MAHC recently informed that the current x-ray equipment at the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre is in need of replacement. They provided to the Village of Burk's Falls and Chair R. Ward information on life expectancy, and the proposed cost for replacement, estimated at \$800,000 to one million dollars. At this meeting who was to pay for the equipment was tabled with the foundation willing to fundraise. MAHC asked that a decision regarding when this was to take place would be received for December.

Since the initial meeting R. Ward followed up with VP Diane George and Foundation CEO Kathrine Craine of MAHC. They shared that in further assessment, with parts available the machine could continue to operate for another 2-3 years. However, there is concern it could go down. So contingency plans like a portable were discussed as possible options. It was also confirmed the Foundation would raise all the funds for the replacement machine and the renovations associated with its replacement.

b) Feasibility of new community health hub for Almaguin Highlands

In a recent meeting of the AHC, Chair R. Ward spoke of the potential for a new built for purpose health centre in Almaguin. In the recent weeks it has become apparent this could be a possible reality with the investor keenly interested. With MAHC recently saying they will raise the funds for the x-ray machine the question has come to the table: Does MAHC invest in the machine replacement in the current Burk's Falls facility or put the fundraising efforts towards the new build in Almaguin (Armour).

Lots of dialogue occurred between members of council receiving clarity and seeking more information. No decision was made. The information received in the presentation must be reviewed by the municipal councils. Additionally, if municipalities are being asked to financially support a new build, an outline of the expectation would need to be received before a decision could be made. More information to follow.

2023-28 Moved by D. Patterson - Seconded by T. Bryson

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 2:45pm to meet again on December 7, 2023, at 10:00 am at the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre boardroom. Carried.

*Please review slide presentation dated November 24, 2023.