

AMM meets with Health Minister Chomiak

On June 2, 2004, the AMM met with Dave Chomiak, Minister of Health. A number of issues were discussed.

Physician Training, Recruitment and Retention

The AMM began the meeting by raising municipal concerns with the availability of family physicians in Manitoba communities. The AMM highlighted the need to increase the number of spaces at Manitoba universities for physician training, the need to prioritize rural students and those wishing to practice family medicine, as well as concerns with the entry test process for physicians trained out of country.

The Minister indicated that the Clinicians Assessment and Professional Enhancement (CAPE) process was put in place to fast track within the system and he is concerned with any problems with the CAPE system. The Minister committed to looking into this and getting back to the AMM.

The Minister also indicated that the Province has developed a 9-point plan for Manitoba with an emphasis on rural and family medicine.

Community Capital Contributions to Health Projects

The AMM expressed concern with the current system that requires municipalities to contribute 10% of health capital projects within their jurisdiction. Since health care is a provincial responsibility this 10% contribution poses undue financial

hardship on communities. In addition, the AMM raised concerns with municipalities being responsible for change orders, which are often initiated by other parties.

The Minister indicated he would have his staff look into this in greater detail to provide some clarification, as he would like to see something more equitable.

Election to RHA Boards

The AMM raised this issue with the Minister and urged him to have members of RHA boards elected. The Minister indicated that this is not likely something his government will be moving on. He believes the present system needs to mature before it can be accurately evaluated.

West Nile virus

The AMM stressed this is a Provincial health issue and not a municipal nuisance issue, and therefore municipalities should *not* be responsible for any portion of the cost of control measures. The AMM noted that municipalities also have concerns with the current system of communication between the Province and municipalities. The AMM again urged the Province to take municipal input into consideration in redrafting the 2004 plan.

The Minister indicated that the protocol is to contact municipalities in advance of any fogging, and in some cases there were breakdowns of this protocol. He stated that WNV is cyclical in nature and it is possible that this year we will see very few cases. He also committed to raising this issue of cost of control measures with his Cabinet colleagues.

Inter-facility Patient Transfers

The AMM stressed the need to develop a fair system across the

Province to move patients between RHAs. The present policy penalizes patients for living in areas that lack medical services, which is entirely out of their control. Patients not only have to leave their communities to get services, but there is an added fee for this. The AMM encouraged the Province to eliminate these fees and to share the AMM's views with the working group that has been created to explore this issue.

The Minister indicated that distance and care is a real issue and indicated that his department is working on the transfer issue, as it will only become more important.

Funding for Regional Palliative Care

The AMM stressed to the Minister the need to provide similar palliative care services to Manitobans outside of the perimeter as is provided in Winnipeg. The AMM urged the Province to devote greater funds to regional palliative care so that terminally ill patients may receive the same level of palliative care across Manitoba.

The Minister indicated that beyond this the issue is also staffing. He indicated that his department is looking at connection between this and homecare and the possibility of rolling the two together where applicable. He acknowledged that volunteer resources is also a major concern.

Education Funding and a New Deal for Municipalities

As with all Minister Meetings, the AMM also raised these two issues with the Minister.

The Minister indicated that he appreciates the cooperation that exists between the AMM and the Province and noted that he also has enjoyed a very positive experience with the AMM. ■

Did You Know...

As part of its lobbying activities, the AMM schedules individual Minister Meetings once a year to discuss specific issues under each of the Minister's portfolios?

Notices

June District Meetings Continue

The AMM has completed several June District Meetings. Thanks to all those who have attended thus far for their participation. The AMM is pleased with the number of resolutions submitted and look forward to continuing the debates surrounding the resolutions at next week's meetings. Dates and locations of the remaining meetings are:

Monday, June 21/04
NORTHERN DISTRICT
Thompson City Hall
226 Mystery Lake Road
Thompson, MB

Wednesday, June 23/04
EASTERN DISTRICT
Hadashville Recreation Centre
Highway 11 (1 mile north of Junction Hwy 1 & Hwy 11)
Hadashville, MB

Thursday, June 24/04
INTERLAKE DISTRICT
Winnipeg Beach Royal Canadian Legion, 20 Hamilton Avenue
Winnipeg Beach, MB

Job Postings

**Assistant Administrator
RM of Whitemouth**

The Rural Municipality of Whitemouth is seeking applications for a full-time position of Assistant Administrator. Office hours consist of a seven hour workday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The office is located on Railway Avenue, in Whitemouth, Manitoba.

The successful applicant should possess experience with computerized A/P, A/R, payroll and financial statement preparation, be a graduate of, enrolled in, or willing to enroll in the certificate program for Manitoba Municipal Administrators, and be able to work effectively with little

supervision. Experience in municipal government and knowledge of the Munisoft Program is an asset.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a written application and a detailed typed resume, including references and salary expectations by June 28th, 2004 at 4:30 p.m. to:

**The Rural Municipality of
Whitemouth
Attn: Rita Bell, C.A.O.
Box 248
Whitemouth, MB R0E 2G0**

Expected start date is August 16/04.

If you have any questions, you may contact the office at 1-204-348-2221. Resumes and applications may also be faxed to 1-204-348-2576, or emailed to rmwhite@granite.mb.ca.

**Supervisor of Public Works
RM of Wallace**

The R.M. of Wallace is currently seeking applications for the position of Supervisor of Public Works.

The applicant, reporting to the C.A.O. and Council, will be responsible to oversee establishment of the water distribution and treatment system, along with other organizational duties.

Post secondary education with Certified Engineer Technologist (CET) designation is preferred, and the applicant must be prepared to obtain Level 2 Water Treatment Certification and Level 4 Water Distribution Certification within one year of employment, as per the Environment Act (CCSM cE125) Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation.

Interested applicants may obtain a copy of a more detailed job description by contacting the R.M. of Wallace office.

Applications will be accepted until July 9 at 5:00 p.m.

**For more information please
contact the R.M. of Wallace office
at 748-1239.**

For Sale

**Paper Shredder
Town of Virden**

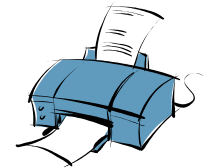
The Town of Virden has an Olympia Ideal Model 4104A paper shredder for sale. Purchased used in 2002 for \$3,500.00.

Accepting offers. Contact:

**N.J. (Norm) Baxter, Town
Superintendent, Town of Virden
Box 487, Virden, MB R0M 2C0**

**PH: (204) 748-2440
Fax: (204) 748-2501**

Email: virden_sup@mts.net



**Hewlett-Packard
4550 Laserjet
Printer
AMM Office**

2 years old - \$1,500.00

For more information, contact:

**Linda Hargest,
Director of Administration, AMM**

**Telephone: 204-856-2361
Email: lhargest@amm.mb.ca**

Contact the AMM

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**Visit our website at
www.amm.mb.ca**

