



## HEALTH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 29, 2018

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A Special meeting of the Health Committee was held at the County Administration Building, Pembroke, Ontario on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Present were: Janice Visneskie Moore, Chair  
Jennifer Murphy, Warden

and Committee Members: Michael Donohue, Kim Love, Robert Reid

City of Pembroke Reps: Christine Reavie

Other Council: Tom Peckett, Walter Stack, Robert Sweet

Regrets: Glenn Doncaster, Robert Kingsbury, Michael LeMay

Staff Present: W. James Hutton, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk  
Michael Nolan, Director of Emergency Services  
Paul Moreau, Director of Social Services  
Jeffrey Foss, Director of Finance/Treasurer  
Shelley Sheedy, Director of Long-Term Care  
Mathieu Grenier, Acting Deputy Chief Paramedic Services  
Connie Wilson, Administrative Assistant, Finance Department

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Chair Visneskie Moore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The roll was called, and no pecuniary interests were declared.

Mr. Hutton noted that Committee may recall that during the review of year end information on the 2017 budget, there were concerns raised regarding costs associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) related to WSIB claims. Staff did not anticipate the sudden rise in these PTSD related WSIB claim costs and have met several times to discuss options to address these increases which Mr. Nolan will overview for Committee. Mr. Hutton noted that these discussions will need to continue into the budget cycle for 2019.

Mr. Nolan distributed and overviewed the Addendum to the Health Committee Report which is attached as Appendix A. Mr. Nolan advised that the significant increase in costs is due to legislation that was previously implemented by the Province. Although the Province provided some financial assistance for PTSD expenses in 2017, they have advised that no funding is coming for 2018 expenditures. Mr. Nolan noted that neighbouring municipalities are all in the same situation.

Mr. Nolan advised that there are several other components impacting the increase in costs in 2018 which are related to the Personal Emergency Leave (PEL) days that were implemented in early 2018 and have significantly increased staffing costs to date and end of shift overtime and meal costs associated with County of Renfrew ambulances that transfer patients to Ottawa and then have to remain in Ottawa to answer calls as they are the nearest unit to respond.

Mr. Nolan advised that the \$800,000 is a transfer from reserves and does not impact the net 2018 County tax levy. Mr. Nolan also advised that he will be bringing forward cost mitigation options to the September meeting for Committee's consideration.

Warden Murphy advised that this issue is not unique to Renfrew County. It has province-wide implications and is a Liberal government initiative that now impacts the new Progress Conservative government. This is worthy of a delegation from the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) and can be discussed at the upcoming September EOWC meeting. Warden Murphy asked Mr. Nolan to prepare a financial summary so this data can be presented to delegations.

Councillor Stack advised that something needs to be done and he noted that the Arnprior Hospital utilizes a private transfer agency to transfer patients from the Arnprior Hospital to Ottawa and the reality is that costs should be allocated where they belong by the appropriate government structure not from the residential taxpayer. Mr. Nolan advised that many Emergency Services departments no longer do hospital to hospital transfers, these are done strictly by a private transfer agency.

Councillor Sweet noted that when he was on the AMO Board the purpose of the MOU was to promote the principle of consultation between the Province of Ontario and AMO whenever the province proposes statutory or regulatory changes that have a significant impact on municipal budgets. AMO's participation enables ministries to work to anticipate issues, obtain initial reactions and if necessary, rework policies and programs to reflect the municipal perspective. Councillor Sweet indicated that someone should question whether this was brought to the MOU table for discussion. It is imperative that the significant cost increases from the legislation be brought forward to the AMO Board and be brought to the MOU table immediately for discussion as costs are only going to increase.

Councillors Love and Peckett departed the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Councillor Donohue noted that it is imperative that the County of Renfrew move forward with a policy position to have the province address this issue immediately and pay their fair share of the associated costs for this mandated legislation.

Committee overviewed the \$800,000 cost breakdown and Mr. Nolan advised that approximately \$100,000 is related to PEL days, \$500,000 is related to PTSD/WSIB costs and the remainder is related to overtime and meal costs associated with patient transfers and calls in Ottawa.

**RESOLUTION NO. H-C-18-08-77**

Moved by: Councillor Donohue  
Seconded by: Warden Murphy

THAT County Council approve that the 2018 Budget for the Paramedic Services Department be revised to reflect \$800,000 higher WSIB claims and other staffing expenses; AND FURTHER THAT there be an additional transfer from the Paramedic Reserves within the 2018 Budget to fund these higher expenses so as not to alter the net 2018 County tax levy of \$43,984,534; AND FURTHER that the actual County share of any 2018 year end deficit within the Paramedic Services Department be funded first from the 2018 General Revenue Fund Surplus, if available.

CARRIED.

**RESOLUTION NO. H-C-18-08-78**

Moved by: Warden Murphy  
Seconded by: Councillor Reavie

THAT this meeting adjourn and the next regular meeting be held Wednesday, September 5, 2018. Time – 9:40 a.m.

CARRIED.