

TOWN OF SIDNEY

MINUTES OF EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

December 16, 2020 10:00AM

PRESENT: R. Humble; Chief Mikkelsen, A. Hicik; A. Verhagen, Staff Sergeant Conley; Councillor S. Duncan; C. Newcomb; B. DeMaere; L. Witzer; D. Barner, S. Nelson, B. Robinson

ABSENT: Councillor P. Wainwright; Deputy Chief Harman; Sergeant Cook; CPL Harding; W. Maxwell; J. Joe; S. Jones;

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chief Mikkelsen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by R. Humble, seconded by A. Hicik, that the Agenda of the Emergency Planning Committee Meeting of December 16th, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by C. Newcomb, seconded by A. Hicik, that the Minutes of the Emergency Planning Committee Meeting of November 18th, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Senior Care Facilities Update

D. Barner & D/C Harman met with the Senior Care facilities on November 26 via zoom. Reported that they are remaining diligent in their precautions. No outbreaks in Sidney facilities to date and facilities are feeling confident in the precautions they are taking and the support they are receiving from Island Health.

b. Mass Emergency Notification Service Provider

Thanked D/C Harman and D. Barner for sourcing a new provider that met all of our concerns. Currently transitioning to Connect Rocket behind the scenes, but residents won't be moving over until the New Year. Have extended existing contract with ERMS until March 31st, 2021. Timeline of December 20th felt particularly rushed when working amongst three municipalities and staff holidays. Will have a better idea in the new year of an expected date, but will be before March.

c. UBCM – Emergency Evacuation Grant Application

Fire Department staff submitted an application through the UBCM for an Emergency Evacuation Grant Application in the sum of \$22,050.00. Anticipate having direction on whether the Town was successful or not in February.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. EOC Level One

The Chair reported that the Town is now at a level one EOC. Rationale is for monitoring information and retaining situational awareness. There is no shortage of committees that are hosting meetings and calls related to COVID-19. Further reasoning is assurance that our plans are ready to be deployed as needed. These plans would be for if there is an outbreak that affects our functions and or if there are restrictions that would affect staffing. Spoke to retaining essential efforts and that is what the plans outline.

R. Humble: agreed with Chair that there are several COVID-19 related calls occurring. Was on a call with administrators this morning, have calls every second week. Appears that every other municipality is at a level one EOC and touching base once or twice a week through virtual meetings.

Stressed the importance that departments work towards completing internal department based response plans regarding critical services provisions. Can be a simple template. Again, a lot of municipalities are working on this as well. Not intended to be an exhaustive volume of requirements, can be a one page simple document.

b. EOC and Staff Holidays

A. Verhagen clarified what the expectations would be over the Christmas holidays with COVID meetings. Chair will be working over the holidays and will be available. Any requests or concerns can be brought to him.

R. Humble: J. Clary had inquired to Staff Sergeant Conley how the bylaw enforcement calls will be handled over the Christmas closure at Town hall. In agreement that bylaw calls will be directly forwarded to the RCMP.

Staff Sergeant Conley: have received explicit information from supervisors as to what is enforceable under current COVID restrictions. Have seen a little bit of an increase in calls, but not significant. Not sure what to expect over Christmas holidays, but is not concerned about assisting with bylaw over the holidays.

7. ROUNDTABLE

A. Verhagen: forwarded the BC CDC dashboard survey results to the group. Recommended committee review; can be sorted into detailed Sidney specific information.

Chair: Update on vaccine remains that police, fire, ambulance scheduled for early April.

C. Newcomb: questioned if the COVID vaccine process will be similar to the influenza vaccine roll out. Chair explained provincial strategy is to cover ICU and critical care patients and staff first as the primary concern and then will continue to target at risk populations. General community vaccinations are anticipated for summer/fall at the earliest. C. Newcomb also inquired about case counts in Sidney. Chair explained we are not privy to this information unless it is linked to a facility outbreak.

L. Witzer: Inquired to committee if support staff will be involved in the first responder cohort as well when it comes to vaccines, or will they be part of the general population? Chair: does not have an answer for this but will be monitoring that information as well.

D. Barner: Island Health updated this morning that cases at Saanich Peninsula Hospital are ongoing. Chair agreed that COVID-19 is within our community and we need to remain cognitive of that.

Staff Sergeant Conley: As of this week, detachment has made shifts in protocols due to the Saanich Peninsula Hospital outbreak and additionally two officers upisland testing positive for COVID.

Committee discussed meeting schedule. In agreement that meetings will continue on a monthly basis for the time being.

A. Hicik: extended a thank you to those who took part in EOC and continued to work in recovery. Chair echoed these comments and thanked committee and wished everyone a happy new year.

Chair ended the meeting at 10:31.

8. NEXT MEETING

10:00am, January 20, 2021 via Zoom.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:31.

MOTION CARRIED

CHAIR