



**The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton**  
**Emergency Council Meeting Minutes**  
**(South Bruce Grey Health Centre Nursing Staffing Shortage)**

**Monday, December 20, 2021, 12:00 p.m.**  
**Electronic Meeting**

**Council Present:** Chris Peabody, Mayor  
Dan Gieruszak, Deputy Mayor  
Steve Adams, Councillor  
Kym Hutcheon, Councillor  
James Lang, Councillor  
Dean Leifso, Councillor

**Council Absent:** Tim Elphick, Councillor

**Staff Present:** Fiona Hamilton, Clerk  
Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer  
Sarah Johnson, Jr. Deputy Clerk

**1. Acceptance of Emergency Council Agenda**

**Resolution 21-35-01**

Moved By: James Lang

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton accept the Agenda for the Special Council Meeting on December 20, 2021 as presented.

**Carried**

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**

Councillor Elphick had informed Fiona Hamilton, Clerk that he had a conflict of interest in relation to item 3.1 for professional reasons such that he was not in attendance at the meeting.

**3. Consideration of Business For Notice Was Given**

**3.1 South Bruce Grey Health Centre - Potential Service Reduction Due to Nursing Shortage**

Mayor Peabody provided a summary of the reason for the emergency meeting. Mayor Peabody noted that previously there were service reductions to the emergency room at the Chesley hospital which became permanent. Mayor Peabody informed Council that service reductions were now being proposed at the Walkerton hospital, as the emergency room would be closed past 8:00 p.m. and the Chesley hospital would no longer have overnight care aside from patients waiting for a long-term care room. Mayor Peabody noted that the Walkerton hospital birthing unit would remain open, as would the on-call surgery to ensure a C-sections could be completed if needed for the birthing unit.

Mayor Peabody noted the efforts made by Brockton to spearhead additional funding for the birthing unit and addressing staff departures in the operating

room, and the fact that as many residents do not have family doctors, they rely on the services provided at the emergency room. The South Bruce detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police advocated for the service to remain as is due to the need for timely care when responding to mental health calls.

Council debated the motion proposed by Mayor Peabody and the potential financial contribution to be included from each lower tier.

Mayor Peabody informed Council of the discussions that had occurred with the local MP and MPP's and the action those individuals would be taking.

Deputy Mayor Gieruszak suggested including additional ways that Brockton has supported healthcare in the resolution given the Municipality's long history of involvement.

Council discussed the impact of the mandatory vaccination policy on the nursing shortage provincially as well. Council expressed support for a third party review to ensure that the concerns of the staff are being adequately considered. It was noted that the safety and wellness of residents were paramount concerns such that Brockton may need to consider expanding the physician recruitment program for nursing staff as well.

It was noted that the proposal was discussed in the meeting held with the South Bruce Grey Health Centre and that the Health Centre would co-operate with the third party review. Council discussed whether the hospital itself would be funding the study and the proposed recommendations.

#### **Resolution 21-35-02**

Moved By: Dan Gieruszak

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

WHEREAS the South Bruce Grey Health Centre has provided notice that it is facing a significant shortage in health human resources (specifically Nurses and Medical Laboratory Technologists) that has been exacerbated by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the South Bruce Grey Health Centre is considering service reductions to the facilities in Chesley and Walkerton;

AND WHEREAS these services and facilities are of critical importance to the health and safety of Brockton's residents;

AND WHEREAS given the long history of involvement by Brockton Council in supporting healthcare, including the:

- Brockton and Area Family Health Team
- Support for the South Bruce Grey Health Centre's CAT Scan campaign
- Support for the Walkerton and District Hospital Foundation, including the recent mammography machine campaign
- Efforts conducted by the Brockton and Area Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee in recruiting physicians to our community.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council of the Municipality of Brockton strongly opposes any reduction in service levels at the facilities in Chesley and Walkerton and further requests that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for the Province of Ontario intervene to find an immediate solution to the staffing shortages and ensure consistent service levels for residents of the Municipality of Brockton.

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Municipality of Brockton opposes the negative impacts on first responders, including the Ontario Provincial Police, paramedics, and local fire departments.

**Carried**

**Resolution 21-35-03**

Moved By: Dan Gieruszak

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton approves amending the Agenda to consider the motion read by Mayor Peabody.

**Carried**

**Resolution 21-35-04**

Moved By: Steve Adams

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

Whereas the Council of the Municipality of Brockton formally requests that the County of Bruce consider retaining a Health services expert to consider nursing staffing shortages in southern Bruce County and further that the County of Bruce consider financial contributions of up to \$10,000 per impacted Municipality to assist in addressing this shortage.

**Carried**

**4. Confirmation of Proceedings**

**Resolution 21-35-05**

Moved By: Dan Gieruszak

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton authorize that the following by-law be read, enacted, signed, sealed, and numbered as follows:

- By-Law 2021-174 - December 20, 2021 Confirmatory By-Law

**Carried**

**5. Adjournment**

**Resolution 21-35-06**

Moved By: James Lang

Seconded By: Dean Leifso

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now adjourn at 12:27 p.m. to meet again on January 11, 2022.

**Carried**

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Mayor - Chris Peabody

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Clerk – Fiona Hamilton