



HEALTH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

An electronic meeting of the Health Committee was held on Wednesday, October 14, 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
Craig Kelley, Director of Development & Property
Brian Leahey, Deputy Chief, Emergency Services
Kerri-Lynn McGrath, Acting Commander, Emergency Services
Rosalyn Gruntz, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk

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-20-10-68

Moved by: Councillor Murphy

Seconded by: Councillor Bennett

THAT the minutes of September 9, 2020 be adopted as amended. CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-10-69

Moved by: Councillor Love

Seconded by: Councillor Regier

THAT the minutes of September 30, 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 to the Service pandemic response. Concerns were raised about ongoing cost of providing swabbing in outlying areas. Chief Nolan noted that from a funding model perspective, we will have to cease operation in these communities. There are serious clinical consequences to not have having a sustainable funding model for outlying areas. This policy decision is a clear disadvantage to rural populations.

Warden Robinson was directed by Committee to develop a letter to the Minister of Health with respect to funding concerns.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-10-70

Moved by: Councillor Grills

Seconded by: Councillor Love

THAT Health Committee direct the Warden to prepare a letter with respect to funding concerns associated with swabbing within the County of Renfrew and rural communities and that a copy be sent to Premier Ford and MPP Yakabuski. CARRIED.

Chief Nolan reported that In April 2008, and again, August 2016, the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service, and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 4698 agreed to terms related to an Advanced Care Paramedic Tuition Loan for primary care paramedics. Only those Primary Care Paramedics accepted into an approved Advanced Care Paramedic Education program would be considered. The previous agreement expired with the expiration of the current Collective Agreement December 31, 2019.

The Service is requesting Health Committee continue to approve up to six (6) Paramedics per year who have been accepted into an accredited institution to receive this funding. The maximum of any loan shall be based upon the applicable tuition charged by the educational institution to a maximum of \$15,000. Loan repayment in full shall be by payroll deduction of a fixed bi-weekly repayment amount over a term so specified within an agreement between the employer and the employee with such terms of repayment not to exceed two years upon completion of the program.

Committee is advised that there are more paramedics than in the past inquiring about this opportunity. Not all applicants ask for the loan, and admittance is no longer on a first-come, first-served basis. The employer reserves the right to determine who should receive this funding based on the number of applicants. Of note, Committee was previously advised that legislation has changed, and graduates are no longer permitted to work as an Advanced Care Paramedic until the successful completion of a provincial exam and have been mentored with an Advanced Care Paramedic for 14 shifts. Current employees with the Service wishing to attend schooling are required to request an educational leave of absence, however, are available to work on a part-time basis. This does not start the repayment obligation until the course is completed. This system has worked well to demonstrate the employer's interest in the advancement of staff education. The advanced scope of practice these Paramedics bring to our communities assist the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service to develop services to ensure the continued health and wellness of residents now and in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-10-71

Moved by: Councillor Grills

Seconded by: Councillor Regier

That the Health Committee recommends to County Council that the Advanced Care Paramedic Tuition Loan Program be continued through the 2020-22 school year. CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-10-72

Moved by: Councillor Murphy

Seconded by: Councillor Lafreniere

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 and Addendum attached as Appendix B and C.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-10-73

Moved by: Councillor Lafreniere

Seconded by: Councillor Murphy

THAT the Health Committee recommend to County Council that the approximately \$50,000 in savings in the parking lot repairs capital budget at Bonnechere Manor be used to replace the required but unbudgeted cook line kitchen equipment replacement of a six (6) burner stove and oven, a two (2) burner flat top grill oven and deep fryer, estimated at \$40,000 and that the Finance and Administration Committee be so advised. CARRIED.

Mrs. Sheedy reviewed a business case in support of additional Personal Support Workers at both Homes. She stated that it is long recognized that increased full-time positions allow for increased resident care continuity, more stable working conditions, and reduce the number of staff who work multiple part-time jobs.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-10-74

Moved by: Councillor Doncaster

Seconded by: Councillor Regier

THAT the Health Committee recommend to County Council that the Full-Time Personal Support Worker (PSW) complement is increased by three (3) positions at Bonnechere Manor and eight (8) positions at Miramichi Lodge and implemented as soon as possible at an annual estimated cost of \$8,570 for Bonnechere Manor and \$30,799 for Miramichi Lodge. FURTHER THAT the Finance and Administration Committee be so advised. CARRIED.

Mrs. Sheedy reviewed the Addendum to the Long-Term Care Report, noting that Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Renfrew County and District Health Unit issued the following three directives to Renfrew County Long-Term Care Homes on October 8, 2020.

1. Short stay absences, as defined in Directive #3, for long-term care and retirement home residents will be restricted only to what is absolutely necessary, for example health care related appointments, and will need to be approved by the home for timelines and oversight.
2. Visits will be limited to two designated general visitors per resident and preferably only one at a time. The listing of the two designated general visitors can be changed every month. Essential visitors are considered separate from general visitors and do not count towards the limit of two. Exceptions to allow more visitors can be made in the case of a palliative care resident and is at the discretion of the home.
3. For Long-Term Care Homes only, it is the home's responsibility to assist visitors to find their test result, if required for an indoor visit. Renfrew County and District Health Unit will only focus on positive COVID-19 tests and will not assist with finding negative test results for visitors. If a result cannot be found, LTCHs should refer to their own policy on whether to allow the visit or not. Homes may consider completing testing for visitors themselves or accepting an attestation of a negative result.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-10-75

Moved by: Councillor Murphy

Seconded by: Councillor Love

That Health Committee direct the Warden to prepare an email correspondence to the Board of Health with a copy to the Medical Officer of Health expressing concerns with the October 8, 2020 directive from the Medical Officer of Health, specifically the direction with respect to Long-Term Care and the requirement of Long-Term Care staff to provide test results to family members, and further that staff be directed to communicate with Dr. Cushman and ask him to be prepared to meet with the Warden and representatives from the County of Renfrew following the EOC meeting on Monday, Oct 19, 2020. CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-09-76

Moved by: Councillor Bennett

Seconded by: Councillor Grills

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

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-09-77

Moved by: Councillor Lafreniere

Seconded by: Councillor Bennett

That the Health Committee request that County Council approves the rescheduling of the next Health Committee from Monday, November 9, 2020 to Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 1:00 p.m., following Finance and Administration.

RESOLUTION NO. H-C-20-09-78

Moved by: Councillor Murphy

Seconded by: Councillor Regier

THAT this meeting adjourns, and the next regular meeting be held November 12, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. Time 11:24 a.m. CARRIED.