



705-382-2900
www.almaguin-health.org

Minutes: July 6, 2023, 10:00 am via Zoom and at the Village of Sundridge 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, Jim Ronholm, Cheryl Phillip, Kelly Morissette (Secretary)

Regrets: Camille Barr

Guests: Isabel Pereira

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

1. 2023-19 Moved by Fraser Williamson- Seconded by Cheryl Marshall
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of June 1, 2023 as circulated. Carried.

2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None

3. **DELEGATIONS:** None

4. **RESOLUTIONS PASSED:** None

5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

a) Sundridge Overview of Medical Services and Needs

R. Williamson provided an update on the medical services in Sundridge. The doctors will move into a medical centre in August. It was reported that with the new renovations, the facility has everything that was asked for. The lot beside the medical centre was bought and will be used for additional parking to mitigate concerns with the busy street and people parking on the road. F. Williamson shared that more rooms could be added in the basement of the building with further renovations. The official opening will be held on an evening. F. Williamson will share the date.

The committee discussed what supports are available for Alzheimer's however the group was uncertain. M. MacPhail will follow up.

b) Update 'Local Share'

Support for new MAHC hospital build through 'local share' is at crucial point. Current local share commitments are stalled at about 80-85% of what is required (i.e. still \$30-40-million short)...and commitments remain 'tentative'.

MAHC will need to make a decision on moving forward by mid September – it makes no sense to continue spending money on planning if it appears local share commitment cannot be met.

The inability to move forward with MAHC build would have huge negative impacts across the Almaguin region:

- Little possibility of future hospital builds being considered again for many years...probably generations.
- A reduced ability to attract / retain healthcare professionals in our own community.
- Loss of growth potential for our area (housing, jobs, new economic development, etc)...
- High possibility that current MAHC services provided in our community will be reduced or lost...

Almaguin Highlands is recognized for its support thus far – there is active discussion that expansion of healthcare services for Almaguin is key part of build (i.e. identifying services in community which would tie directly to MAHC)

c) Progress Report

R. Ward provided the Council with a fulsome AHHC Update document this month. The update includes a listing of the various committees' members sit on as well.

Regarding committees, M. MacPhail shared that the Home Care Modernization Working Group is planning an event. There are little details to share that at this time however will be provided as they become available.

F. Williamson attended the Palliative Care Task Force meeting. The discussion focused on the "Muskoka" area however more dialogue needs to occur regarding smaller Almaguin communities. C. Hope shared that he would like to see a palliative care centre in Almaguin. With that D. Patterson shared that Powassan has a few rooms which are full equipped.

d) Other Business

Request from the Village of Burk's Falls regarding 2022 Building Deficit Support

R. Ward brought forward the request from the Village of Burk's Falls for support with the 2022 building deficit. It was questioned as to why it is an even split between the 10 municipalities vs consideration given to population. It was also mentioned that municipalities should be advertising that there are services in that building available to them.

2023- 20 Moved by C. Hope - Seconded by V. Roeder-Martin

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn. at 11:30 am to meet again on September 7, 2023, at 10:00 am in Strong Township. Carried.