



705-382-2900
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Minutes: April 6, 2023, 11:00 am via Zoom and in the McMurrich-Monteith Council Chambers

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

Regrets: Cheryl Philip, Brad Kneller

Guests: Susan Keast (HHR), Nicky Kunkel (Burk's Falls), Shelly van den Heuvel (BFFHT), Courtney Metcalf (ACED), Sarah Cooke

Called to order at 11:05 am by Chair R. Ward

1. 2023-09 Moved by F. Williamson - Seconded by C. Hope
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of March 2, 2023 as circulated. Carried.

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

3. **DELEGATIONS:**

Susan Keast- Human Health Recruiter MAOHT

Susan provided an introduction to herself and her role which began just 3 months ago. She has spent a lot of time meeting with people, attending conferences, job fairs, and learning about the local needs. Susan shared that on average it takes 2-3 years to recruit 1 physician. She is working on branding the area as well investigating short term housing solutions for locums. Susan is eager to learn more about the needs in Almaguin and will connect with ACED and the Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce. Currently her focus is on primary health care recruitment with specialists to follow. As Susan attends job fairs at NOSM and other schools, she has built a care package to hand out. If any municipalities have items to share, please reach out to Susan.

Nicky Kunkel- Village of Burk's Falls

Nicky, Clerk for the Village of Burk's Falls, presented the group with the past, present and possibilities for a long-term plan for the building known as the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre. In 2019, the Village began asking Almaguin municipalities for financial support for

the operations of the building. The goal is a more structured and predictable contribution plan. Councils are asked to review the 4 options presented by the Village (will be sent to municipal clerks) to consider at their next council meetings and respond to the Village with preferred option.

Shelly Van de Heuvel- Burk's Falls Family Health Team

Shelly introduced herself to the group as the Interim ED for the Burk's Falls Family Health Team. She provided an update on the Family Health Team renovations. The space will allow for two new clinical rooms, space for mental health services, and a larger OTN area.

Shelly spoke about money made available by the ministry for the expansion of Family Health teams. Her group will be applying, proposing a nurse practitioner to help with unattached patients and a social worker. With that, she will be reaching out to this table and Almaguin councils for letters of support.

As per the resolution below, a cheque will be provided by the Health Council for the OTN renovations.

4. RESOLUTIONS PASSED:

2023-10 Moved by Norm Hofstetter - Seconded by Tom Bryson

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council agrees to release funds in the amount of \$24,000.00 to the Burk's Falls Family Health Team to support OTN renovations. Carried.

2023-11 Moved by Fraser Williamson - Seconded by Vicky Roeder-Martin

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council directs the Secretary to distribute the proposed resolution regarding local share (as attached) to member municipal clerks for their next meeting agendas. Carried.

Whereas the Almaguin Highlands Health Council has set a long-term fund-raising target for healthcare in the Almaguin Highlands of \$12-million over 12 years starting in 2023, and

Whereas 80%, or \$9.5-million, would be apportioned to the build costs for the Muskoka Algonquin Health Care (MAHC) hospital build, and

Whereas 20%, or \$2.5-million, would be apportioned toward a healthcare fund to be kept in the Almaguin Highlands to fund healthcare related activities in our area

Therefore be it resolved that the Municipality of _____ will set aside \$ _____ per year toward the MAHC build and \$ _____ per year for healthcare services in the Almaguin Highlands beginning _____.

Total contribution is estimated to be \$ _____ for the MAHC build and \$ _____ for healthcare services in the Almaguin Highlands over 12 years.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A) Discussion regarding need for Almaguin Healthcare System Navigator role

The Chair engaged in discussion with the MAOHT regarding the concept of a Healthcare System Navigator for Almaguin. It was suggested that a planner be hired verses a navigator. The position would be a contract, part time, for possibly 2 years to gather a complete "lay of the land" identifying what is needed in Almaguin. A strategic plan would be created by this person. MAOHT could handle all aspects of the position including hiring, while the funds would need to be gathered. There may be grant to conduct a study. This discussion was preliminary and idea sharing. More to come on this.

B) Hospital 'Local Share' Update

The Chair has visited 11 of the 12 Almaguin municipalities to present on local share. The response has been good with lots of questions asked. A summary of municipal commitments was shared with the group.

The MAHC is hosting another round of community open houses with one on April 19th at 7:00pm at the ARBFM Arena.

As noted above, a resolution will go out to all member municipal councils asking for a commitment to local share and healthcare in Almaguin. Each council can adjust the resolution as they see fit.

C) Progress Report

March 2023 Progress Report was shared with Council.

D) Other business

C. Hope provided an update on the Digital Working group and M. MacPhail from the Home and Community meeting. Both are new to the group and taking in the information. Updates will be shared as able.

C. Hope brought up the concept of a community bus, able to facilitate transportation to and from healthcare and assist people to get out of their homes and into community. The concept is a bus that could service other municipalities, working with ACED to determine additional usage. More discussions to come.

The group has asked the Secretary to gather stats from Eastholme's transportation services on areas served and number of customers. They also asked the Secretary to reach out to DSSAB to be a delegate at a future meeting to provide programing updates so that Council may be aware of what resources they are offering.

2023- 12 Moved by V. Roeder-Martin - Seconded by N. Hofstetter

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 12:45 pm to meet again on May 4, 2023, at 10:00 am. Carried.

Location will be the Armour Municipal Office.