Committee Minutes

Social Services Committee

June 12, 2013 – 10:00 AM

The Social Services Committee met on the above date at Grey Gables in Markdale with the following members in attendance:

Present: Chair Dwight Burley; Councillors Terry McKay, Wayne Fitzgerald, Kathi Maskell, Francis Richardson, Deborah Haswell, Brian Milne, John Bell; and Warden Duncan McKinlay

Staff Present: Lynne Johnson, Director of Long-Term Care; Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services; Rod Wyatt, Director of Housing; Mary Lou Spicer, Deputy Director of Finance; Karen Kraus, Jennifer Cornell and Renate Cowan, Long-Term Care Administrators; Sandra Manser, Accounting Supervisor; Kathryn MacMurdo, Manager of Children’s Services; Rick Moore, Housing Manager; Aaron Whitney, Technical Supervisor and Tara Warder, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Chair Burley called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There was none.

Business Arising from the Minutes

*Social Services Committee minutes dated May 15, 2013*

These minutes are for information only as they were adopted by Grey County Council as presented on June 4, 2013.
Deputations

Getting Ahead Graduates, Getting Ahead Program

Mary Jane Murray, Learning Facilitator for the Grey Bruce Georgian Adult Learning Centre, addressed the Committee on the Getting Ahead Program that aims to assist individuals in overcoming poverty. Ms. Murray further thanked the Committee for its continued support of the program, which has seen 95 individuals graduate since its inception.

Experiences of current and past graduates were shared with the Committee. The Committee thanked the program graduates for attending the meeting and congratulated them on their accomplishments.

Reports – Long-Term Care

Verbal Update on Commitment to Long-Term Care in Grey County

Lynne Johnson updated the Committee on the current investigation taking place at Grey Gables as a result of the conduct of a staff member at the facility. It was noted that the Ministry of Health is undertaking an in depth investigation alongside an investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police.

Staff of the three long-term care facilities have met to discuss the importance of reporting incidents and concerns and to discuss opportunities to improve procedures.

Staff addressed questions from the Committee on the County's Employee Assistance Program and efforts being made to provide training opportunities for staff, as well as providing coping strategies for stressful situations and preventing burnout.

Verbal Update on Physiotherapy Changes

Lynne Johnson updated the Committee on the changes being made to physiotherapy funding provided to long-term care homes by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Ms. Johnson noted that the proposed changes will have the effect of reducing physiotherapy services by approximately 50%, as the homes will receive an annual flat rate of $750 per resident to cover physiotherapy costs. The changes will be implemented by the Ministry on August 1, 2013. Staff are proposing to extend the current program to the end of September by using funds from the existing budget and reassess the program in the meantime to attempt to accommodate the changes.

The committee expressed concern with the funding changes and the need to express such reductions to the media and the public. Staff noted Member of Provincial
Parliament Bill Walker has been informed of the changes, and staff are also exploring avenues for meeting with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to communicate the effects of the funding changes.

Staff will liaise with the Communications Coordinator to develop a message regarding long-term care in the media.

LTCR-SS-14-13 Agency Staff Contract for Registered Staff

Lynne Johnson presented the above report, recommending that a nursing agency be hired to address the staff shortages at Lee Manor. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care requires one Registered Nurse to be on duty 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Staff are recommending that the County enter into a 12 month contract with TLC Alert Nursing and Home Care Services to provide agency staff to alleviate the shortage.

Ms. Johnson noted the challenges associated with offering permanent part time positions due to fluctuations in available shifts.

The Committee discussed the continuity of operations between homes when an agency is used. Staff noted that the agency commits to sending specific staff who will receive full orientation at the facility.

SSC58-13 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor Fitzgerald

WHEREAS the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 requires that every long-term care home have a Registered Nurse on duty and present in the home at all times;

AND WHEREAS recruitment efforts for part-time Registered Nurses have been unsuccessful;

AND WHEREAS there is a time sensitive requirement for additional staff to provide the mandated coverage;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report LTCR-SS-14-13 be received;

AND THAT the County of Grey enters into a twelve month contract with TLC Alert Nursing & Home Care Services for the provision of Registered Nurses at Lee Manor.

Carried
Reports – Financial

LTCR-SS-13-13 Proposed Five Year Long-Term Care Capital Forecast

Lynne Johnson presented the five year capital forecast for the proposed projects from 2014-2018, including maintenance projects and upgrades to Grey Gables, Lee Manor and Rockwood Terrace. The forecast is projected to result in a 0.96% increase.

Councillor Haswell then entered the meeting.

Staff noted that there are two Rockwood Terrace forecasts, one taking renovations into consideration and a second omitting renovations.

The Committee discussed the need for confirmation from the Province with respect to its commitment to update long-term care facilities across Ontario. Staff were directed to request the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to expedite its plans regarding long-term care homes in the province.

The Administrators of each of the homes presented their respective capital summaries and provided details on the proposed projects.

The Committee briefly recessed for the ribbon cutting of the new pergola, constructed from funds donated by the Ontario Auto Recyclers to enhance the life of residents of Grey Gables.

SSC59-13  Moved by: Councillor Fitzgerald  Seconded by: Councillor Maskell

THAT Report LTCR-SS-13-13 regarding the draft Five Year Capital Forecast for 2014 to 2018 for the Long Term Care operations be received as presented and forwarded for inclusion in the corporate Five Year Capital Forecast for consideration by County Council.

Carried

Social Services Committee Capital Summary 2014-2018

SSC60-13  Moved by: Councillor McKay  Seconded by: Councillor Anderson

THAT the Social Services Committee Capital Summary for 2014-2018 be received for information.

Carried

FR-SS-17-13 Social Services 2014-2018 Proposed Five Year Capital Forecast

Barb Fedy presented the proposed five year capital forecast. Mrs. Fedy provided details on the proposed projects, including those related to building construction, renovations and maintenance.
SSC61-13 Moved by: Councillor Bell Seconded by: Councillor Haswell

THAT Report FR-SS-17-13 regarding the 2014 – 2018 Five Year Capital Forecast for Social Services be received;

AND THAT the capital forecast for Social Services as presented be forwarded to the Director of Finance for inclusion in the corporate Capital Forecast 2014 – 2018.

Carried

HDR-SS-20-13 Proposed Five Year Capital Forecast 2014-2018

Rod Wyatt presented the proposed five year capital forecast. Mr. Wyatt provided details on the proposed projects and the applicable timelines, including projects related to fire safety and maintenance.

Councillor Maskell then left the meeting.

Mr. Wyatt introduced Aaron Whitney, Grey County’s new Technical Supervisor.

SSC62-13 Moved by: Councillor Richardson Seconded by: Councillor Milne

THAT Report HDR-SS-20-13 regarding the draft Five Year Capital Forecast for 2014 to 2018 for the Housing Operations be received as amended by transferring $23,700 for heat sensors from 2015 to the 2014 year and transferring backup generators totalling $45,000 from 2014 to the year 2015;

AND THAT the forecast be forwarded for inclusion in the corporate Five Year Capital Forecast for consideration by County Council.

Carried

Reports - Housing

HDR-SS-17-13 Housing Manager’s Report

Rick Moore presented the Housing Manager’s report, providing the Committee with an update on the fire repairs taking place at Lemon Court and Bruce Street in Thornbury. Currently, there is no building attendant at the Lemon Court site, however staff are in the process of recruiting an attendant at this time. It is the intention of staff to offer the renovated apartment to the new building attendant.

SSC63-13 Moved by: Councillor Bell Seconded by: Councillor Milne
THAT Report HDR-SS-17-13, the Housing Manager’s Update, be received for information. Carried


Rod Wyatt presented the above noted quarterly purchasing report as required by the County’s purchasing policy. The purchase as noted in the report was for bathroom renovations at 17 Legion Street in Meaford, awarded to Summit Building Solutions.

SSC64-13 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor Richardson

THAT Report HDR-SS-18-13 regarding the quarterly purchasing report for the first quarter of 2013 be received for information. Carried

HDR-SS-19-13 No Smoking Policy Public Housing

Rod Wyatt presented the above noted report regarding smoking in Grey County housing buildings. As of January 1, 2014, any tenant moving into a Grey County Housing unit will have a clause included in their lease stating that no smoking is permitted within the buildings. Existing tenants will be grandfathered for the duration of their tenancy within current units.

Mr. Wyatt indicated that the experiences of Bruce County and the Region Of Waterloo after implementing similar policies have been positive.

Staff addressed questions from the Committee regarding the policy. Staff provided clarification on the distance patrons are required to be from the building if they are smoking, being five metres rather than nine, due to the size of the properties.

SSC65-13 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor Bell

WHEREAS in 2012 there were three fires in units of the Grey County and Owen Sound Housing Corporation, two of which were caused by careless smoking and there was evidence of unsafe smoking practices in the third unit;

AND WHEREAS complaints from tenants about the impact of second hand smoking have increased and there is greater awareness of the health issues associated with smoking and exposure to second hand smoke;

AND WHEREAS smoking is already prohibited in common areas of the buildings such as hallways, entrances and common rooms by the provisions of the Smoke Free Ontario Act;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the public housing units of the Grey County and Owen Sound Housing Corporation be designated as smoke free units as of January 1, 2014;

AND THAT all new leases signed as of January 1, 2014 (new move-ins and transfers) in all buildings and properties be 100 percent smoke-free and restrict smoking outdoors to a distance of five metres or more away from any windows, entrances or exits, patios and balconies to the building/unit;

AND THAT existing tenants will be grandfathered (exempted) for the length of their tenancy in their current unit, unless they transfer or choose to sign a no smoking policy lease addendum.

Carried

Closed Meeting Matters

There were none.

Correspondence

Promoting 211 Community Connection – Dated May 10, 2013, Ministry of Health
Response to Illegal Tobacco Resolution – Dated May 23, 2013

SSC66-13 Moved by: Councillor McKay Seconded by: Councillor Richardson

THAT the correspondence received from 211 Community Connection dated May 10, 2013 and the Ministry of Health dated May 23, 2013 be received for information.

Carried

Other Business

Call for Delegation Requests for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference

The Committee requested an opportunity to schedule a delegation at the AMO Conference with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care regarding the changes affecting the County of Grey with respect to the funding of physiotherapy, and to further discuss the need for confirmation from the Province on its commitment to update long-term care facilities across Ontario.
Next Meeting Dates

July 10, 2013 at the Grey County Administration Building

On motion by Warden McKinlay, the meeting adjourned at 12:42 PM

Dwight Burley, Chair