

## HEALTH RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

### TELECONFERENCE

OCTOBER 5, 2020

8:34 a.m. The meeting convened with Councillor L. Baldwin-Sands, Chair, presiding.

### ATTENDANCE

#### Members

Councillor L. Baldwin-Sands, Chair, City of St. Thomas  
Councillor G. Jones, County of Elgin  
Dr. K. Scott, Family Physician

#### Officials

Wendell Graves, City Manager, City of St. Thomas  
Julie Gonyou, C.A.O., County of Elgin  
Cheryl Fish, Health Recruiter  
Jon Hindley, Corporate Administrative & Accessibility Clerk, City of St. Thomas

#### Absent

Dr. W. Chehadi, St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital

### DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

### MINUTES

The members noted that the C.A.O., County of Elgin was in attendance at the March 9, 2020 meeting.

Motion by Councillor Jones - Dr. Scott:

THAT: The minutes of the March 9, 2020 meeting, as amended, be received.

Carried.

#### Activity Report and Recruitment Projects - Health Recruiter - Appendix "A"

Ms. Fish provided an overview of activities and recruitment projects from March to September, 2020.

Ms. Fish advised that prior to COVID-19 restrictions, the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital had begun to organize monthly orientation sessions for new residents conducting placements. She further advised that since the sessions have been postponed, the hospital is providing a list of all residents each month to her in order to connect with them.

Ms. Fish advised that the Western University Family Medicine Residence Retreat was moving to a virtual platform and that there would be an opportunity to conduct a Zoom presentation about St. Thomas and Elgin County.

Dr. Scott advised that a new physician orientation session was being scheduled for the Fall.

The members discussed the retirements of Dr. Dayus and Dr. Howe after many years of service in the community and the importance of acknowledging their service.

The members discussed sending letters to retiring physicians from City or County Councils.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Funding Request - Dr. Peter Chehade

The City Manager advised that Dr. Peter Chehade was taking over the practice of retiring physician Dr. Dayus and that he was requesting funds to assist with office modernization and electronic medical records technology.

CONFIRMED\_\_\_\_\_CHAIR

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Motion by Dr. Scott - Councillor Jones:

THAT: Funding of \$33,000 for one physician position be recommended for the request received by Dr. Peter Chehade subject to approval from St. Thomas Council and the execution of an agreement with Dr. Chehade.

Carried.

### Funding Request - Dr. Corey Birch

The City Manager advised that Dr. Birch was taking over the practice of retiring physician Dr. Mai and that he was requesting funds to assist with office modernization and electronic medical records technology.

Motion by Councillor Jones - Dr. Scott:

THAT: Funding of \$33,000 for one physician position be recommended for the request received by Dr. Corey Birch subject to approval from St. Thomas Council and the execution of an agreement with Dr. Birch.

Carried.

### Funding Request – Dr. Samer Chehade

The City Manager advised that Dr. Chehade is an internal specialist at St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital and that he is requesting funds. He further advised that the Health Recruitment Partnership Committee had previously not supported requests from physicians at the hospital.

The members discussed the importance of upholding their directive to attract family physicians.

The members denied the funding request.

### Health Recruiter Contract

The City Manager advised that the Health Recruiter's contract expired in the spring and that she was willing to commit to another two years in the position.

The City Manager advised that an increased hourly rate was being recommended, which would have a manageable budget impact, to be closer in line with similar positions in other municipalities.

Motion by Dr. Scott - Councillor Jones:

THAT: The Health Recruitment Partnership Committee endorse a two year contract renewal for Cheryl Fish as Health Recruiter.

Carried.

### Ontario Health Team

The City Manager advised that local work on the Ontario Health Team is increasing again.

Dr. Scott advised that the local Ontario Health Team have been invited to make a full application which will be worked on over the next couple of months with many stakeholders.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### Consideration of Additional Committee Members

The members discussed increasing the Committee's membership by adding an additional family physician position.

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The City Manager advised that he had reached out to the St. Thomas-Elgin Homebuilders Association about having a representative on the Committee again and that he had not heard back.

The Chair advised that she would reach out to some of the executives of the Association.

Motion by Dr. Scott - Councillor Jones:

THAT: The Health Recruitment Partnership Committee recommends increasing the Committee's membership by one additional family physician position.

Carried.

**NEXT MEETING**

The members noted that the scholarship application deadline is October 30, 2020.

The members agreed that the next meeting would be held on November 9, 2020 at 8:30 am.

**ADJOURNMENT**

9:08 a.m. The meeting adjourned.