



MUNICIPALITY OF ARRAN-ELDERSLIE

Special Council Meeting

MINUTES

Meeting No. 31-2021

Wednesday, December 22, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Council Chambers and via Teleconference

1925 Bruce Road 10, Chesley, ON

Council Present: Mayor Steve Hammell
Deputy Mayor Mark Davis - Present Electronically
Councillor Doug Bell - Present Electronically
Councillor Brian Dudgeon - Present Electronically
Councillor Melissa Kanmacher - Present Electronically
Councillor Ryan Greig - Present Electronically
Councillor Ryan Nickason - Present Electronically

Staff Present: Sylvia Kirkwood - CAO
Christine Fraser-McDonald - Clerk - Present Electronically
Tracey Neifer - Treasurer - Present Electronically

1. Call to Order

Mayor Hammell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Council passed the following resolution:

31-492-2021

Moved by: Councillor Nickason

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Davis

Be It Resolved that the agenda for the Special Council Meeting of Wednesday, December 22, 2021 be received and adopted, as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried

3. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None.

4. New Business

4.1 South Bruce Grey Health Centre Announcement

Council directed staff to prepare a letter to the Hospital Board.

Council also directed staff to request a delegation from the Board Chair and CAO of the SBGHS for the January 10, 2022 Council meeting.

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

31-493-2021

Moved by: Councillor Bell

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Davis

Whereas, on December 20, 2021, the South Bruce Grey Health Centre (SBGHC) released an announcement regarding the reduction in hospital services due to nursing shortages;

Whereas, due to workplace demands as a result of the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic there continues to be an overall shortage of available registered nurses in the Province of Ontario;

Whereas, the Province of Ontario is responsible for the provision of Health Care Services in Ontario;

Whereas, the rural health care system is even more strained due to the shortage of doctors and nurses and other medical professionals;

Whereas, due to recent nursing departures in SBGHC, the Centre will be faced with even more challenges during the holiday season;

Whereas, SBGHC has determined that alternatives related to staffing shortages needs to be considered to address the health care crisis;

Whereas, upon review it was recommended that two measures be implemented: the first being the reduction of the Emergency Room hours at Walkerton Hospital and the second being the modifications to the Chesley inpatient unit;

Whereas, the Chesley Hospital Emergency Room hours have been reduced for over 2 years and the reduction in Walkerton may result in difficulties for patients to attend alternative hospitals if emergency care is needed overnight;

Whereas, these reductions continue to put a health care strain on rural communities such as Brockton, Hanover, and the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie;

Whereas, it has been recommended that the Province be requested to undertake a third-party review of these recommendations to ensure that other alternatives be considered rather than reducing services;

Whereas, the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie strongly opposes any reduction in service levels at the facilities in Chesley and Walkerton and

further request that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for the Province of Ontario intervene to find an immediate solution for the staffing shortages and ensure consistent service levels for residents of Arran-Elderslie and Brockton.

And further that the Council of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie opposes the negative impacts on first responders including the OPP, paramedics and local fire departments.

Now therefore, Be It Resolved, that Council support the request for the Province to consider conducting a third-party review at their own expense of these local health crisis measures, and send a copy of this motion to MPP Bill Walker Bruce Grey Owen Sound, MPP Lisa Thompson Huron Bruce, and Ontario Health Minister Christine Elliot, County of Bruce, County of Grey and the Municipalities of Brockton and Hanover.

Carried

5. Confirming By-law

5.1 By-law 81-2021 - Confirming By-law

Subsequent to further discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

31-494-2021

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Davis

Seconded by: Councillor Nickason

Be It Resolved that By-law No. 81-2021 be introduced and read a first, second and third time, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the Seal of the Corporation, and engrossed in the By-law Book.

By-law 81-2021 being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Special Council meeting of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie held Wednesday, December 22, 2021.

Carried

6. Adjournment

31-495-2021

Moved by: Councillor Dudgeon

Seconded by: Councillor Greig

Be It Resolved that the meeting be adjourned to the call of the Mayor at 1:57 p.m.

Carried

Steve Hammell, Mayor

Christine Fraser-McDonald, Clerk