

## Social Services Committee

July 16, 2014 – 10:00 AM

The Social Services Committee met on the above date at the County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

**Present:** Chair Dwight Burley; Councillors Paul McQueen, Kathi Maskell, Francis Richardson, Deborah Haswell and Ellen Anderson; and Warden Brian Milne. Councillor Kevin Eccles was also in attendance in behalf of Councillor John Bell.

**Regrets:** Councillors Terry McKay and John Bell

### Staff

**Present:** Mike Muir, Acting Chief Administrative Officer; Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing; Lynne Johnson, Director of Long-Term Care; Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services; Grant McLevy, Director of Human Resources; Kevin Wepler, Director of Finance; Mary Lou Spicer, Deputy Director of Finance; Doug Johnson, Financial Analyst; Aaron Whitney, Technical Supervisor and Tara Warder, Recording Secretary

## Call to Order

Chair Burley called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

## Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Burley declared a pecuniary interest with respect to Report HDR-SS-11-14 Award of RFT-HOU-12-14 Bathroom Upgrades, as staff are recommending that the tender be awarded to Dwight Burley Construction.

## Business Arising from the Minutes

*Social Services Committee minutes dated June 11, 2014*

These minutes are for information only as they were adopted by Grey County Council as presented on July 8, 2014.

## Deputations

*Joan Chamney - YMCA Housing Program*

Joan Chamney attended the meeting to provide an update on the YMCA Housing Program. Ms. Chamney provided information on statistics regarding the level of support the program has provided to residents in Grey and Bruce since 2001. She provided further information on the various organizations the Housing Program collaborates with and current projects and initiatives in progress.

The Committee noted the importance of educating the public on homelessness and the struggles associated with it.

*Francesca Dobbyn, United Way of Bruce Grey & Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force Update*

Ms. Dobbyn addressed the Committee on the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force and updated the Committee on the recent initiatives being undertaken by the Task Force. Ms. Dobbyn elaborated on the factors contributing to poverty and the importance of systems being in place to combat it. Further discussion on the culture and existence of stereotypes against those living in poverty were cited.

Staff will bring forward a report at an upcoming meeting reflecting today's discussions and the desire for the County to hold a leadership role on reducing poverty in the region.

*Joe Halos, Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation – Investment in Affordable Housing in the Town of the Blue Mountains*

Joe Halos addressed the Committee on a request to increase the minimum housing price in the Investment in Affordable Housing Program offered through Grey County. Mr. Halos spoke to the difficulties residents have in purchasing houses in the municipality due to high housing prices.

Mr. Halos provided a list of comparable properties in other municipalities in Grey County to show the discrepancies in pricing. On behalf of the Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation, Mr. Halos is requesting that the maximum housing price be increased to \$261,600 in order for residents to be able to take advantage of the program. To date, no home purchase has been made in the Town of the Blue Mountains under this program.

Anne Marie Shaw noted that the maximum housing price is set by the Province as well as the maximum salary rate. Changes to the price would need a business case submitted to the Province.

It was noted that other counties have had similar issues to those experienced by the Town of the Blue Mountains with discrepancies and large variations in housing prices between communities and have submitted cases to the Province.

SSC49-14 Moved by: Councillor Haswell Seconded by: Councillor Richardson

**THAT staff be directed to bring forward a report and recommendation regarding the request from the Town of the Blue Mountains and the Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation to increase the maximum house price within the Investment in Affordable Housing Program.**

Carried

The Committee briefly recessed, then reconvened.

## Reports – Finance

*FR-SS-26-14 Social Services Financial Update and Year-End Projection as of May 31, 2014*

Barb Fedy addressed the Committee on the above report. It was noted that a surplus in the amount of \$141,200 is projected for year end. Mrs. Fedy spoke to caseloads, and the difficulty in projecting and planning for caseload composition.

Mrs. Fedy addressed questions and comments from the Committee, including the intended use of the surplus in the Children's Services budget. Staff are asking for permission to utilize the surplus for other areas and are researching new and expanded ways to put the funding to use.

SSC50-14 Moved by: Councillor McQueen Seconded by: Councillor Haswell

**THAT the Social Services Committee receive Report FR-SS-26-14 regarding a Financial Update and Year-End Projection for Social Services as of May 31, 2014.**

Carried

*FR-SS-27-14 Housing Financial Update and Year-End Projection as of May 31, 2014*

Mary Lou Spicer addressed the Committee on the above report. A \$244,600 deficit is projected at this time. Ms. Spicer provided information on the factors which are contributing to the projection, including wages and salaries and the cost to maintain housing buildings.

Difficulty in projecting utility costs was cited and staff are attempting to find ways to reduce utility costs.

Staff spoke to the practice of using products with longer life cycles in order to reduce ongoing repairs and maintenance and addressed questions regarding the use of solar panels. It was noted energy efficient lighting is used to reduce consumption.

SSC51-14 Moved by: Warden Milne Seconded by: Councillor Eccles

**THAT the Social Services Committee receive Report FR-SS-27-14 regarding a Financial Update and Year-End Projection as of May 31, 2014 for the Housing Department.**

Carried

*FR-SS-28-14 Long-Term Care Financial Update and Year-End Projection as of May 31, 2014*

Mary Lou Spicer presented the above report and noted the year end projections for each of the long-term care homes. It was noted that both Grey Gables and Lee Manor are anticipated to be close to budget at the end of the year, and Rockwood Terrace is anticipated to have a \$40,000 surplus.

SSC52-14 Moved by: Councillor Richardson Seconded by: Councillor Anderson

**THAT the Social Services Committee receive Report FR-SS-28-14 regarding a Financial Update and Year-End Projection as of May 31, 2014 for those budgets under the direction of the Long Term Care Department.**

Carried

## Reports – Social Services

### *SSR-SS-07-14 Quarterly Purchasing Report – Quarter 2 of 2014*

Barb Fedy and Anne Marie Shaw presented the above report, being the quarterly purchasing report for the second quarter of 2014 as required by the purchasing policy.

SSC53-14 Moved by: Councillor Maskell                      Seconded by: Councillor McQueen

**THAT Report SSR-SS-07-14, being a quarterly purchasing report for the second quarter of 2014 for the Social Services and Housing Departments be received for information.**

Carried

Chair Burley declared a conflict with respect to Report HDR-SS-11-14 and vacated his seat as Chair, requesting Councillor Maskell to assume the Chair. Councillor Burley left the room and did not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter.

## Reports - Housing

### *HDR-SS-11-14 Award of RFT-HOU-12-14 Bathroom Upgrades*

Aaron Whitney presented the above report and noted the upgrades which will be completed and the efficiencies expected from the upgrades.

SSC54-14 Moved by: Councillor Anderson                      Seconded by: Councillor Richardson

**WHEREAS the approved 2014 capital budget included funding to upgrade bathrooms in 53 units at three buildings with a budget of \$240,000;**

**AND WHEREAS RFT-HOU-12-14 was posted to the County website from Tuesday June 17, 2014 through Tuesday July 8, 2014;**

**AND WHEREAS the total tender amount received, excluding HST is \$30,338 over budget;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT HDR-SS-11-14 being a report containing the tender results for RFT-HOU-12-14, be received;**

**AND THAT RFT-HOU-12-14 be awarded to Dwight Burley Construction in the amount of \$270,338 excluding HST;**

**AND THAT the additional funding required to proceed with the bathroom upgrades, in the amount of \$30,338 excluding HST, be funded from savings realized through 2014 awarded capital projects;**

**AND THAT if insufficient savings result at year end, the remaining balance be funded from the Housing Reserve.**

Carried

## Correspondence

*Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation – Request to Increase the Maximum House Price Under the Investment in Affordable Housing Program*

SSC55-14 Moved by: Councillor McQueen      Seconded by: Councillor Anderson

**THAT the correspondence from the Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation regarding a request to increase the Maximum House Price under the Investment in Affordable Housing Program be received.**

Carried

### *Receive for Information:*

Barb Fedy noted that the rate increase for ParaMed can be accommodated through the current budget.

The Georgian Bay Treatment Centre for youth will be attending the Social Services Committee meeting in September as a delegation.

The Committee requested that the 2013 United Way Hunger Report be forwarded to the lower municipalities for information.

SSC56-14 Moved by: Councillor McQueen      Seconded by: Councillor Maskell

**THAT the following Correspondence be received for information:**

- **ParaMed Correspondence dated April 22 and June 13, 2014**

- **Georgian Bay Treatment Centre for Youth Newsletter May 2014**
- **2013 United Way Hunger Report – Food Bank Study**

Carried

## Other Business

There was none.

## Next Meeting Dates

**Wednesday, August 13, 2014 at the Grey County Administration Building**

On motion by Councillor Richardson, the meeting adjourned at 12:14 PM.

Dwight Burley, Chair