

STAFF REPORT: CAO



REPORT TO: Council
MEETING DATE: April 14, 2008
REPORT NO.: CAO.08.07
SUBJECT: Thornbury Medical Clinic
PREPARED BY: Paul Graham, CAO

A. Recommendations

THAT Council publicly declare its commitment to ensure that North East Grey Health Clinics Inc. has the necessary property, in Thornbury, to construct a Medical Clinic and;

THAT Council will ensure that the property is available in a timely manner to facilitate the successful construction of the Thornbury Medical Clinic and;

FURTHER THAT should the Town directly supply land either by transfer or easement, at its sole discretion and in consult with North East Grey Health Clinics Inc., it shall be provided at no cost to North East Grey Health Clinics Inc., being the Town's contribution to the Project.

B. Background

At the Town of The Blue Mountains' Council Meeting of September 10, 2007, North East Grey Health Clinics Inc. made a presentation proposing the construction of a Thornbury Medical Clinic. During that presentation, North East Grey Health Clinics Inc. requested that the Town of The Blue Mountains provide a Thornbury site for the construction of this Clinic.

During their presentation, the Group was adamant that constructing the Thornbury Medical Clinic is a critical component of their physician recruitment and retention strategy.

As a result of this presentation, Council passed the following resolution:

"That Council does hereby refer the North East Grey Health Unit Clinics Inc., Meaford and the Blue Mountains request regarding physician recruitment to the Chief Administrative Officer for review and report back to Council."

Since that time, North East Grey Health Clinics Inc. has submitted a Business Plan for the Project to the Town. This Business Plan has been reviewed and we have concluded that the Business Plan is sound. The Business Plan calls for a Medical Clinic approximately 6500 sq. ft. in size to house six (6) physicians and support staff. The property requirements and building design will allow for expansion to twelve (12) physicians.

Staff has had several meetings with the proponents of the Project and discussed Town-owned sites that would be suitable for the construction of this Thornbury Medical Clinic. We have also facilitated discussions with others to provide additional options for the successful implementation of the Project.

North East Grey Health Clinics Inc. are now entering the fundraising phase of their Project and it would be incredibly beneficial to their Group, should our Council publicly commit to ensuring that land is available for the Project.

A “Dance for Charity” for the Thornbury Medical Clinic is currently scheduled for May 3 at the Beaver Valley Community Centre in Thornbury. We have attached a copy of the notice of this event to this Report.

Staff is comfortable in making this recommendation to Council as we are convinced that there are Town-owned sites available for this Project should a Town-owned site be required to successfully implement the construction of the Thornbury Medical Clinic.

C. The Blue Mountains’ Strategic Plan

Strong medical systems are a critical part of the development of any sustainable community. One of the goals of our Strategic Plan is to manage growth to ensure the ongoing health and prosperity of the community.

Our Corporate Mission Statement states, “The Town will realize the community vision through innovative leadership in strong partnerships to provide sustainable services into the future.”

By Council supporting the creation of the Thornbury Medical Clinic, Council will demonstrate the innovative leadership anticipated by our Strategic Plan.

D. Budget Impact

Currently there are no identified costs to the Town other than staff time. Ultimately, if the Town were to provide a site for the construction of the Medical Clinic, there would likely be both legal and survey costs associated with this Project. We view those possible costs to be insignificant relative to the public benefit of a Thornbury Medical Clinic. The Town certainly has the financial resources available to be able to fund costs of this nature should that be necessary in the future.

E. Attachments

“Dance for Charity” announcement.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature