



Municipality of West Elgin
Emergency Control Group
Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
Held via Zoom

Present: Deputy Mayor R. Leatham
CAO/Treasurer M. Badura
CEMC B. Weber
Alternate CEMC L. Gosnell
Fire Chief Al Beer
Utilities M. Kalita
Scribe J. Nethercott

Regrets: Mayor D. McPhail

CAO/Treasurer Magda Badura called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Magda Badura provided an update on recent announcements from the Ministry of Health from May 19, regarding the opening of some outdoor amenities and May 20 regarding the recommendation to wear masks in public where physical distancing can not be maintained. Magda also provided an update that the Ministry of Education stated on May 19 that all public schools will remain closed for this school year.

Magda reported that the Southwestern Public Health call today she inquired if they should be planning for COVID-19 to last and therefore makes more sense to purchase permanent or at least longer lasting signage. Southwestern Public Health confirmed that they expect this to be around for two (2) to three (3) years. Magda also inquired about guidelines for garage sales, as we have put out social media posts discouraging garage or yard sales. The Health Unit is not comfortable at this time releasing guidelines as they feel it is too early in the easing of restrictions to even think about hosting of these sales.

Magda reported that the Plexiglas has been installed in the office, wireless moneris machine and popsicle sticks have arrived and one more staff member has returned to work. She is concerned with maintaining our stock pile of PPE once we do open to the public and is working the Fire Chief about securing more PPE through their vendors to avoid price gouging.

Lee Gosnell reported that the tennis courts are now open and we have placed temporary use at own risk signs at the entrances until permanent ones have been ordered. The only benches that were removed were the ones on the Main Street of West Lorne and at this time they will not be returned until permanent signs are ready.

Jana Nethercott reported that Dutton Dunwich and Newbury Service Ontario offices are completely in agreement with opening together and that the earliest possible date for re-opening would be June 1st, however no one is sure this is doable at this time.

Jana Nethercott also reported that she has been receiving an increased number of calls for marriage license from as far away as Toronto as there are only 3 municipal offices in Ontario (as far as she knows) that are agreeing to do marriage licenses. At this time the plan is to continue to do these as contact free as possible in the parking lot, but should the numbers get to large, there may need to be some changes made to not encourage travel from outside of our area.

Richard Leatham inquired if we could open just Service Ontario and not the municipal office and explain this through signage. Magda explained that this is not possible due to our set up and that approximately 80% of the foot traffic in the office is related to Service Ontario.

Bettina Weber stated that in the other Municipalities she assists it has also been discussed that longer term planning needs to be made an office need to be prepared for more waves of this pandemic and she feels that the idea of permanent signs, installation of the Plexiglas and other steps taken are all good ideas. She has received a legal opinion that it is not necessary to take temperatures of the public entering our offices but that we may be able to require the use of masks for staff and public. She also stated that she is testing out an electronic version of her Introduction to Emergency Management course and if this goes well she will be offering to other areas soon.

Emergency Control Group Meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m. to meet again at 1 p.m. on June 5, 2020.

Magda Badura
Chair
CAO/Treasurer

Jana Nethercott
Scribe