SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
1:00 pm Council Chambers, Fingal

For the purpose of an update on COVID-19

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

3. REPORT

4. ADJOURNMENT: NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
   TUESDAY APRIL 14, 2020 @ 7:00 P.M.
   Council Chambers, Fingal
DATE: March 31, 2020

PREPARED BY: Katherine Thompson, CAO/Clerk

REPORT NO.: CAO 2020-18

SUBJECT MATTER: COVID-19 Update March 24, 2020

Recommendation:
THAT Council receive this report for information.

Purpose:
To provide Council with up to date information about the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Background:

As of Monday March 30, at 3:00 p.m. there were 1,706 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ontario with 23 resulting deaths. Some of these confirmed cases have since been resolved. Currently there have been 8 cases of COVID-19 in the SWPH Region. One of these cases has been resolved. Up to date information is available on the SWPH website at https://www.swpublichealth.ca/partners-and-professionals-update-novel-coronavirus-covid-19

There has been some question surrounding the case count in Elgin. When residents call SWPH with symptoms of COVID-19 they are told to self-isolate. Unless they are formally tested, they are not considered positive cases and are not included in the official count. SWPH is separately tracking the number of people told to self-isolate.

Comment:

Provincial Orders

As of Monday March 23, at 3:00 p.m. the province has mandated the closure of all non-essential businesses at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday March 24th for 14 days.

On March 29th the Province issued a new emergency order under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act to prohibit organized public events and social gatherings of more than five people. This order would not apply to private households with five people or more. It would also not apply to operating child care centres supporting frontline health care workers and first responders provided the number of persons at each centre does not exceed 50 people. Funerals would be permitted to proceed with up to 10 people at one time. As per the media release from the Province, organized public events include parades, weddings, social gatherings and communal services within places of worship. Based on this release municipal council meetings do not fall within the category of an organized public event; however, the CAO is currently seeking clarification regarding this issue. Social distancing practices should still apply to Council meetings.
On March 30th, Dr. David Williams, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health, issued a statement strongly recommending that Ontarians stay home except for essential reasons, such as to:

- Access health care services;
- Shop for groceries;
- Pick-up medication at the pharmacy;
- Walk pets when required; and
- Support vulnerable community members with meeting the above needs.

Additionally, the Medical Officer of Health recommended that Ontarians over the age of 70 years old self-isolate, this also applies to individuals who have

In addition, as previously communicated and mandated by the federal government, all individuals who are returning from travel outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days upon return.

All Province of Ontario Media Releases can be accessed at the following link: [https://news.ontario.ca/newsroom/en](https://news.ontario.ca/newsroom/en)

**Enforcement**

There has been some confusion around the enforcement of orders under the EMCPA. Previously, only police officers and constables who have been appointed under an Act have the ability to enforce orders made under the EMCPA. As of Friday afternoon the OPP were still determining how enforcement would take place. Over the weekend the Province issued a notice to all Heads of Council announcing that due to COVID-19, police resources are being stretched and police services have made requests to have other enforcement personnel assist with enforcing the emergency orders being made by the province. The government has signed a ministerial designation under the Provincial Offences Act to authorize municipal by-law enforcement official to enforce orders under the EMCPA. The Township of Southwold uses MEU for by-law enforcement and MEU is aware of their responsibilities and are prepared to undertake enforcement. Residents with concerns regarding violations of EMCPA orders can either contact MEU directly or contact Township staff who will pass along concerns to MEU. This information will be posted on the Township’s website.

**Parks**

Southwold Township’s playground structures have been closed to the public since Tuesday March 25th. On Monday March 30th SWPH recommended on its daily call to CAOs and emergency responders that all outdoor recreation facilities including basketball courts, baseball diamonds, soccer fields and tennis courts be closed to the public and that appropriate signage be erected. This is due to the proximity of individuals when playing these sports and the communal contact with spots equipment (balls). This does not extend to other public green spaces and trails at this time.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Katherine Thompson, CAO/Clerk