

INFORMAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF COCKBURN ISLAND COUNCIL
10 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 30th, 2025
Meeting On-line by ZOOM <https://www.google.com/url?q=htSXXX>

Mayor: Brenda Jones
Councillors: Lee Chappell
Jeff House
Simon Lacombe
Scott Stewart
Clerk: Brent St. Denis
Absent: Nil

SPECIAL MEETING WITH ORNGE REPRESENTATIVES

To review the circumstances surrounding two separate medical emergency incidents on November 3rd and November 6th, 2024.

ORNGE representatives in attendance.

- Qadeer Noori, Operations Control Manager
- Justin Duval
- Darrel Pyke

10:00 AM

Call to Order

Adopt Agenda

Declarations of any conflicts of interest

The January 30th, 2025 Special Council meeting agenda was adopted.

NOTE – THE MEETING WAS IN CLOSED SESSION DUE TO PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVACUEES BEING SHARED DURING THE DISCUSSION.

Informal Session

Welcome and Introductions

Discussion

Council member Jeff House presented a PowerPoint he had prepared for the meeting. He had been involved and present in both evacuations. The PowerPoint forms part of these minutes.

The discussion involving Council members and ORNGE representatives was wide-ranging but with a **particular focus on the delay between first contacting 911 and receiving a reply from ORNGE dispatch** that the helicopter could not come on either occasion.

Other points raised included;

- Mr. Qadeer outlined their investigations into the events,
- It became clear that the Sudbury CAC was not certain where Cockburn Island was located,
- It was pointed out that the Helipad GPS coordinates are on record. The glitch is the protocol requiring the location of the patient on a given call. But in our case the only place to realistically land helicopter at the Helipad, so why not simply use the Helipad coordinates as the default location,
- We can't call ORNGE directly but must go through 911 so it seems communication between 911 and CAC is an issue for us
- Mr. Qadeer said that both helicopters were in-service when the calls came in but had the coordinates issue been clearer one of the helicopters could have come to the island after its Sudbury drop-off,
- On Nov 6th the flying weather was very poor,
- We should inform and train our population on how to reach ORNGE. A poster and website explanation?
- The ORNGE representatives were informed that our helipad lights and grounds are well maintained,
- Questions were raised about what ORNGE needs in order to land – such as area perimeter (150 feet it was reported)
- Our Helipad is certified for night landing – other sites on the island may be impractical – ORNGE should assume that a person in distress would be brought to the Medical Building adjacent to the helipad,
- A physician triages the emergency calls to determine level of need which sometimes requires a follow-up phone call. The were reminded we had a doctor on-site saying evacuation was critical in each of the 2 cases,
- The ORNGE representatives were asked if Cockburn Island could have a higher priority for evacuation call s given our circumstances, (seems not)
- The ORNGE representatives did agree that there was room for better communications with Manitoulin EMS
- Are there other islands in Ontario that we can look at for comparison?
- There was a commitment to follow-up by ORNGE

Council extended its appreciation to the representatives of ORNGE (Qadeer Noori, Operations Control Manager, Justin Duval and Darrel Pyke) for their participation in today's open discussion with Council about events surrounding the two (2) November 2024 medical evacuation emergencies.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned and Council will meet again at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, February 12th, 2025 by Zoom or at the call of the Mayor

Time – 11:04 AM