

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

SPECIAL MEETING

St. Clair Civic Centre
Sombra Room
Wednesday, October 26 , 2005
6 :00 p.m.

The minutes of a Special Meeting of the St. Clair Township Committee of the Whole held, at the call of the Mayor, with the following present:

Members present:

S. Miller,	Chairperson, Public Works and Operations
S. Warner,	Chairperson, Finance & Administration
J. Dedecker,	Mayor
S. Arnold,	Deputy Mayor
D. Randell,	Councillor
P. Alexander,	“
P. Gilliland	“

Staff	J. Rodey,	CAO
	J. DeMars,	Director of Administration/Clerk

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked members to declare any conflict of interest at the appropriate time.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

None declared

Mayor Dedecker, on behalf of Council welcomed Dr. William O’Mahony, Dr. Robert Borek, Dr. Katherine Wakely and Dr. Peter Wakely, members of the Corunna Medial Clinic. Mayor Dedecker advised that this meeting was called to discuss ways by which the Township and the area family physicians can work co-operatively for the benefit of the St. Clair community. Particular attention focused on the closing of the x-ray facility and the pending closure of the laboratory referred to as the “blood station”. Bluewater Health has announced the closure of such facilities as a cost cutting opportunity.

Dr. O’Mahony stated that the blood station was extremely important to area patients and its lose would have a major negative impact and hamper physician recruitment efforts in the Corunna/St. Clair community. Attempts to attract a private lab to replace the service has not been successful and the issue of Provincial licensing was raised. The area physicians are willing to staff and maintain the lab facility for use by their patients without such a license but would do so at a financial loss considering the rental fee that was historically paid by Bluewater Health. This revenue stream would be lost since space would be occupied and no longer available for rent. Rental fee loss is estimated at \$28,000.00 per year.

Dr. Borek expressed his opinion that newly trained physicians are seeking low overhead “turn key” facilities and a great proportion chose to practice out of emergency room environments.

In general discussion on physician recruitment, Dr. O’Mahony stated that the current Corunna Medical facility could accommodate additional physicians.

Dr. Peter Wakely stated that the local physicians are very frustrated with the seeming lack of support by Bluewater Health toward the Corunna / St. Clair Township community as a whole

and he feels this frustration will soon be general public knowledge. The Township and its ratepayers have been financially generous with past and current Bluewater Health fundraising despite this, local health care resources continues to dwindle. This feeling was also shared by members of Council.

At the conclusion of the discussion the physicians offered to put together a proposal to be incorporated into a report to Council by the C.A.O. and Clerk for consideration by Council at its November 7th meeting.

Mayor Dedecker thanked the physicians for their attendance and advised that Council look forward to maintaining a co-operative relationship for the benefit of our local community.

Moved by S. Arnold
Motion #1 That the meeting hereby adjourn.

Seconded by P. Alexander

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk