



## HEALTH COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, September 9, 2020**

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An electronic meeting of the Health Committee was held on Wednesday, September 9, 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  
Jeffrey Foss, Director of Finance/Treasurer  
Lee Perkins, Director of Public Works & Engineering  
Laura LePine, Director of Social Services  
Shelley Yantha, Director of Care, Bonnechere Manor  
Craig Kelley, Director of Development & Property  
Rosalyn Gruntz, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk  
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-20-09-58**

Moved by: Councillor Love

Seconded by: Councillor Regier

THAT the minutes of August 12, 2020 be adopted. CARRIED.

**Emergency Services Report**

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

Chief Nolan provided an update of the Service response including innovative methods being developed to speed up COVID testing by using a scanner for health cards that auto populates registration and decreases wait time. The efficiency of using the VTAC as the delivery agent for the influenza vaccine was discussed as a “one window” approach to avoid unnecessary duplication of services. The COVID testing structure demonstrated that this is an opportunity for VTAC to work with Public Health on the surge issues.

Warden Robinson reported that although the request to meet with Minister Elliott during the AMO Convention was unsuccessful, she is encouraged by the October 2, 2020 meeting with Minister Yakabuski to further the VTAC discussion, and by the opportunity for the Warden, Chief Nolan and a physician to present VTAC at a ROMA Board meeting in November. The Warden noted that Mayor LeMay has agreed to request a VTAC delegation in front of the Eastern Ontario Mayors’ Caucus.

Chief Nolan reported that a funding letter from the Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health regarding the Land Ambulance Services Grant stated that the increase to 50/50 funding for 2020 is 1.2 percent, not the anticipated 4 percent that was budgeted for, nor the 5 percent that was announced during the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference on August 18, 2020. A strategy is being developed to encourage the province to reconsider this funding and Chief Nolan has requested staff to look internally to see how the budget pressures can be reduced to make up the shortfall.

**RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-09-59**

Moved by: Warden Robinson

Seconded by: Councillor Grills

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 reviewed resident statistics and noted that the province typically claws back funding if occupancy levels drop below an established percentage but because of the pandemic, the government has advised that this claw back will be waived this calendar year.

Mrs. Sheedy provided a pandemic update and noted a staff member at Bonnechere Manor received a positive test result on September 6 from surveillance testing that took place on September 2. The staff member was asymptomatic but with a positive result, agreed to isolate. Because the staff member continued to work before the initial swab result 96 hours later, 65 residents on two units and several coworkers required testing. As an addendum, results were received from Dr. Cushman indicating that the staff member was cleared to return to work, but the facility remains in suspect with heightened measures, meaning that residents could not leave the units or mix with other residents.

**RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-09-60**

Moved by: Councillor Bennett

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 overviewed the County of Renfrew's Seniors Housing Strategy, a report compiled by Refact Consulting. He stated the process is going well, but there has been a lag time of two to three weeks in receiving data from LHIN, delaying analysis. He requested that the timeline for the final report be extended to November 1, 2020.

Mr. Moreau reported that the consultants have requested another interview blitz with elected officials. Your contribution is critical to the development of the strategy. The survey will be redistributed to Councillors.

**RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-09-61**

Moved by: Councillor Doncaster

Seconded by: Councillor Regier

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

**New Business**

During the 2019 Provincial Modernization plan, it was announced that funding cuts to Public Health meant substantial increases to municipalities. Chair Donohue noted that in Minister Elliott's address to AMO in August 2020, she stated that increases to reallocation of municipality share for Public Health funding would be capped at 10 percent for 2020/21.

**RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-09-62**

Moved by: Councillor Murphy

Seconded by: Councillor Bennett

THAT this meeting adjourns, and the next regular meeting be held October 14, 2020. Time 10:36 a.m. CARRIED.