



HEALTH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 12, 2020

An electronic meeting of the Health Committee was held on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Present were:

Chair Michael Donohue
Warden Debbie Robinson
Vice-Chair Kim Love
Councillor David Bennett
Councillor Debbie Grills
Councillor Jennifer Murphy
Councillor Glen Doncaster
Councillor Kathy 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
Laura LePine, Director of Social Services
Jeffrey Foss, Director of Finance/Treasurer
Brian Leahey, Deputy Chief, Emergency Services
Roselyn Gruntz, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk
Aerie Keller, Environmental Services Supervisor,
Miramichi Lodge
Wendy Hill, Administrative Assistant, Social Services

Rhonda Chaput, Administrative Assistant, Emergency
Services

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-20-08-49

Moved by: Councillor Bennett

Seconded by: Councillor Murphy

THAT the minutes of June 10, 2020 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-08-50

Moved by: Councillor Lafreniere

Seconded by: Councillor Grills

THAT the minutes of June 24, 2020 be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

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

Chief Nolan reviewed the status of the Paramedic Service pandemic response, noting that obtaining person protective equipment is a challenge, as are the rising costs. The demand for masks is skyrocketing as schools open and the efficacy of cloth masks remains unclear. The Service is preparing for children returning to school, as well as the associated increase in swabbing and assessments. Additional training has been received from CHEO for pediatric swabbing. The possibility of a rebound in pandemic cases related to children returning to school and parents returning to work will be monitored.

The Province has announced its intent to reconcile all existing pandemic response plans and have a new one in place for swabbing, assessments and testing going forward. By the end of August, a planned reconciliation of finances and expenditures will be completed and by the end of September a new provincial plan will be in place. The Renfrew County VTAC has provided the ability for all people living in our communities to access healthcare. It is a rural Ontario solution

to providing service to everyone, when they need it using scarce resources efficiently and economically.

Chief Nolan stated that the COVID-19 response has been a dynamic experience and he is proud of the staff and partner agencies for their collaborative efforts. The way service is delivered now is vastly different than a year ago and the costs for this service delivery can only be expected to escalate due to personal protective equipment, staff over time to ensure coverage and time-consuming provincial reporting requirements.

Chief Nolan overviewed the Treasurer's report Emergency Services for June 2020.

Warden Robinson noted that VTAC is an unprecedented collaboration of stakeholders. Recent statistics show that 24,000 people in the County of Renfrew and City of Pembroke do not have a family doctor and an additional three physicians are closing their practice. This will result in more residents without a doctor. VTAC provides access to healthcare to everyone in need of assistance and must remain a viable option for provision of health services in the County of Renfrew. A request for a delegation to the Minister of Health has not yet been granted and correspondence is being sent to Minister Elliott.

Committee directed staff to develop a resolution to be presented to Council requesting support and advocacy from all local municipalities for the Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-08-51

Moved by: Councillor Murphy

Seconded by: Councillor Love

THAT staff be directed to prepare a resolution for County Council to endorse the Virtual Treatment and Assessment and Centre (VTAC) and to request support and advocacy from all local municipalities. AND FURTHER THAT all related documentation be forwarded to local municipalities, and this resolution be forwarded to the City of Pembroke for consideration and support. CARRIED.

Chief Nolan reported that Acting Deputy Chief Mathieu Grenier and Acting Commander Amber Hultink had been selected as Deputy Chief and Commander respectively in a permanent capacity to replace retiring management staff. They

were both congratulated and further, retiring Deputy Chief Michel Ruest was acknowledged for the outstanding service provided to the County of Renfrew.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-08-52

Moved by: Councillor Grills

Seconded by: Councillor Bennett

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 overviewed challenges related to pandemic response for Long-Term Care, stating that staffing was a concern pre-pandemic but the requirement to cohort staff when a resident is considered COVID-suspect increases the challenge. The necessity to provide masks for visiting family members is an additional expense for the Homes. The Ministry of Health would be in a better position to procure and distribute masks throughout the province to ensure consistency of quality and cost in the face of a diminishing supply.

The return to “the new normal” has been difficult while staff require testing twice each month while still providing around the clock care to our residents.

Mrs. Sheedy overviewed funding received by Long-Term Care and highlighted sections of the June 2020 Treasurer’s Report.

Mrs. Sheedy introduced Mr. Aerie Keller as the new Environmental Services Supervisor at Miramichi Lodge to replace Mr. Darrhl Burger who is retiring. Mr. Keller was welcomed by Committee and Mr. Burger was thanked for his contributions to the County of Renfrew.

Mrs. Sheedy noted ongoing concerns with the RAI-MDS method of determining how Homes are funded by the Province. The nursing and administrative time used to submit this data is substantial. It has proven to have no basis for the determination of how funding is distributed. RAI-MDS is a clinical assessment tool. Ontario is the only province that uses RAI-MDS as a funding tool.

Mrs. Sheedy reviewed changes to several LTC funding programs. Noting that a key change for the New Minor Capital Funding Program, in contrast to the Structural Compliance Premium (SCP, 1999) policy that it replaced is that reporting of this funding will be included and audited through the Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH) Annual Report, and unused funds will be recovered.

Mrs. Sheedy noted that Ms. Shelley Yantha has accepted the position of Administrator at Bonnechere Manor and Ms. Trisha Michaelis has been appointed as Director of Care at Miramichi Lodge in her place. Ms. Yantha was recognized for her contributions to Miramichi Lodge and congratulated for her new position at Bonnechere Manor.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-08-53

Moved by: Councillor Murphy

Seconded by: Councillor Love

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

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Paul Moreau overviewed the Administration Report attached as Appendix C.

Mr. Moreau noted that five new Ontario Health Teams had been announced. The County of Renfrew was not selected to move forward with their application.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-08-54

Moved by: Councillor Grills

Seconded by: Councillor Bennett

THAT the Administration Report attached as Appendix C be approved. CARRIED.

Committee recessed at 12:23 a.m. and reconvened at 12:28 a.m. with the same persons present excluding Chief Nolan, Mr. Foss, Ms. LePine and Mr. Behnke.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-08-55

Moved by: Councillor Grills

Seconded by: Councillor Love

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 – 12:24 p.m. CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-08-56

Moved by: Councillor Love

Seconded by: Councillor Regier

THAT this meeting resume as an open meeting - Time 12:52 p.m. CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-08-57

Moved by: Councillor Bennett

Seconded by: Councillor Murphy

THAT this meeting adjourn and the next regular meeting be held September 9, 2020. Time – 12:53 p.m. CARRIED.