

**MEETING REPORT
MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH DUNDAS
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
March 26, 2020**

**Municipal Office, Morrisburg
1:00 p.m.**

Present: Cameron Morehouse (Community Emergency Management Coordinator), Brenda Brunt, Shannon Geraghty, Jeff Hyndman, Sarah McMillan, Danielle Watson, Chris Paulino, Denis Villeneuve, Steven Byvelds, Kirsten Gardner, Ethan Robert

1. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Eastern Ontario Health Unit

Dr. Paul Roumeliotis provided an update regarding the response within Eastern Ontario via conference call. He noted cases associated with travel and community transmission were equal, and that additional assessment centers and associated resources were being collected and deployed as needed. He reinforced social distancing as a priority in order to flatten the curve, but that the area is able to respond to emergency room surges. Dr. Paul Roumeliotis noted that quarantine orders and enforcement powers were now in place in response to the large number of Canadians returning to the country, particularly in communities along the 401 corridor, through how the monitoring and enforcement of those orders is still developing.

Dr. Paul Roumeliotis stated that in cooperation with The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, United Counties of Prescott-Russell and the City of Cornwall, they were jointly declaring a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 virus at 4:15 p.m. this afternoon. He stated that this was to ensure the area was prepared to respond moving forward. He reinforced this was a critical point in limiting the spread of the virus further. He commented that the emergency response system was working well, and that the level of cooperation from all stakeholders was excellent. Within the Q and A session, he did note that area medical supplies were being rationed.

2. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

Mayor Byvelds provided background regarding the joint State of Emergency declaration from the Counties and City of Cornwall, noting that lower-tier municipalities were left to their own discretion to declare a state of emergency. The Committee discussed if the Municipality of South Dundas should declare a state of emergency as other lower-tier administrations have. Mayor Byvelds and CEMC Morehouse agreed that the Committee would continue to monitor the situation and reevaluate if new cases are found within the community or neighboring communities, and that it was not required at this time.

The Committee discussed the potential impacts of returning Canadians on the community and local businesses.

Deputy Mayor Gardner noted that the business community was responding well to the situation and was reinforcing the social distancing protocols and sanitizing regularly. She suggested a positive message encouraging businesses and the community to continue following the guidelines. She also suggested that mental health resources be communicated and available to the community, noting the stress related to isolation.

Danielle Watson noted that the South Dundas landfill site was the only remaining site open within the County. Brenda Brunt noted that staff had received an increase in calls inquiring about the landfill and its hours. The Committee agreed to maintain the hours at the dump and encouraged staff to continue to check if they are residents.

The following actions took place:

	ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	Communications – Mental Health	Committee discussed the impact of self-isolation on members of the community.	Reinforce and communicate available mental health resources.
2.	Communications – Positive business messaging	Committee discussed the response from the business community.	Positive messaging for business community.
3.	Communications – Mayor Update	Committee discussed a summary communication regarding the State of Emergency called and the South Dundas response.	Communication clarifying the recent update from Dr. Paul Roumeliotis.
4.	Next Meeting	Mayor Byvelts noted the Committee would continue to meet 2-3 times a week.	Next meeting: March 30, 2020 at 1 p.m.