



HEALTH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

An electronic meeting of the Health Committee was held on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

Present were:

- Chair Michael Donohue
- Warden Debbie Robinson
- Vice-Chair Kim Love
- Councillor David Bennett
- Councillor Glenn Doncaster
- Councillor Debbi Grills
- Councillor Jennifer Murphy
- Councillor Cathy Regier

City of Pembroke Reps:

- Mayor Michael LeMay
- Councillor Patricia Lafreniere

Staff Present:

- Paul V. Moreau, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk
- Michael Nolan, Director of Emergency Services
- Shelley Sheedy, Director of Long-Term Care
- Bruce Beakley, Director of Human Resources
- Craig Kelley, Director of Development and Property
- Lee Perkins, Director of Public Works
- Brian Leahey, Deputy Chief, Emergency Services
- Rosalyn Gruntz, Deputy Clerk
- Dianne Johnston, Administrative Assistant

Chair Donohue called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The roll was called, and no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-06-37

Moved by: Councillor Bennett

Seconded by: Councillor Grills

THAT the Health Committee minutes of March 11, 2020 be amended as follows:

Under paragraph two, under delegations, change Quality Information Programs to Quality Improvement Programs.

CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-06-38

Moved by: Councillor Bennett

Seconded by: Councillor Grills

THAT the minutes of March 11, 2020 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

Chief Michael Nolan overviewed the Emergency Services Department Report attached as Appendix A.

Chief Nolan has engaged Algonquin College to complete a statistical review of the utilization of the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (VTAC), a new pandemic healthcare service developed to reduce the demand on the hospital emergency departments and provide Renfrew County residents, who do not have a family physician or cannot access their family physician with the appropriate level of care. The VTAC provides guidance and access to physicians regarding palliative care, in-home intensive care, access to specialists and support professional services, including dental care and mental health services. VTAC has provided service to over 5,000 Renfrew County residents in the last two and a half months. The report will be shared with Committee when available.

Chief Nolan provided a Verbal Addendum Report regarding the discovery on June 5, 2020 of surgical masks labelled for 'non-medical' use within the Paramedic Service. All

'non-medical' masks were removed from service and this information was reported to the Provincial Emergency Operation Centre (PEOC) and shared with other Paramedic Services, Long-Term Care Homes, hospitals and Public Health, as it is a concern now shared across the spectrum. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic being declared in Ontario, Paramedics used only N95 masks that are fit-tested annually to ensure proper fit for sealing capabilities. N95 masks were widely available prior to the Pandemic and became a back order item in January 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the province changed the standard for paramedics, noting that N95 masks were not a requirement for droplet precautions as a surgical mask would be sufficient. The N95 masks would only be required with aerosol procedures. Chief Nolan advised the Paramedic Service Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee of the discovery and removal of the non-medical masks and is conducting a root cause analysis report that will be shared with Committee when available.

Chief Nolan reminded Committee of the shortage of masks in the beginning of the pandemic and that donations from hospitals, service providers were sought and received. Some of the surgical masks had issues with the integrity of the elastics and these were also pulled from use. Chief Nolan demonstrated the difference between an N95 mask that is fit-tested creating a seal versus a surgical mask and KN95 mask. Health Canada approves and disapproves medical supplies such as masks for Canadian health care providers. Also, Health Canada has not ruled out the possibility of refurbishing N95 masks and/or utilizing expired N95 masks, noting the concern with the expired N95 masks is the integrity of the elastic. With the re-opening of services across the province, there is a higher demand for masks. It has been noted that some of the shipping boxes for surgical masks have been labeled 'non-medical' which might be an attempt to not have the box held at Customs. Also, inside some of the shipping boxes, the individual mask boxes are labeled sterile masks, but are not individually wrapped. The appearance of all surgical masks that have been used to date have appeared virtually identical with a 3-layer protection. This situation has been reported to Health Canada that has provided KN95 masks to the Service to wear instead of the surgical masks. The KN95 mask does not require fit-testing. The Paramedic Service has the appropriate personal protection equipment to use for suspect and confirmed COVID interactions and testing. The Paramedic Service completed contact tracing and has started COVID testing for all Paramedics. The Service is working with the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee and has provided the media with notification.

Mr. Bruce Beakley, Director of Human Resources advised that Public Health, through Ontario Health is testing the labelled 'non-medical' surgical masks for infection

prevention and control filtration and this report will be provided to Committee when received. Mr. Beakley advised that Dr. Cushman, Medical Officer of Health, Renfrew County & District Health Unit validates the wearing of any mask as it is a layer of protection to others.

Mrs. Sheedy informed Committee that the long-term care homes face the same risk. Consequently, their mask inventory has been reviewed and any suspect masks were pulled pending confirmation from the Provincial Emergency Operation Centre – a complete catalogue of the various surgical masks in use has been submitted. Further, Mrs. Sheedy noted that Dr. Cushman has been consulted and advised that no further testing is required given that all residents and staff were tested in May with no positive results and that all staff are currently undergoing two more surveillance tests in the month of June. The Home's Resident and Family Councils, and Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees were advised as were all residents/families and staff.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-06-39

Moved by: Councillor Lafreniere

Seconded by: Councillor Regier

THAT the Emergency Services Department Report attached as Appendix A be approved.

CARRIED.

LONG TERM CARE REPORT

Mrs. Shelley Sheedy overviewed the Long-Term Care Report attached as Appendix B. Mrs. Sheedy advised that the Ministry of Health has suspended the requirement of long-term care homes meeting the 97% occupancy rate threshold to receive 100% ministry funding for the year 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Mrs. Sheedy provided the current resident and staff COVID-19 results, noting that to date all resident testing has been negative and that all staff surveillance testing has been negative for COVID-19.

Mrs. Sheedy advised that on June 2 the Government announced another investigation - Ontario Patient Ombudsman, separate from the Ontario Ombudsman, into the

resident and caregiver care experience in long-term care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. This inquiry will look into how issues such as staffing levels, visitation restrictions, infection prevention and control procedures and communication of information affected the resident and caregiver experience. Mrs. Sheedy noted that the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario has summarized over two decades of reports that have identified and/or studied the challenges in long-term care.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-06-40

Moved by: Councillor Murphy

Seconded by: Councillor Love

THAT Health Committee recommend that County Council approve the approximately \$18,000 in savings from the PBX Phone System Replacement Capital project to fund the unbudgeted replacement of a carpet extractor. Further, that the Finance and Administration Committee be so advised.

CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-06-41

Moved by: Councillor Regier

Seconded by: Councillor Doncaster

THAT Health Committee recommend that County Council adopt a By-law authorizing the Warden and the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk to sign the "Extending Letter" for the extension of the Service Accountability Agreements from June 30, 2020 to March 31, 2021 between the Champlain Local Health Integration Network and the Corporation of the County of Renfrew, Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge for compliance with the Local Health System Integration Act, 2006 for submission by the deadline of June 26, 2020.

CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-06-42

Moved by: Councillor Murphy

Seconded by: Councillor Bennett

THAT the Long-Term Care Department Report attached as Appendix B be approved.

CARRIED.

Committee recessed at 11:11 a.m. and reconvened at 11:20 a.m. with the same persons present excluding Chief Nolan, Mr. Leahey, Mr. Kelley and Mr. Perkins.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-06-43

Moved by: Councillor Murphy

Seconded by: Councillor Lafreniere

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council move into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended to discuss labour relations or employee negotiations. Time – 11:20 a.m.

CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-06-45

Moved by: Councillor Bennett

Seconded by: Councillor Murphy

THAT this meeting resume as an open meeting - Time 11:35 a.m.

CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-06-46

Moved by: Councillor Doncaster

Seconded by: Councillor Bennett

THAT this meeting adjourn and the next regular meeting be held August 12, 2020. Time – 11:35 a.m.

CARRIED.