

Re: Agenda Item 4.2

NTAG comments re Town of Newmarket Business Recovery Task Force

The establishment of such a task force is a very positive undertaking. The task force will be in a position to advise the town on the focus the town should take and how to be most effective when the time comes. The task force should be established now to become most effective in pointing the Town and the Region in the right direction.

The task force should be a small panel but representative of all the town's business community and chaired by an effective, invested, knowledgeable business leader who may be a member of the Chamber or other local associations but neither employed by one of them nor currently in a position of leadership.

NTAG comments re Lunch Program (pg11):

At the Emergency Council on March 18, 2020 Council approved up to \$25,000 to be allocated towards community support. It is noted that "three staff are working out of the Municipal Offices involved in the daily lunch program and food pantry delivery". Have sufficient residents taken advantage of the lunch program to justify the staffing costs required?

NTAG comments re Training (pg 16):

NTAG appreciates that the core staff have been working long hours, that essential staff have adapted to alternative work arrangements and other staff have been redeployed to different duties. It appears that the remaining permanent staff are taking advantage of on-line training opportunities to stay informed of innovative solutions to municipal operations, etc. Is it the Town's intention to retain all permanent staff at full salaries and benefits, or are there plans to reduce salaried work hours to mitigate budget impact?

NTAG comments re Budget Impact (pg 16):

Re the financial impacts of property tax deferrals and lost revenue, it is noted that "reports to Council on the financial impacts will be forthcoming". Can the Town provide an estimation, today, of the projected budget impact?

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"Advocating for YOU, the taxpayer."