



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

**Minutes:** May 6, 2022, 11:00am via Zoom and in person in the AHHC boardroom

Present: Rod Ward (Chair), Carol Ballantyne, Brad Kneller, Dennis Banka, Joe Vella, Barbara Belrose, Cathy Still, Camille Barr (Secretary)

Guests: Kevin MacLeod (BFFHT), Courtney Metcalf (ACED)

Regrets: Norm Hofstetter, Marianne Stickland (Vice Chair), Tom Bryson

Called to order at 11:01am by Chair R. Ward

1. 2022-12 Moved by Cathy Still- Seconded by Brad Kneller  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of March 4, 2022 and special meeting of March 14, 2022, as circulated. Carried.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None.
3. **DELEGATIONS:** None.
4. **RESOLUTIONS PASSED:**  
2022-13 Moved by Carol Ballantyne- Seconded by Barbara Belrose  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council receives invoice 2022-015 from the Village of Burk's Falls for the website subscription, and hereby authorizes the Secretary to issue payment in the amount of 183.06 for reimbursement. Carried.
5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
  - 1) **Close out Discussion on Partnership with MAOHT and MAOHT Updates**  
Council is aligned with and continues to partner with Muskoka Algonquin Ontario Family Health Team. R. Ward shared that the working group he participates in is engaged in a human resource project. He shared that K. MacLeod (BFFHT) and Dr. S. MacKinnon (Sundridge) also sit on this working group. Additionally, K. MacLeod shared they have partnered on an e referral and online booking project, with funding support from the OHT. To start, the online bookings will be available for vaccinations, working up to

registering for a provider. The goal of the e-referral system is to streamline referrals to specialists. The training for this is provided by E-Health and sponsored by the OHT. The Bracebridge and Huntsville hospital builds have received the go ahead and is said to be completed within the next 6-7 years.

**2) Receipt of Letter from the Village of Burk's Falls Regarding Deficit and Corresponding Invoice**

C. Barr shared that the ask for support to offset the deficit for the building is a municipality to municipality ask and therefore did not previously come to the Health Council prior to being sent out. This year however, it was issued to the municipal Clerks and the AHH Council representative to ensure they were informed of the ask. R. Ward expressed that it is not the ask that is in question, but how the ask occurs. If the ask came to the table prior to being sent out, he suggests Council would be in a better position to answer questions that may arise when it makes it way to the municipalities. C. Still shared that the Village of Burk's Falls recognizes that working with a deficit is not ideal and as such, discussions have occurred internally, and the Village of Burk's Falls is developing a long-term plan for the building. As a Village asset, a long-term plan is needed. A report will be developed and shared with the various Almaguin municipalities. Solutions will be explored. The aim is to have this report prepared for August. R. Ward shared that Armour agreed to cover the share this year, but the concern arises when it's anticipated the building will require significant upgrades over the next 10 years. His Council does not want to be surprised by a significant jump in the next years asks. R. Ward agrees the building is all Almaguin's burden shoulder.

**3) Bruce Campbell Recognition- June 3**

R. Ward confirmed with Bruce's family that June 3 will work to honour Bruce with the boardroom plaque. R. Ward will arrange for a cake to be served. Bruce will attend the first portion of the meeting for the presentation, with the regular meeting commencing after. All Council is asked to attend the meeting in person to celebrate with Bruce.

**4) Information Regarding Lab/X-Ray Closures**

K. MacLeod informed the Council that the lab and x ray have been closed a few days over the past months. As he is told, this is due to staff shortages. The hospital is recruiting. Council wants to ensure these services are maintained in the building.

**5) BFFHT Renovation Plans and OTN Update**

K. MacLeod shared there are two projects in the works: The FHT reno and the OTN reno. For the OTN reno, K. MacLeod requests the use of funds that have been contributed towards OTN from municipalities to fund the reno. This renovation will make the OTN room larger. For future OTN costs, K. MacLeod will explore other options and anticipates no further requests for support for OTN. The FHT reno has had a number of delays. Currently, they await a drawing from the architect and hope to work with the Village on the tender process shortly thereafter.



**6) Follow Up- Resolution Regarding Additional Physician Candidates- Northern Ontario School of Medicine**

A few months ago, the Council created a resolution (to support the Village of Sundridge) to increase physician candidates at NOSM. Recently NOSM increased the capacity. This is a wonderful news story however in the North, it is said that the area is short approximately three hundred physicians.

K. MacLeod shared that within the BFFHT there are currently a total of 474 people on the waitlist. The breakout of this number is as follows:

Burk's Falls, Ryerson, Armour- 233

Kearney- 72

Katrine- 28

Magnetawan- 62

Perry- 65

McMurrich-Monteith-14

These numbers were higher however Dr. Salmon and other physicians in the team have been addressing.

**7) Follow Up- Resolution Regarding Adding Kearney and McMurrich-Monteith to the BFFHT Catchment Area**

Resolutions were passed by Perry, Armour, Magnetawan, Strong and Burk's Falls to support Kearney and McMurrich-Monteith being included in the BFFHT catchment area. C. Barr will follow up with Ryerson to see if theirs passed. C. Barr will send any off to the Ministry that may not have been.

**8) Follow Up- Resolution Regarding the Hospital "local share" Model**

The Association of Municipalities (AMO) has determined that municipalities cover approximately 30% of costs related to hospital capital. This is significant, especially for smaller municipalities. The resolution suggested by this Council regarding the reexamination of "local share" has been passed by some of the Almaguin Councils. With the new hospital being built, conversations need to continue.

**9) Terms of Reference**

R. Ward made some changes to the previously shared draft terms of reference.

The revised document was shared with the Council with the ask that it be read by next meeting and a resolution put forward at that time to accept the terms as "in force" until updates are agreed upon or required.

Additions are under the heading of "Almaguin Highlands Health Council Funds" and "Village of Burk's Falls". R. Ward suggests asks from the Village of Burk's Falls and other municipalities for funding support come to this Council table first.

**10) Monthly Progress Report**

R. Ward reviewed the progress report which remained the same from March.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Council is asked to join the June meeting in person to celebrate with Bruce Campbell.

Council will not meet over the months of July and August. If needed, a special meeting may be called.

**7. 2022-14 Moved by Cathy Still- Seconded by Barbara Belrose**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 12:00pm to meet again on June 3, 2022 at 11:00am. Carried.

Location will be in person at the AHHC