

The Corporation of the Town of Blind River

REPORT

Report of the CAO/Clerk
Committee Meetings During an Emergency
June 8, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Operations

PURPOSE

Provide Council with background on Emergency Management Plan relating to Committee Meetings.

BACKGROUND

On March 17, 2020 when the Province of Ontario declared a Provincial Emergency, Council was advised that we would be following our Emergency Management Plan (EMP). This plan lays out that a reduction in services will occur as staff time is reallocated to other areas and requirements during the pandemic.

In the early days of the pandemic staff were adjusting to daily and at times hourly releases from Algoma Public Health (APH) and the Province of Ontario on what we were to do. These directions rolled out fast and at times without clear decisive direction, as the World had not encountered such a crisis.

Our daily roles changed drastically and added many new daily tasks to ensure that the health and safety of our residents, staff, and Council were all taken care of. Some items were not moved forward on timelines that were planned out during budget deliberations. Even though the Province is moving forward to Stage 2 of reopening we are not out of the emergency nor are we seeing a reduction to the additional work load as a result of this Health Emergency. In fact, as of June 8th with the announcement of Stage 2 applying to the Algoma District, once again threw staff into additional work determining how we will address these new directions.

Staff have not undertaken any projects that have not been addressed in the following plans previously adopted by Council:

1. Service Delivery Review
2. Corporate Strategic Plan and Economic Development Strategy
3. Community Improvement Plan
4. 2020 Municipal Budget
5. Current funding agreements

As well, Council has been receiving email updates on projects. With Council meetings returning to normal we have created a monthly reporting procedure to enable each department to update Council.

Holding Committee Meetings during the pandemic would only be for information purposes at this time as we are adjusting our work plans as we are permitted under the Provincial Emergency. Further Committee meetings would normally not be held in the summer months due to

holiday time for staff and Council, which I believe we can all agree that during this time we all require a reset for the benefit of our mental health.

So, while I certainly can appreciate Council's desire to get back to normal with committee meetings, it is my recommendation that we hold off until September giving staff time to regroup, reassess and hopefully see the Province of Ontario move into Stage 3 of the reopening.

September administration will have more information to enable appropriate informed information for Council to base decisions for moving forward into 2021

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept the report from the CAO/Clerk regarding holding off resuming of committee meetings during the COVID-19 Pandemic until September 2020;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council authorize the continued suspension of Committee meetings until September 2020; AND THAT all deptment continue to provide Council with updates each month to ensure Council is informed on operations during COVID-19.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Scott
CAO/Clerk