



705-382-2900
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Minutes: November 2, 2023, 10:00 am via Zoom in the Town of Kearney

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

Regrets: Jim Ronholm, Cheryl Philip, Rebecca Paul, Camille Barr

Guest: Cheryl Harrison (MAHC), Isabel Pereira

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

1. 2023-26 Moved by N. Hofstetter - Seconded by B. Kneller
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of October 5, 2023 as circulated. Carried.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None
3. **DELEGATIONS:** None
4. **RESOLUTIONS PASSED:** None
5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

a) Health Care Services in the Town of Kearney

C. Phillip was unable to make it to the meeting, therefore this will be discussed at a later date.

R. Ward provided updates on the Burk's Falls Family Health Team regarding the 4.5 physicians allotment and if they were to lose a doctor the reality of trying to replace.5 of a physician. R. Ward contacted MPP Graydon Smith regarding this issue. He also spoke to the fact that McMurrich/Monteith and Kearney are not part of the Burk's Falls Family Health Team catchment, or any.

V. Roeder-Martin shared that Sara Bissonette wrote a story in 2016 regarding the lack of medical resources for the McMurrich/Monteith community and has since reached out to her again looking to write another story about it.

b) Update on “Local Share”

The upcoming local share meeting has been cancelled as there are no updates. R. Ward shared the hospital build will not start until approx. 2029.

Discussion occurred around a by-law being put in place that when new councils are appointed the local share project can't be cancelled or stopped. This is not something that can occur. The hope is that new councils will see the value and the need for this project to continue.

N. Hofstetter would like to see all municipalities have a resolution for this project.

c) Follow up on Lab Closure

R. Ward provided an update on the issue. He met with C. Harrison from MAHC and shared the letter she wrote back to him indicating that there are no plans to close the lab that is related to resources/staffing issues. C. Harrison said that since covid it has been hard to have stabilization in staffing.

C. Hope stated that he has noticed there hasn't been as many closures over the last few weeks over which is great to see. He shared that some mornings there are line ups out the door and cars parked waiting for the lab to open at 8:00am.

Progress Report: Not provided this meeting

d) Other Business

C. Hope updated that the new dentist signed the lease and should be announcing soon when she will be opening. He stated that this will be good to have in the area as there hasn't been a dentist in Burk's Falls for many years.

C. Hope spoke regarding the community bus and that having one that would service all the surrounding municipalities would be ideal. C. Hope mentioned that when the bus was previously running it was on volunteer basis but there needs to be better compensation for the drivers.

T. Bryson shared that Paramed reached out regarding renting a space in Sundridge.

Tim Bryson commented that all municipalities should look to an investment fund where we could pool resources and earn some additional interest over the 12 years for the Local Share. This idea has been discussed before and will be pursued.

C. Harrison shared that within the next two years Home Community Care Services will come under the MAHC umbrella instead of being separate. There is a challenge currently with staffing numbers due to not paid for their travel.

2023-27 Moved by F. Williamson - Seconded by T. Bryson

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 11:00 am to meet again on December 7, 2023, at 10:00 am TBD, but most likely at the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre. Carried.