



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

**Minutes:** September 7, 2023, 10:00 am via Zoom and at the Township of Strong Municipal Office

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

Regrets: Jim Ronholm

Guests: Isabel Pereira, Rebecca Paul (BFFHT)

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

\*Rebecca Paul, Executive Director for the Burk's Falls Family Health Team was introduced to the group. Welcome Rebecca.

1. 2023-21 Moved by Fraser Williamson- Seconded by Chris Hope  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of July 6, 2023 as circulated. Carried.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None
3. **DELEGATIONS:** None
4. **RESOLUTIONS PASSED:** None
5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**
  - a) **Strong Overview of Medical Services and Needs**

T. Bryson shared the Township of Strong was a part of the newly renovated Sundridge Medical Centre project with an official ribbon cutting and opening tonight. He shared that the new facility has room to welcome new services to the area and the hope of the renovation is to attain and retain healthcare professionals.
  - b) **Update 'Local Share'**

R. Ward updated the Council on 'Local Share'. Three meetings occurred over the summer with the last meeting updating that the needle has not moved past 185 million dollars being committed to the new hospital builds. This is concerning for MAHC. Since this, the municipalities of Huntsville and Bracebridge have committed an additional 10 million each. The next meeting is September 19<sup>th</sup>. If the Foundations can further their

donations great, if not the builds may not go ahead. Almaguin Mayors meet next week. All remain cautiously optimistic. The amortization has been extended to 2036.

R. Ward shared that based on recently community studies conducted, the Council of Armour has made it their number one priority to focus on healthcare, specifically with a focus on bringing new services to the area. Armour will work with a private developer on a build, an Almaguin health and wellness centre, that will enhance health care. The intent is not to move healthcare from the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre. He expressed that the 20% hold back with the local share for Almaguin could support services there.

On a related note, R. Ward has met with Cheryl Harrison, CAO of MAHC to express concern for the number of closures the blood lab is experiencing and the impact this is having to Almaguin residents. Cheryl will take this concern back the Vice President of lab and Xray services. The Health Council will pass a resolution next meeting on this matter.

It was noted that a patron paid \$65.00 for physiotherapy services in the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre, post op clinic run by MAHC. They were told if they went to Huntsville, it was no cost. C. Barr to seek out information on why this would be.

**c) Progress Report:** to follow

**d) Other Business**

MAHC Community Needs Workshop

I. Pereira attended the MAHC Community Needs Workshop, representing Almaguin Highlands. She shared that much of the workshop focused on Huntsville/Muskoka. I. Pereira continued to bring Almaguin's need to the table. The slide deck and summary are attached.

Board of the BFFHT Update

R. Ward is now a member of the Board for the Burk's Falls Family Health Team

Account Update

C. Barr provide an account update to the Council. The account currently holds \$9776.19.

2023- 22 Moved by C. Hope - Seconded by V. Roeder-Martin

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 11:45 am to meet again on October 5, 2023, at 10:00 am in a location to be determined. Carried.