

Minutes of a Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday, September 13, 2005 at 7 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Mayor Wayne Hurst  
Deputy Mayor Anthony Leardi  
Councillor Robert Bailey  
Councillor Gord Freeman  
Councillor Carl Gibb  
Councillor Paul Renaud  
Councillor Rosa White

**ALSO PRESENT**

Frank Pizzuto, CAO  
David Mailloux, Clerk

Immediately after opening the meeting and welcoming all present, Mayor Hurst advised that a News Release regarding General Chemical had been issued. The negotiations that had been taking place with a potential purchaser had ended without a deal being reached.

Mayor Hurst stated that this is a Special Meeting to determine the best method of pursuing a Family Health Team. He thanked all those in attendance for taking the time to attend.

Mayor Hurst then introduced Carolyn Davies and Helen Hayward of Amherstburg Community Services. Ms. Davies reviewed a written presentation with Council (copy attached to minutes).

Mayor Hurst indicated that Council could have made a decision to wait and see what would happen, however, they felt that it may be beneficial to be more aggressive in seeking a Family Health Team. Council is not supporting Health, that is a Provincial responsibility. Council is taking a leadership role in the process to obtain approval of a Family Health Team. The CAO then reviewed report from the CAO dated September 13, 2005 (attached). Our MPP has advised that it is most important that we show Community Commitment, and provide land for the Centre.

Comments or questions from the Council and those present included –

Question: What % of people in Amherstburg are without a doctor in Amherstburg?

Ms. Davies advised that based on 2002 survey, 1790 or 1 out of 11 are without a doctor in Amherstburg.

- approximately 6725 people access doctors outside Amherstburg
- 53% have difficulty accessing doctors
- survey results are likely quite conservative
- we are definitely an underserved area – should do what we can to convince the Province to approve a Family Health Team
- need stability in the Health Care System
- What is deadline for submitting info to Province? CAO – not really sure
- this is a Community Problem, we need a Community Solution

The Council then voted on the motion that was recommended in the report from the CAO.

Moved by G. Freeman, seconded by R. White that the report from the CAO Frank Pizzuto, dated September 13, 2005 be received and that we concur with the following recommendation:

1. That the Town of Amherstburg commit to a contribution of \$30,000.00 in 2006 toward the establishment of a Family Health Team in the Town of Amherstburg; and
2. That the Town commit to the donation of land for the expansion of the Senior Centre at Victoria Street to accommodate a Family Health Team as an option for the Family Health Team facility; and
3. That the Town write the Premier, the Minister of Health & Long Term Care and MPP Bruce Crozier regarding the need, the partnership and the Towns commitment to a Family Health Team.

Motion Carried

The Mayor then formally opened the meeting up to questions from those in attendance.

Rose Kelly had a concern that Council would be offering the Cultural Centre. The CAO clarified that the area in question was adjacent to the Cultural Centre but **not** the Cultural Centre.

Mary Hulett questioned if we could use additional community contributors in addition to the \$30,000 that is being committed by the Town. The CAO responded “yes”.

Bill Wark read a prepared statement regarding seeing 1<sup>st</sup> hand the problems relating to the shortage of doctors. He is fully committed to the project.

Helen Wigle: we have 5 doctors now – what would a Health Centre do to increase doctors? Concerned about attracting new doctors.

Carolyn Davies explained that initially the Health Team would likely consist of 2 doctors and 8 Nurse Practitioners.

- there should be 1 doctor for 1300 people
- now we have 1 doctor for 4000 or more people

Paul Hertel: would it be possible to have people give video testimonials?

Alice Maitre: what can the community do?

Carolyn Davies advised that in-kind donations are one way.

Alice Maitre on behalf of the Amherstburg Echo, committed free advertising for the cause.

Mayor Hurst stated that Council has taken a leadership role – Community support is so important.

The CAO will be writing a supplemental report to the Province. A couple of weeks will be allowed for the Community to come forward.

Mayor Hurst urged everyone to “talk it up” to people, clubs, their parish, etc.

Bill Wark committed to do what he could with the labour sector.

Alison Baldwin would contact the Service Clubs.

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Mary Hulett would approach the Service Clubs.

Margaret Squire would canvas her apartment building.

Helen Wigle questioned about a final date.

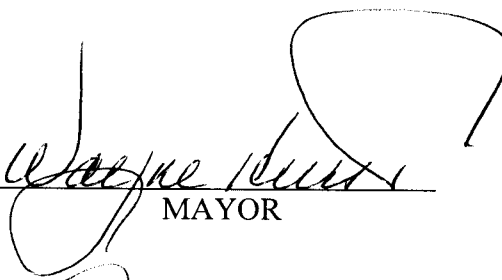
The CAO advised that a final letter likely would go out in about 3 weeks.


Rose Girard questioned what residents in need can do until the shortage of doctors is remedied.

Alison Baldwin requested the names of the 11 people in the area who need to go to Windsor for dialysis.

Rose Kelly offered to work with Mary Hulett and the seniors groups.

Mayor Hurst thanked everyone for attending.

  
MAYOR

  
CLERK

## Presentation for Town Hall - September 13, 2005

Carolyn Davies, R.N.(E.C.) B.A.

### Introduction

Your worship, Council and members of the Community. I appreciate that opportunity to speak at this special meeting of Council.

As chair of the Amherstburg Community Services I speak for the Executive Director Helen Hayward and our Board when I say it is a privilege to partner with the Council on this very important project.

I have been asked by council to provide direction toward information that might enhance the acceptance of our Community based Family Health Team application to the MHLTC first submitted in February 2005.

I know I don't have to state to Council or most the people of Amherstburg the importance of the proposal for the well being of our citizens. We are here tonight to strengthen Partnerships with Stakeholders with the collective goal to have this FHT proposal move forward to acceptance.

### History

The ACS, as the social planning council, applied for a CHC August 8, 2003 with a comprehensive proposal, including an extensive health related survey component confirming the growing crisis in access to Primary Health Care services in the Amherstburg area. As is our mandate, the initiative was to fill in a growing gap in the community's services. Both models provide for a not for profit, multidisciplinary approach to providing community based primary health care services. One of the differences is that there is a distinctly different funding model.

At present time Ministry of Health is no longer considering CHC proposals as a primary model. We asked of the Ministry, that our application for the CHC remain active. Rather a new model called Family Health Teams is being funded to Communities with proven need. The premise of these 2 models is similar but the funding model of the FHT requires more involvement by the Communities to invest into the concept.

Hence, in February this year we submitted an application for a community-based FHT. The Ministry of Health's strategy is still to increase access for people to primary care health services. It has committed to 150 FHT throughout Ontario over the next 5 or so years. Despite an excellent application in the primary round Amherstburg was not awarded one of the sites in the first round. Of 52 site announcement in the spring only 12 were for community based FHT. Rather, the Ministry advised us, that we would be strongly considered for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round to be announced in late September. The Ministry also advised us that for this 2<sup>nd</sup> round that it was not necessary to provide any additional information; and were assured that our proposal was acceptable as it was initially submitted.

Mrs. Hayward and I presented an update to council in the May 24, 2005 and, at that time recommended increased involvement by Council.

On August 24, 2005, His Worship the Mayor Wayne Hurst, Mr. Frank Pizzuto, the Chief Administrative Officer, Helen Hayward, the Executive Director of ACS and myself the Chair were invited to meet with Bruce Crozier the MPP for Essex. Mr. Crozier wanted to see what could be done to move the application forward. One of the outcomes of the planning of that meeting was this Special Meeting of Council to call on Council and to the citizens of Amherstburg to discuss how we can strengthen our case to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

### What do we need from the Community and the Council?

I would like to be able to tell you that we know what the MHLTC want to see in a proposal to make it acceptable. Unfortunately, we do not. So we are making an educated guess of what we need to increase our chance of acceptance in this second round for announcement September 2005.

What we do know since we last submitted, is that the access to primary health care services has deteriorate yet again. We do know that we need more primary care providers than submitted on the first FHT proposal. And we do know that many of our partners in support for our proposal are now ready to move forward and join the team to enhance the success towards excellent primary health care services for Amherstburg and area.

So, we would submit that the outcome of this special meeting of council demonstrates concrete actions towards having a comprehensive community-based primary health care for our citizens. Also, that other groups, organizations, unions and agencies commit themselves to capital or in-kind pledges that will demonstrate to the Ministry that we are VERY serious about this project.

And further that a supplementary letter be sent to the Ministry of HLTC with tonight's additional commitment.

Although we are aware that some transitional funding may be made available if applied for, *it would only be consider supplemental to contributions from our community. We know the government looks favorably on what contributions can come from community groups if the community has the capacity to do so, among other expectations.*

We as a community would most likely be expected to:

Purchase or construct real property such as land or building facilities.

I believe the Ministry would like to see that we have options available such as the following 3 options:

- 1/ a designated site onto which the Community is prepared to build
- 2/ a site on to which there can be expansion
- 3/ a site with an existing structure that could be retrofitted, either purchased or leased

Further, I believe that the Ministry would like to see *a commitment to capital cost towards equipping the FHT facility. Including clinical and office equipment and furnishings*

(I have a general and specific list)

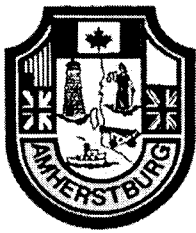
An important factor may be having a *description of the financial and or in-kind support such as contributions from sponsors, community partners or the landlord that will be used to effect one time expenditures and cash contributions.*

So, that is what we hope might happen this evening. We hope that agencies will take our request back to their Boards and groups for discussion and respond as soon as possible with a pledge to commit to it's success. We hope that others can give us some assurances to move forward this evening.

As soon as possible we would like to communicate with the Ministry of our supplementary partnerships and offering to catch their ear for this September call.

With that I would like to thank Your Worship, the Council and the dynamic support of Mr. Pizzuto to move the project to the next, a hopefully irresistible level so that the Ministry just can't turn us down. Along with Mrs. Hayward, I would be pleased, if it suites the council, to answer any questions I can that people have.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Davies  
Chair of Amherstburg CS



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**Report To:** MAYOR HURST & MEMBERS OF COUNCIL  
**Date of Meeting:** SEPTEMBER 13, 2005  
**Submitted By:** FRANK PIZZUTO, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
**Prepared By:** FRANK PIZZUTO, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
**Date of Report:** SEPTEMBER 7, 2005  
**File No.:**  
**Subject:** FAMILY HEALTH TEAM – AMHERSTBURG  
COMMUNITY SERVICES APPLICATION

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Town of Amherstburg commit to a contribution of \$30,000 in 2006 toward the establishment of a Family Health Team in the Town of Amherstburg; and

That the Town commit to the expansion of the Senior Centre at Victoria Street to accommodate a Family Health Team as an option for the Family Health Team facility; and

That the Town convene a public meeting to request assistance towards the establishment of a Family Health Team from residents, health professionals, service clubs and business; and

That the Town write the Premier, the Minister of Health & Long Term Care and MPP Bruce Crozier regarding the need, the partnership and the Towns commitment to a Family Health Team.

**BACKGROUND:**

Amherstburg Community Services submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care for a Family Health Team in February 2005. The application, a comprehensive document, clearly outlined the severe health professional shortage in Amherstburg. In May 2005 the Ministry of Health announced the first round of successful applicants. Amherstburg was not selected in the first round but received encouragement that the Town would be considered in round two (September 2005) or round three (November 2005).



## **REPORT:**

The Town of Amherstburg has a severe doctor shortage. Other health professionals are also in short supply and the situation continues to worsen. The Family Health Team application considers a holistic approach to health whereby primary health care along with health promotion and health education all work together to promote health. The application remains outstanding at the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

It is time for the Town and the community to demonstrate leadership and convince the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care that we care for our community and that while we require assistance to establish a Family Health Team in our community we too will work in partnership and make a contribution to this initiative.

The Town of Amherstburg is demonstrating this leadership by considering a cash grant of \$30,000 toward the establishment of a Family Health Team. This contribution may be available for start up costs as soon as the initiative is approved by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Council will consider this report on September 13, 2005.

The Town will further consider the expansion of the seniors centre at Victoria Street to accommodate a Family Health Team. This commitment, if approved, is based on the receipt of adequate funding from the Ministry of Health and partners to fund this expansion. The Town will make land available at no cost to provide for this expansion.

The Senior Centre and the Family Health Team are a perfect fit. Health promotion, health education and recreational activity are a desired outcome for all age groups and especially seniors.

The Town requests that other residents, service clubs and business also commit to assist in this initiative by committing a cash or in-kind contribution to this initiative. Letters of commitment and support are also required.

The Town of Amherstburg is a caring community. We care about our Town and each other. A Family Health Team would provide our 22,000 residents a broad range of health services in our community.

Our collective commitments to be part of this initiative will go a long way to demonstrate to the Province of Ontario that we, along with their assistance, need this service.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

A cash contribution of \$30,000 will be provided in the 2006 operating budget. Land for the expansion of the centre will be provided if and when required after approval is received.

**Frank Pizzuto,**

Chief Administrative Officer