

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL

October 6, 2014

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson, Chair
- Jody Crook
- George El-Jakl
- Shaun Hatfield
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
  
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

Also present were:

- Dr. Kenny Yee
- Dr. Noel Baker
- Dr. Manel Prechandra

### PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting was for councillors to discuss with the doctors the potential for establishing a medical clinic in the Municipality, and for the future provision of medical services to the community.

The Warden indicated to the doctors that the Municipality is interested in putting together one facility with doctors and as many health care services as possible. He asked them to indicate what benefit this may be to the community.

Dr. Yee indicated that right now he considered his space to be excellent and that there was no “business sense” to move to a more expensive location. He now has four (4) rooms and wondered what moving to a new location would cost. He indicated that he is more or less in a common facility now and does not intend to go anywhere.

There was some question as to the benefits of what a collaborative practice would consist of and what the benefits of such a practice would be.

There was some question as to how the front-end staff could be combined in a collaborative practice, and how they would be paid for.

There was also question as to how much additional funding the Municipality would be willing to put into more private practices in the community.

It was indicated that resident interns will continually cycle through the practices of Dr. Yee and also Dr. Baker in future.

The old Superstore location was mentioned as a possible site for a collaborative practice location.

The Warden also indicated that EHS might also be interested in moving to this location.

It was also indicated to the doctors that the Municipality would bear the cost of any additional space that would be provided, not the current doctors.

It was stated that a “new model” would be required in future for the provision of health care services.

The question was asked who would manage the office portion of a collaborative practice.

Dr. Yee further indicated that he is happy with the way things are moving now. At the present time he has no issues. He does not wish to add any more stress to his life by making changes. He also indicated that resident doctors who work here with him over a two year period will be seeing his patients during the time they are here.

It was indicated that the benefit of a single location with a collaborative practice would be one in the recruitment of new doctors. Doctors potentially relocating to the area would see that they are joining an operation that is already in place, instead of starting a new practice. The drawback in the location would be making it financially feasible for physicians. Dr. Premachandra indicated that he has spent considerable monies converting space in his home for his medical practice. He is not willing to spend more again at this time. He would, however, be willing to help with an on-call service, if needed.

It was suggested by Dr. Yee that the Municipality would be better off owning space than leasing space. He also indicated that he does not wish to move now and then move again in ten years time when a lease may expire.

It was also indicated by Dr. Yee and Dr. Baker that an electronic medical records system was being developed and shared by both doctors, and that this system could also be used by residents to share records when necessary.

It was also indicated that the Municipality would be responsible for EMR software, in future, if it is to be shared by other doctors being recruited to the community.

It was emphasized that a medical practice is small business and must make financial sense. Change would only be done if it was indicated that it would at least be cost neutral to the doctors because there are also non financial costs to making changes such as the inconvenience to both the physicians and patients of the physicians.

It was indicated that up-front costs would be more for a “long term model” for health care provision in the community. Doctors are currently teaching and recruiting at the same time when they have interns in their offices.

More space will eventually be required for new doctors recruited to the area. The doctors indicated that, in principle, they support one location, however, the downside of this decision is the cost effectiveness of making this change. The main benefit to having one location is in recruitment.

It was indicated that the minimum incentive to doctors would be that there be no additional cost for at least a ten (10) year period.

Dr. Premachandra indicated he wished to continue practicing in his present location for at least another four or five years in order to recover his costs before considering any move.

It was suggested by Dr. Yee that the best situation for the Municipality would be to build and own its own facility rather than to lease, and it was also indicated that doctors who would be working out of any facility owned by the Municipality should be consulted in the design of this facility.

There were two main questions that needed to be answered:

1. Would the cost to the Municipality be cheaper to lease or to build a facility?
2. What would the cost be to physicians to move to a new facility?

It was indicated to the doctors that the Municipality needed to act within two years, if possible.

It was also suggested that the DHA be consulted in this matter.

The doctors then retired from the meeting at approximately 8:35 p.m.

Members then continued to discuss the potential for establishing a centralized community health clinic in the community.

It was the consensus of members that they visit the health clinics already established in Tantallon, Bridgewater and Enfield, and that these arrangements be made in early November for these visits.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 9:08 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary for the Meeting

**On website October 7, 2014.**