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December 5, 2016

Minutes of Meeting of Weymouth Board of Commissioners

A meeting of the Weymouth Board of Commissioners was held on Dec 5th, 2016 with Commissioners Gaudet, Frizzell, Doucet and Mullen present. Chair, Commissioner Gaudett called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

The minutes of Meetings of Nov 7th, 2016 were approved on motion by Commissioner Mullen and seconded by Commissioner Frizzell.

Business Arising out of the Minutes:

- discussion of results of Public Meeting on medical care
- see new business
- further to discussion on burned out property the Clerk was instructed to contact the Municipality and make a request under "unsightly premises provisions".
- a review of request for street light at Fireman's well was undertaken. As property does not appear to be within the Village limits a municipal area rate would have to be agreed to and established to provide street

lights. Dept has the option of having NS Power supply a suitable light. It was noted that an unused pole is available on the property for this purpose.

Financial Reports: An updated financial report was presented by Clerk Treasurer. Acceptance of report moved by Commissioner Mullen and seconded by Commissioner Doucet. Carried.

Correspondence:

- Fire vehicle registration stickers
- Pamphlet from Alzheimer Society
- Complimentary desk calendars received from MacDonald Chisholm Trask insurance.
- Holiday greetings for Digby/Clare HomeCare

New Business:

-following the Public Meeting regarding medical care and in particular our desire to have a doctor for our medical clinic a new support group was created. This group has prepared a formal request to be sent to the Minister of Health requesting the approval of two physician positions along with a full time Nurse Practitioner for our clinic. It was moved by Commissioner Frizzell, seconded by Commissioner Doucet that the Village Commission add their support to this proposal. Copy on proposal attached.

As the first Monday in January is a holiday the next meeting date will be January 9th, 2017

There being no further business meeting was adjourned at 8:20 on motion Commissioner Mullen, 2nd Commissioner Doucet..

Respectively submitted

Clerk Treasurer Chair

A PROPOSAL TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA: THE HON LEO GLAVINE

26th. November 2016.

A proposal to the NS Minister of Health, the Hon Leo Glavine, seeking authorization to establish and maintain a collaborative care team in The Weymouth Medical Centre.

History

There have been Family Physicians (GPs) in the Weymouth area since 1831. Descendants of the first physician, Dr. Archibald Ruggles still reside in the village. Over the years there have at times been as many as four physicians resident in the village. There have always been at least two physicians in active practice. Originally these doctors practiced out of their own offices as was the custom of the time. However, in 2003 the residents of Weymouth and the other local communities came together to build a purpose built Medical Centre and from that time all physicians practiced out of the Centre.

Demography

The Village of Weymouth due to its geographic position has traditionally been a hub economically and a delivery point for many services to residents in the surrounding communities which included health care delivery. The sister communities serviced from Weymouth include:

New Edinburgh, St. Bernard, Belliveau Cove, Grosses Coques, Church Point, Corberrie, Concession, Easton, Danvers, Hilltown, Havelock, Riverdale, Hasset, Southville, Weaver Settlement, Weymouth Falls, Ohio, Weymouth Mills, Ashmore, Weymouth North, Gilberts Cove, Plympton, Plympton Station, Barton, Doucetville, and Brighton.

These communities represent the founding peoples of Nova Scotia, (English and Scottish Loyalists, African Nova Scotians, Acadians and until a few years ago, a very small number of indigenous Mi'Kmaq.

This part of Nova Scotia has a higher than average senior population, having lost many of our younger people to outmigration to Alberta and locally the economy of the area has suffered more recently with the down turn in the Mink Farming industry. This combination of factors has resulted in a population where many people have to survive on very limited means and many seniors find it a struggle to get by. Many people cannot afford the luxury of a car. With a large population of seniors, chronic disease is common and multiple co-morbidities are the norm. Accessible health care is of prime importance to

this vulnerable population.

Infrastructure

The Weymouth Medical Centre (WMC) was opened in 2003 after the local communities in the area recognized the need for a centralized delivery unit for health care. This centre is a reflection on the proactive nature of local people. It was the first Medical centre in South West Nova Health district. This was many years before there were Health Centres in Yarmouth, Clare or Digby. The WMC had funding contributions from the Municipality of Clare and the Municipality of Digby. That said, the great majority of funding was from local businesses, individuals and local fundraising.

Initially the WMC had space for two physicians with double adjacent examining rooms and centralized consulting rooms. Eventually the WMC was extended to accommodate a third physician. The Centre is on Street level, is wheelchair accessible and has ample parking space in front. The Centre is zone heated and has air-conditioning throughout. There is ample waiting room areas for patients and a triage room immediate to the entrance, planned so that EHS vehicles can reverse to the Emergency room doors constructed at the level of EHS vehicles so that transfer of patients from the triage room to the waiting EHS vehicle can be undertaken in a seamless manner without any undue exposure of the patient to inclement weather conditions.

The medical offices are fully equipped with all necessary medical devices and surgical instruments and there is a fund available to the Centre so that new equipment can be purchased at will, should the need arise. The Centre is Internet ready with major upgrading of existing equipment performed in October 2016. The lower level of the Centre is occupied by Home Care Support delivering services to all of Digby County and by VON with internal access between the two levels.

Collaborative Care

Rural physicians have been practising collaborative care for years long before the notion of collaborative practice was coopted in its current iteration by the NSHA. It would have been impossible for a rural physician to exist without multiple levels of collaboration.

The last physician practicing out of the Weymouth Medical Centre, Dr. Donald Westby, retired on November 1st, 2015, provided us with a history of his collaborative care while in practice. Dr. Westby provided care to long term care facilities (Villa Acadienne, Meteghan, Au Logis du Meteghan, Meteghan, Villa St Joseph du Lac, Yarmouth.) He had daily contact with the VON and Home Care Nova Scotia either by phone, fax or face-to-face as these services are located in the lower floor of the Weymouth Medical Centre.

The Diabetic Education Centre (DEC) from Digby General Hospital attended the Medical Centre for one whole day on alternate Fridays. The Diabetic Nurse and the Diabetic Dietician saw patients in the Centre, and reviewed charts of Dr Westby's patients. All insulin therapy initiations from Dr. Westby's practice were done on an out-patient basis and telephone contact with the DEC was almost on a daily basis.

Digby General Hospital Laboratory visited the Weymouth Medical Centre every Wednesday from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM and it was on this day that Dr. Westby did his therapeutic phlebotomies for patients with hemochromatosis.

Mental Health and Addiction Services attended the Centre on a weekly basis. Dr. Westby provided night and weekend call as part of the Clare/Weymouth on-call system. He provided this service up to two years prior to his retirement.

The Proposal

We propose, given the long history of Health Care delivery in Weymouth and the fact that infrastructure is in place and upgraded recently, that the Weymouth Medical Centre be assigned two Family Physicians and a Nurse Practitioner to be based in Weymouth. Deliverables including long term care, in-patient, out-patient/emergency services should continue to be located in Digby.

The Canada Health Act has five major tenets: Public Administration, Comprehensiveness, Portability, Universality and Accessibility. It is on the basis Universality and Accessibility that we base our proposal.

Respectfully submitted

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