



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

**Minutes:** September 2, 2022, 11:00 am via Zoom and in the AHC boardroom

Present: Rod Ward (Chair), Carol Ballantyne, Joe Vella, Dennis Banka, Cathy Still, Norm Hofstetter, Barbara Belrose, Tom Bryson, Camille Barr (Secretary)

Regrets: Marianne Stickland (Vice Chair), Brad Kneller

Guests: None

Called to order at 11:00 am by Chair R. Ward

1. 2022-19 Moved by C. Still - Seconded by C. Ballantyne  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of June 3, 2022, and special meeting of July 20, 2022 as circulated. Carried.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None
3. **DELEGATIONS:** None
4. **RESOLUTIONS PASSED:**  
2022- 20 Moved by N. Hofstetter- Seconded by T. Bryson  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council instructs the Secretary to ask each of the member municipalities as well as Machar and South River, to indicate whether they plan to appoint an AHC member for the new term of council beginning November 2022, for 4 years. Carried.  
  
2022- 21 Moved by T. Bryson- Seconded by C. Still  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council approves the current Almaguin Highlands Health Council Terms of Reference dated May 2022, with revisions as per meeting of September 2, 2022, to be again reviewed following municipal elections in October 2022. Carried.

## 5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

### A) Discussion regarding “centralized healthcare-related recruitment” through MAOHT

To address healthcare professional shortage and retention, The Muskoka Algonquin Ontario Health Team (MAOHT) is initiating a centralized recruitment strategy for Muskoka and surrounding areas. This includes doctors and other healthcare professionals. The MAOHT may look to municipal councils for financial support with the initiative.

The initiative would provide one lead person with a focus on recruitment and retention.

As it is a Muskoka and area initiative R. Ward says attention must be on keeping Almaguin front of mind. As K. MacLeod, S. McKinnon, and R. Ward all sit on the working group, this should not be a concern.

### B) OTN Fund Redirection

As per the Special Meeting of July 20, 2022, some municipal councils were asked to consider a redirection of the Ontario Telemedicine Network funds to OTN needs in general. Ryerson shared previous resolution indicating approval, Perry approved, Magnetawan approved towards OTN renovation. McMurrich-Monteith will share at their next Council meeting and requested stats which have been provided. Machar requested specifics around the renovation. These were provided. No response yet from South River.

### C) Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference updated May 2022 were tabled for approval with the goal of having a guide available to provide new members who may join next term of council. C. Still voiced that the Village of Burk's Falls does not support the terms specifically referring to requests from the Village for funding to support the operating deficit coming to the Health Council for vote where it could be refused, agreed to share, or more information requested. The mandate and engagement approaches do not specify buildings, but rather services region wide. The Village will continue to go directly to municipalities for support. The language was not pre-discussed with the Village. Additionally, the document references the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre, but no other health centres in Almaguin. The ask was for these to be removed.

J. Vella tabled the idea of having non-voting members appointed to council. It was determined that due to the financial component and the need to be able to vote on financial matters, a nonvoting members would not be an option to sit on council however they could participate as other non-voting participant do.

R. Ward will make the changes discussed to the Terms of Reference and send out to this Council. A resolution was carried as above to approve them with the changes discussed, to be reviewed following the election in October 2022.

### D) Monthly Progress Report Review

No report this month.

E) Other business

**Lab/X-Ray and Burk's Falls Resolution**

C. Still advised that the Village of Burk's Falls passed a resolution at their last Council meeting regarding the need to maintain lab services in Burk's Falls. As previously noted, the lab has been closed on several occasions due to lack of staffing. There is significant concern that this will continue and eventually services being lost. Contact was made with MP Scott Aichison and MPP Graydon Smith on the matter.

The Village of Burk's Falls is sending the resolution to all the Almaguin municipalities for their council tables.

**Meeting Time and Boardroom Access**

When renovations begin for OTN, the boardroom at the AHHC will be booked 12:00pm-2:00pm daily for tenant lunches. This may conflict with meetings of the AHHC. Discussion occurred around changing the time of the meeting. Deferred to next meeting.

2022-22 Moved by C. Ballantyne - Seconded by N. Hofstetter

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 11:31 am to meet again on October 7, 2022 at 11:00 am. Carried.

Location will be in person at the AHHC unless notified otherwise.