



705-382-2900
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Minutes: February 2, 2024, 10:00 am via Zoom in the Township of Armour Municipal Office

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

Regrets: None

Guest: Susan Keast (HHR MAOHT), Isabel Pereira, Courtney Metcalf (ACED). John Wilson, Rod Blakelock, Cheryl Harrison (CEO and President of MAHC)

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

1. 2024-06 Moved by F. Williamson - Seconded by T. Bryson
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of January 4, 2024, as circulated. Carried.

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

3. **DELEGATIONS:** Cheryl Harrison- CEO and President of MAHC
Cheryl provided the group with the "Made in Muskoka Healthcare" presentation, same as used for the current community conversations. She shared the journey MAHC has been on to the model presented today. She reviewed the proposed new model which has focused care services at each location, new services being offered, and aims to expand community partnerships. She was clear care goes beyond the four walls of the two hospitals.

Emergency services will be at both locations. Cheryl explained that user groups have been a part of the planning groups however the timeline to do so was short.

Cheryl reviewed the local share component and that communities are responsible for 10% percent of development costs and 100% of costs associated with equipment, furnishing and land.

There is lots of work between now and 2027 when the projects are expected to go to tender. The projected end completion goal is 2032.

Many from the Council were present for the community chat that occurred in Burk's Falls. Good questions were asked, and it was clear there is interest from the community in the project.

Council had the opportunity to ask questions and thanked Cheryl for her time.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED: None

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

a) **BFFHT funding for branding, follow up discussion**

The BFFHT is looking for other options to fund the remainder of the costs associated with the rebranding project. At this time the \$2000.00 approved by the Health Council to support the initiative will remain in the account until it needs to be released.

b) **Recruiter brochure, follow up discussion**

C. Metcalf met with Dr, McKinnon and R. Paul to receive feedback from the FHT's perspective. Based on the feedback, additional changes were made. QR codes leading back to websites will be included to keep the brochure current. It is currently being used by S. Keast. S. Keast will provide C. Barr will a copy to share with Council.

c) **Annual municipal funding requests and possible request for support, follow up discussion**

Last meeting Council passed a resolution to ask member municipalities for a contribution of \$1000.00 annually that would be placed in a Health Council account for funding request towards Almaguin health care related activities. R. Ward shared an overview of what asks have come forward in the past and possible new asks. The question was posed as to why we are having another ask when we have the 20% local share hold back for Almaguin. It was stated that the funds were for MAHC services in Almaguin such as lab, xray, etc. and there could be resistance to spending it elsewhere or spending the money on one community. Additionally, it was also questioned why the group is funding these requests at all. Would it not be better to support by proving advocacy to the groups that need the money? Council decided this is a large topic to discuss in such a short period of time. This will be tabled until the next AHHC meeting.

d) **Public and media communications**

Based on recent media inquiries R. Ward stated he appreciated the groups support and that ongoing it is important for all to be sending the same messages and communications with the public to avoid confusion for the public.

e) **Progress report**

None for this month

f) **Other business**

In light of the future x-ray replacement in Burk's Falls, R. Ward spoke to the MAHC Foundation to initiate the fundraising effort. Regardless of where it goes, the fundraising needs to start. It was raised as to when a decision will be made and should both Burk's Falls and new building owner or Armour be given a deadline to submit proposals. C. Hope brought forward the concept of a foundation for the Health Centre. Discussion was tabled as it was not an agenda item and will require more time.

R. Ward met with the Paramedicine Team, R. Paul and Dr. S. McKinnon. Paramedicine is now visiting in the home to support patients with virtual doctor appointments so that a patient does not need to leave their home. An example could be a patient with diabetes receiving a virtual visit in their home. In some circumstances the paramedic can administer treatment or medicine. This has also been provided in some palliative care situations.

M. McPhail provided an update from the Care at Home Committee she is a part of. They have begun a pilot project which will follow the care journey of 10 patients with chronic conditions over a period of time. The aim is to capture the experience from the perspective of the patient and to make improvements based on the findings.

2024-07 Moved by C. Hope - Seconded by V. Roeder-Martin
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 11:35 am to meet again on March 7, 2024, at 10:00 am at the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre. Carried.