



The Village of
PORT CLEMENTS
"Gateway to the Wilderness"

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Minutes of Emergency Management Commission Meeting March 23, 2020

Present:

CAO Ruby Decock	ESS Director Zena Thiersten
Deputy Clerk Elizabeth Cumming	Councillor Teri Kish
Ambulance Representative Kazamir Falconbridge	Councillor Brigid Cumming
Emergency Coordinator Aaron Cunningham	Health Nurse Dana
Mayor Doug Daugert	CAD Carl
Northern Health John Short	

Meeting Called to order at 10:00 AM

1. ADOPT AGENDA

2020-03-04--Moved by Aaron Cunningham, seconded by Kazamir Falconbridge
THAT the Commission adopts the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

2. ASSIGNING EOC POSITIONS

- a. **COMMUNICATIONS**
- b. **PLANNING (CAO Decock)**
- c. **FINANCE (Deputy Clerk Cumming w/ CAO Decock)**
- d. **OPERATIONS (John Short is Northern Health dealing with the Emergency)**

***Discussion notes:** EOC Director (CAO) Decock is activating EOC to level 1 in preparation of the event and to cover some costs. Northern Health has the authority over this emergency, as such they are operations. Logistics currently has Deputy Clerk Cumming on it*

At this level only CAO Decock, Deputy Clerk Cumming and Northern Health John Short are involved at the EOC at this activation level.

***John Short:** Northern Health locally is about local services, any direction to municipalities from Northern Health comes from Ministry or Chief Health Officer. They are there to clarify and assist but not that direction role. His role will be to share and provide information, showing at meetings, address any concerns from our level. That is the extent of their role. There was some xenophobic messaging happening on the Island, which has amped up violence and the awareness of violence in the community – more activity with RCMP, increase in mental health and addiction needs over the weekend. Important to keep with facts and messaging coming from the government from ministries and CDC (misinformation regarding the mennotie communities. Who had communicated with Northern Health before the situation developed). "let's get curious instead of furious". New staff members coming from off-island are getting confusing information. Confusion feeds panic, our job is to keep the community calm.*

Acting out of hospitals EOC out of premise that COVID-19 will be on Island in the future. One thing is that they need a list of volunteers (to deliver medication), community inventory, assistance with laundry and housekeeping and beds. Looking at ESS and logistics to gather this kind of information – planning ahead to keep the Port EOC informed. Can we find secondary housing and support for long-term care residents. Ideally they want the hospital empty for COVID-19 for direct patient care. Another message is, if and when it hits, we are going to have a lot of population. Affecting up to 400-600 people being affected, with 40 people dying. However, it is prudent to stay on target with messaging.

Zena Thiersten: ESS policy for Port Clements. Can ramp up pretty fast to level 2 or level 3, though level 1 right now is okay.

Teri Kish: Available for phone calls with EOC in Masset.

Dana Rollette: Public Health role

Carl: health to emergency and acute care at this point. The hospital will need to be as contained as possible to keep people at risk as low as possible.

Kazamir Falconbridge: glad there is activation of EOC, keeping in to the loop from EMBC. Currently at 355,000 worldwide with 1500 in Canada. 4 confirmed cases in Northern Health. We know it is coming and we have to prepare. Making sure they get protective gear and staff training. A lot less calls for service, a lot less practice dealing with LIL patients (influenza-like symptoms). Masks and gowns are N95 respirator and basic face-shield, eyeglasses and gown. However, they see that everyone else is using full-hazmat suits. Risk for contracting disease – concerning.

Position for safety & health – one of the persons who might be appropriate to be this role is someone from ambulance or health clinic. Suggests that he can be the representative for this role.

Decock (responding to Kazamir) – do not see the need for this position of safety & health officer right now.

Aaron Cunningham: not huge demand for large group. Information coming at us so if we can keep our avenues open, that would be great.

Mayor Daugert: Very little, fairly new. Trying to get a feel for how structure will operate. Hopes to contribute with communications and planning to keep it on track.

Councillor Kish: for our EOC, level 1 – one site, Village Office. Suggestion is that EOC sections Chief is Emergency Coordinator Aaron. Might want to bring our Senior Finance Manager – paperwork with hours and overtime filled out by finance (to help with Elizabeth). Decock: SFM will be Deputy's alternate, Elizabeth is dealing with Communication & Finance. Have we reached out to fire department and what type of PPE they will be wearing.

Decock: we did receive info from external sources that deals with Fire Protection Services. Forwarded standards to Fire Chief & Deputy. What has been identified is that she does not have authority to tell them how to respond, they have their process and how their organization operates. Has instructed the Fire Chief & Deputy to reach out to BC Ambulance and coordinate a response plan.

Falconbridge: N95, fire fighters have SCBA if they have to get close – they don't get close unless there is a MVI.

Decock: need assistance from within the group to deal with planning. Ask if anyone would like to do this task: Kazamir Falconbridge is volunteering, as well as Aaron Cunningham.

3. COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS – EOC MITIGATIVE ACTIONS/PREPAREDNESS

Discussion notes:

CAO: before EOC activation – closed all public facilities, playgrounds, cancelled public events (Recreation Commission). Controlling all access to public spaces to reduce spread of COVID-19. Concern: communicating consistently to the public. Participating in All-Island EOC, which each community taking on this message. Concern: communication within the community (not everyone on Facebook, online or watching the news). Needing to look at in the future. Maybe distribute information to the public and making sure they receive what they need to do. Wants to make sure there is info on difference between self-isolation and quarantine. Rise in violence/intolerance around self-isolation. Issue with inaccurate news. They have switched from regular operations to essential services only – all business aspects of the Village are reduced to ensuring we continue to have water & sewer functioning as normal, if there is an operator that becomes sick they are working on an all-island assistance plan. Working with all-island, EMBC, and Ministry of Housing and Municipalities. Clarification if the number has been reduced from 50 gathering – anticipating it to be 10 people (TBA).

Help with group – logistically trying to find ways to obtain supplies on & off-island to protect volunteers for ESS. Something that Zena can address. ESS right now it would be phone-only with reception centre. No way they can open one with social-distancing and under 10 people. It would be a phone-in reception centre. Would not do group lodging at all – people would be asked to stay with family and friends.

Other concerns: public spaces, congregation of people within the community. Meeting in churches, grocery store, cafes – it is still happening, but only so much that they can control. Concern is that people are not abiding by these. Not sure how to enforce.

***John Short** : message right now is for everyone take part in their civic duty, not clear direction with RCMP to enforce it (with municipal EOC). Leaders to meet with business partners and give the message to have steps in place to limit & abide by it. All messaging comes from civic duty. Even if RCMP is given that authority, they have people-power of 6 officers for their shared communities. Positive messaging is needed to encourage people not to gather.*

***Teri Kish**: Messages & communication with EOC out of OMV & Belline Brown public notices and putting them at the campground sites, lakes, where public people run into each other – sidewalks, etc. that way we're not sending anything door-to-door. Telephone poles. The goal is that in the general overall announcements that Elizabeth will communicate with the all-island before releasing things.*

***Kazamir Falconbridge**: Chief Health Officer for Canada looking at months with COVID-19 – potential to experience other emergency event during this COVID-19. Think about how we are going to get personal protective equipment and volunteers trained on it, for the unlikely case for the next year.*

***Mayor Daugert**: All-Island EOC representative – CAO Decock & Mayor Daugert. Councillor Kish is attending as Old Masset's representative. She will not be representing Port at protocol table.*

***CAO Decock**: will keep updated by emails with any changes. May take a few days as they deal with operations, ask for understanding with delays.*

4. ADJOURNMENT

2020-03-05—Moved by Kazamir Falconbridge, seconded by Aaron Cunningham

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:56 AM

CARRIED