

**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. THOMAS, THE COUNTY OF ELGIN,
AND THE ST. THOMAS-ELGIN GENERAL HOSPITAL
HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

COMMITTEE ROOM # 309, CITY HALL

JUNE 24, 2015

3:05 p.m. The meeting convened with Councillor C. McWilliam, Chair, presiding.

Attendance

Councillor C. McWilliam, Chair, County of Elgin
Councillor S. Wookey, City of St. Thomas
Cheryl Fish, Health Recruiter
Mark McDonald, CAO, County of Elgin
Wendell Graves, CAO/Clerk, City of St. Thomas
Matt Smale, Corporate Administrative Clerk

Absent

Dr. N. Whitmore, St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital
Dr. K. Scott, Elgin Medical Association

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on April 14, 2015 were confirmed as circulated.

Health Recruiter's Report

The members were provided with a report from the Health Recruiter for the period of April to June, 2015.

Ms. Fish noted that Dutton/Dunwich and Central Elgin had been designated as "high needs" areas by the Ministry of Health. These municipalities would be eligible to apply to form a new FHO.

The members discussed the recent medical discovery week activities.

Councillor Wookey stated that as a first time participant, he appreciated the informal event hosted by the partnership at GT's in Port Stanley. The event was well attended by not only the students but area physicians as well and provided a valuable networking opportunity.

Ms. Fish stated that she had met with Stephanie McIntosh, St. Thomas-Elgin Medical Association regarding issues of mutual interest including the medical student scholarship program. The members would receive updates as discussions continued.

St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital – Partnership Funding

Mr. Graves advised that the hospital would not be utilizing the funding that had previously been approved by the Partnership. As a result that funding could be reallocated for other uses.

Moved by Coun. Wookey – Chair McWilliam:

THAT: The correspondence dated May 4, 2015 from the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital declining funding from the Health Recruitment Partnership for two physician positions be received.

Carried.

Dr. Derek Haruta – Request for Partnership Funding

Progress continues on Dr. Haruta's proposed medical facility on Elm Street. Demolition work has been completed on the former school on the site.

A request had been received from Dr. Haruta for funding for 6 physician positions as he attempts to apply for a FHO at the new facility.

The members discussed the fact that the Partnership did not have the funding available in its budget to support 6 physicians at this time. Further funding could be considered in future years.

The members inquired if there was a need for temporary accommodations for physicians while the medical centre was under construction.

CONFIRMED_____CHAIR

Ms. Fish and Mr. Graves agreed to contact Dr. Haruta to determine if any temporary accommodations were required and if so what assistance the Partnership could offer in this area.

Moved by Chair McWilliam – Coun. Wookey:

THAT: Funding of \$33,000 each for three physician positions be recommended for the proposal received from Dr. Derek Haruta to approval from Elgin County and St. Thomas Councils respectively and the execution of an agreement with Dr. Haruta; and further,

THAT: Funding for an additional three physician positions be considered for approval in 2016.

Carried.

Dr. Kristen Richter – Request for Partnership Funds

The members were advised that Dr. Richter had seen a draft agreement and was aware of the terms.

Moved by Coun. Wookey – Chair McWilliam:

THAT: Funding of \$33,000 for one physician position be recommended for the proposal received from Dr. Kristen Richter subject to approval from Elgin County and St. Thomas Councils respectively and the execution of an agreement with Dr. Richter.

Carried.

Francis Osih – Status of Partnership Funds

Mr. Graves advised that the Partnership had previously approved funding for two physicians to Mr. Osih. Two years remained on the terms of that agreement.

Mr. Osih had been successful in recruiting Dr. Soliman who has since opened his own practice in the city. One physician position remains unfilled.

The members discussed the fact that medical equipment purchased by Mr. Osih could be used for other facilities with Mr. Osih being credited for the value against his outstanding loan.

Round Table Stakeholder Session

The members discussed hosting a second stakeholder session and possible topics.

It was agreed to try and schedule the event for September 18th at 7:30 am at the St. Thomas Golf and Country Club.

Ms. Fish noted that one topic that might be beneficial for local physicians was the idea of succession planning. She would approach one of her contacts who may be willing to provide a short presentation on this topic.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.