

Report LTCR-SS-07-15

To: Chair Burley and Members of the Social Services Committee
From: Jennifer Cornell, Administrator, Grey Gables, Lynne Johnson Director of Long Term Care
Meeting Date: June 25, 2015
Subject: **Accessible Doors in Grey Highlands Municipal Office**
Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution SSC62-15; Endorsed by County Council July 7, 2015 per Resolution CC97-15;

Recommendation(s)

WHEREAS communication from a resident of the Municipality of Grey Highlands, regarding accessibility issues at the entrance of the municipal office was forwarded to Grey County by Grey Highlands;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of Grey Highlands is a tenant of Grey Gables;

AND WHEREAS at the April 15, 2015 Social Services Committee meeting, staff was directed to research the costs associated with installing an accessible door to the entrance of the municipal office;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report LTCR-SS-07-15 be received;

AND THAT automatic door openers be installed on the main entrance doors of the municipal office on a 50/50 cost share basis between the County and Grey Highlands with each party paying an estimated amount of \$2,600 +HST (total cost \$5,200 +HST);

AND FURTHER THAT the County portion be funded from the One Time Funding Reserve.

Background

The Municipality of Grey Highlands is a tenant of Grey County. The municipal office is located in the Grey Gables building and accessed through doors located on the south side of the building.

The County is in receipt of correspondence from Grey Highlands regarding a concern raised by a ratepayer regarding the accessibility of the entrance to the municipal office.

At the April 15, 2015 Social Services Committee meeting, staff were directed to research the cost associated with installing automatic doors at the entrance to the Grey Highlands Municipal Office.

In 2005, the Provincial Government passed the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) with the goal of making Ontario accessible by 2025. The AODA is being implemented over time using different “standards” that address different areas of accessibility. One of these standards is the Accessibility Standard for the Built Environment which focuses on removing barriers in buildings and public spaces. The built environment standards were incorporated directly into Ontario’s Building Code on January 1, 2015. These changes affect all new construction or major renovations; however, the legislation does not require retrofitting existing buildings because the cost would be too costly for most organizations.

Currently members of the public with disabilities can only access the Grey Highlands office if they notify staff in advance. This accommodation ensures access to service but it is inconvenient and takes away their independence.

Undoubtedly the addition of automatic doors would improve accessibility to the office. It would make the office more inclusive for people with mobility issues and would create a better service environment.

Staff have obtained two quotes for the installation of automatic door openers. The project includes the materials and installation of the door openers, associated electrical work and remedial paint at an anticipated cost of \$5,200 plus HST.

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology Considerations

Automatic door openers can be installed at Grey Highlands. Three options for consideration include:

- 1) Installation and cost assumed by Grey County;
- 2) Installation and cost shared between Grey Highlands and Grey County;
- 3) Installation and cost assumed by Grey Highlands.

There is no legislative requirement to install the door openers; however, both option 1 and 2 display the County’s devotion to accessibility and equality for people of all abilities. These options provide support to the municipality and supports the desire to improve accessibility throughout our communities.

Option 2 is the recommended solution: proceed with the project on a 50/50 cost share basis with Grey Highlands. The project was not included in the 2015 budget and currently there are no available accessibility grants. On review of the reserve and upcoming capital needs, Grey Gables does not have sufficient funds for this project therefore it is recommended that the County portion be funded from the One Time Funding Reserve.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

Goal 5 of the Corporate Strategic Plan is “Listening and Working Together” through engaging residents and stakeholders in decisions that affect them, and working together to achieve mutually desired outcomes.

Attachments

None

Respectfully submitted by,

Jennifer Cornell
Administrator, Grey Gables

Lynne Johnson
Director of Long Term Care