



705-382-2900  
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**Minutes:** January 9, 2025 at 10:00 am via Zoom and at the Township of Perry Municipal Office.

Present: Rod Ward (Chair), Delynne Patterson, Margaret Ann MacPhail, Vicky Roeder-Martin (Vice-Chair), Sean Cotton, Brad Kneller, Norm Hofstetter, Jim Ronholm, Cheryl Philip, Tom Bryson, Luke Preston, Ashley Soundy (Secretary)

Regrets: None

Guest: Cheryl Harrison, Sandy Zurbrigg, Isabel Pereira, Sarah Mackinnon, John Theriault, Dave Gray, Courtney Metcalf, Rocco Frangione

Called to order at 10:00 am by Chair R. Ward

1. 2025-01 Moved by Brad Kneller - Seconded by Tom Bryson  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of December 5, 2024, as circulated. Carried.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None
3. **DELEGATIONS:** None
4. **RESOLUTIONS PASSED:** None
5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

a) **Updates from MAHC**

The following was summarized by R. Ward from the MAHC Quarterly Update:

- Redevelopment application submitted to the Ministry in November should see comments coming back starting in January - the process is moving along well
- MAHC recruitment efforts have paid off over the last year as vacancy number of 350 in December 2023 have now been reduced to 80
- The MRI machine should be operational in late spring of 2025.

C. Harrison confirmed that the hospital is running at a 125% - 135% capacity due to the surge of illnesses like influenza, respiratory illness, pneumonia, etc. This is currently a problem across the province. The Covid outbreak that had a section of the hospital closed ended last week.

b) **Updates from Almaguin Highlands Family Health Team**

Rebecca Paul, Executive Director for AHFHT, will be leaving at the end of February. On December 18, 2024 Rod Ward stepped aside as Chair for the AHFHT Board and resigned from the Board.

S. MacKinnon reports that the Sundridge Medical Office has been very fortunate to receive funding to hire an additional RN and Administration personnel. Interviews will take place later this month and they are hoping to hire by February. These new positions will be focused on programming. A new Nurse Practitioner also started on January 8, 2025. Sundridge Medical is seeing a lot of wins recently.

**c) Review Updated AHC Terms of Reference**

R. Ward reviewed the updates of the Terms of Reference. Discussion took place regarding the Administrator/Secretary Responsibilities - financials portion. Follow-up regarding creation of a separate bank account for the committee is required. Resolution not carried at this time. Will discuss at a later date.

**d) Feedback from Municipal Partners – Cost-Recovery Options for 150 Huston Street Building**

A general discussion took place regarding the ongoing deficit that the facility sustains each year. C. Philip stated that the Town of Kearney passed a resolution detailing that the deficit could be assisted by other revenues such as rent be paid by the tenants in the amount of \$834/month. Noted that this should be a separate conversation between the Village of Burk's Falls and the MAHC as this is a Tenant/Landlord topic. Questions asked and answered on how the budget will be calculated and shared-costing options. Municipalities received an invoice for 2023 and S. Cotton was directed to check the status of the 2024 invoice to municipalities. General consensus is to choose the option of majority support to assist with the cost recovery. L. Preston confirmed that the Village of Sundridge passed a resolution to provide \$3000 towards the deficit of the facility for 2023. Township of Armour received an invoice for \$5,348 for 2023. Cost Recovery options has been deferred to a later date for more discussion.

**e) Summary of Muskoka and Area Ontario Health Team Committee meetings for December**

S. Zurbrigg gave a brief update on PFCPAC, which was focused on succession planning initiatives and recruitments to start soon. M. MacPhail reported that the Care at Home program is making progress and moving into a task force. David Gravelle has joined MAOHT as a recruiter for the area. S. MacKinnon is working on a Primary Care Network that will work with physicians, nurse practitioners and midwives that work in our region from Sundridge to Gravenhurst. Group was created to have a voice and their focus points will be on the Scope and Best Care programs.

**f) Current Financials**

The AHC Council account holds a total of \$9,050.69, unchanged from last month.

**g) Other Business**

Concerns of a risk of losing services over rental options at AHHC building were voiced. C. Harrison stated that if there are services that the MAHC can provide to the community, they will and the future of outreach services is a good discussion to hold.

V. Roeder-Martin suggested possible options to support local health care initiatives such as community awareness programs that could generate more interest.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

2025-02 Moved by Vicky Roeder-Martin - Seconded by Brad Kneller  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 11:10 am to meet again on February 6, 2025 at 10:00 am at Perry Township. Carried.