

## TOWN OF SIDNEY

### MINUTES OF EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 10:00AM

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**PRESENT:** R. Humble; A. Hicik; Deputy Chief Harman; Staff Sergeant Conley; CPL. Harding; Councillor S. Duncan; C. Newcomb; W. Maxwell; B. DeMaere; L. Witzer; D. Barner

**ABSENT:** Councillor P. Wainwright; Chief Mikkelsen; Sergeant Cook; J. Joe; S. Jones; S. Nelson, B. Robinson

#### 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Deputy Chief Harman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00.

#### 2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

#### 3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Staff Sergeant W. Conley, seconded by D. Barner, that the Agenda of the Emergency Planning Committee Meeting of November 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### 5. OLD BUSINESS

##### a. Senior Care Facilities Update

The Chair reported that he is still in at minimum weekly conversations with the Senior Care Facilities Working Group. No COVID cases to date, but they are experiencing a spike in related symptoms. Facilities are all taking all precautions possible.

##### b. Policy PR – 6.9 COVID Safety Plan

R. Humble reported that the management team reviewed and updated the COVID-19 safety plan. Biggest change is the wearing of masks when travelling through common places. Has been well received by staff; have not had any pushback or concerns. R. Humble and the Town's Safety Officer have reviewed all rooms maximum occupancy limits. General housekeeping was also reviewed on the plan. Stressed the importance of reviewing plan on a regular basis and that staff receive updates. Plan is posted to website.

**c. Mass Emergency Notification Service Provider**

The Chair advised that notice has been provided to ERMS that our current contract will be terminated as of December 20<sup>th</sup>. Saanich Peninsula Alert will be moving to Connect Rocket. This change will allow for considerable savings and a more user-friendly platform for both staff and the public. Chief is working on a report to Council. Public will be advised of the switch when it is occurring, but there should be minimal impact to the public.

**d. Flu shots on Town website**

D. Barner reported that access to booking flu shots through Island Health and pharmacies was posted on the Town website and shared on social media.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. UBCM – Emergency Evacuation Grant Application**

The Chair reported that the Town has applied for an Emergency Evacuation Route Planning Grant through UBCM. Current plans are quite outdated. A small component of the funds (\$6000.00), if successful, will go towards regional planning being prepared by REMP. Confirmed that this plan would be inclusive of the RCMP, PEMO, Public Works, and Fire.

*10:10 B. DeMeare joined the meeting.*

**7. ROUNDTABLE**

R. Humble has been in discussions with Chief Mikkelsen regarding setting up the EOC to a level one given the current cases on the island. Is aware that Chief Mikkelsen, Deputy Harman and D. Barner are meeting regularly to discuss response plans and attain situational awareness. Taking a “wait and see” approach on an EOC set up for the time being. Early December will have Administrator calls and that will aid in assessing where other municipalities stand.

- The Chair confirmed that on a CRD call this morning, majority of municipalities are meeting once a week to discuss COVID-19 and monitoring at a level one EOC. Suggested meeting with Chief Mikkelsen, R. Humble, and D. Barner to discuss COVID-19 updates weekly. Vancouver Island has increased from what used to be 1 case out of 1000 tests were positive; currently 1 case out of 80 tests are positive. Also noted there is a confirmed case at Saanich Peninsula Hospital.
- Councillor Duncan expressed concerns about public perception if the Town resumes a level one EOC. Based on the feedback from the EOC Response Survey, feels apprehensive that people will leap to a conclusion that officials are withholding information from the public, such as where cases are located. Furthermore, concerned that with recent announcement stating that transmission occurs in gatherings in homes that the Town should be ahead of messaging as far as realistic expectations on RCMP and Bylaw actions. Public may put pressure on local governments to mandate masks.
- Staff Sergeant W. Conley confirmed that there is no enforcement around masks as they are currently only a recommendation. Shared that detachment recently

received information about a family being exposed to a positive case, but limited specifics were offered. Finding it challenging to gauge responses with limited information. Currently operating on a case by case basis on how to best protect First Responders.

C. Newcomb provided an update on the OCP progress. Event for early December has been postponed. Hoping to reschedule for early 2021 if conditions allow, if not, will look at virtual options. In a “wait and hold” position.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

10:00am, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 via Zoom.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by A.Hicik seconded by R. Humble, that the meeting adjourn at 10:22.

**MOTION CARRIED**

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CHAIR

**Action Items:**

June 2020	Making Cities Resilient Campaign	D. Barner
October 2020	COVID-19 Response Survey Data	B. Mikkelsen/ R. Humble