

Social Services Committee

August 13, 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 Terry McKay, Paul McQueen, Kathi Maskell, Francis Richardson, Deborah Haswell and John Bell; and Warden Brian Milne

Regrets: Councillor Ellen Anderson

Staff

Present: Randy Scherzer, Acting CAO; Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services; Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing, Kevin Wepler, Director of Finance; Mary Lou Spicer, Deputy Director of Finance; Karen Kraus, Rockwood Terrace Administrator; Kathryn MacMurdo, Children's Services Manager; Sandra Manser, Accounting Supervisor; Marcia Smith, Ontario Works Manager 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 July 16, 2014

These minutes are for information only as they were adopted by Grey County Council

on August 5, 2014.

Reports – Social Services

SSR-SS-06-14 Accerta Agreement Renewal

Marcia Smith addressed the above report. In 2013, Council gave approval for Accerta to undertake the administration of Ontario Works dental claims for an 18 month period while options with other benefit management companies were explored. Staff are pleased with the services provided by Accerta and are recommending that the contract with Accerta Benefits Management be extended for three years.

SSC57-14 Moved by: Councillor Richardson Seconded by: Councillor Bell

WHEREAS in February 2013, Council approved the single sourcing purchase of contracted services from Accerta Benefits Management to handle the administration of Ontario Works adult and children's dental claims at the rate of five percent per annum for an 18 month period;

AND WHEREAS a savings of \$3,400 in gross expense has been realized in the Social Services budget since the inception of the contract with Accerta on April 1, 2013 and both staff and clients are satisfied with the service being provided by Accerta;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report SSR-SS-06-14 be received;

AND THAT the contract with Accerta be extended for three years.

Carried

SSR-SS-08-14 Dundalk Proton Community School Project Review

Kathryn MacMurdo presented the above report. The Kids N Us Child Care Centre will be relocated into three classrooms in the Dundalk Proton Community School. The school will be retrofitted under the Schools First Child Care Capital Retrofit Policy. Three classrooms will be retrofitted to accommodate the children, including staff space and an area for hot meals.

Staff provided information on the process to date, a recommendation on how to fund the retrofit, as well as provincial funding sources that can be used to fund the shortfall.

SSC58-14 Moved by: Councillor Haswell Seconded by: Councillor Maskell

WHEREAS Grey County received \$2,048,939 in mitigation funding from the Ministry of Education to assist with the impact of a provincial funding decrease in 2013;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Education announced funding for the Schools-First Child Care Capital Retrofit Policy of which \$386,400 in funding is to be allocated to the Bluewater District School Board;

AND WHEREAS the relocation of the Kids N Us Child Care into the Dundalk Proton Community School is one of the projects to be completed under this program;

AND WHEREAS based on a tendered amount received by the Bluewater District School Board, a funding shortfall for the Dundalk Proton Community School Retrofit project is estimated to be \$241,080;

AND WHEREAS the Child Care Mitigation Funding Reserve is expected to contain an estimated amount of \$1,564,211 at the end of 2014;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report SSR-SS-08-14 be received;

AND THAT approval be granted to transfer to reserve the 2014 provincial capital funding allocation of \$44,910 to be combined with the estimated 2015 provincial capital funding allocation of \$44,910, for an estimated total of \$89,820 in funding;

AND THAT this \$89,820 in provincial capital funding, along with \$200,000 in funding from the Child Care Mitigation Funding Reserve, be allocated in the County of Grey's 2015 budget to assist the Bluewater District School with the funding shortfall of the Dundalk Proton Community School Retrofit project which is anticipated to be completed by August 2015.

Carried

SSR-SS-09-14 Poverty Task Force Request for Funding

Barb Fedy presented the above report, recommending that the funding request received from the Grey Bruce Poverty Task Force in the amount of \$20,000 be granted. Barb Fedy noted that the contributions for 2014 have been in kind contributions, such as meeting space.

The committee noted the impact that the Task Force has had within the community and the collaboration that it promotes across the region.

SSC59-14 Moved by: Councillor Haswell Seconded by: Warden Milne

WHEREAS the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force is a network of social service organizations established in 2012 in response to social issues presenting in community;

AND WHEREAS funding to support this network and the facilitation of the collaborative work to date has been supported through a Trillium Grant;

AND WHEREAS sustainable funding is necessary to support the ongoing and planned work of the network;

AND WHEREAS a letter has been received requesting a funding allocation for a total of \$20,000.00 in 2015 to support the ongoing operation of the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report SSR-SS-09-14 be received;

AND THAT the request for the funding allocation be included as a budget discussion item for 2015 budget deliberations.

Carried

Reports – Housing

HDR-SS-12-14 The Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation

Home Ownership Request

Anne Marie Shaw presented the above report, recommending that a request be submitted to the Province from County Council to increase the housing price limit under the Home Ownership Program in the Blue Mountains to \$261,600 from \$217,000. The request originated with the Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation.

Ms. Shaw noted that both the County of Grey and The Blue Mountains housing studies support the notion that the cost of housing in the Blue Mountains is higher than across the rest of Grey County.

It was noted that every municipality has areas where housing costs more than the average across the municipality.

SSC60-14 Moved by: Councillor Haswell Seconded by: Councillor Richardson

WHEREAS the County of Grey has a Homeownership Program with Provincially set eligibility requirements such as the House Price Limit that would require a request from County Council to change;

AND WHEREAS the Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation has requested the House Price Limit for the Homeownership Program be increased to \$261,600 from \$217,000 for The Town of Blue Mountains;

AND WHEREAS it has been established through Housing Studies and a real estate market comparison that \$217,000 limit could inhibit residents of the Town of Blue Mountains from participating in the Grey County Homeownership Program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report HDR-SS-12-14 be received;

AND THAT a request to the Province be submitted from Grey County Council to increase the Homeownership Program Housing Price Limit for The Town of Blue Mountains to \$261,600.

Carried

Reports – Long-Term Care

LTCR-SS-12-14 UNIFOR Correspondence

Karen Kraus addressed the Committee on the above report. Staff are recommending that the County send a joint letter between UNIFOR and Grey County requesting support for front line staff due to changing acuity present in long-term care facilities.

SSC61-14 Moved by: Councillor Haswell Seconded by: Councillor McKay

WHEREAS correspondence has been received from UNIFOR requesting a letter, co-signed by the Warden and a representative of UNIFOR, be sent to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care recognizing the increasing acuity and complexity within long term care and requesting a multi-year funding commitment for front line staff;

AND WHEREAS challenges facing the long term care sector have been acknowledged;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT LTCR-SS-12-14 regarding UNIFOR Correspondence be received;

AND THAT a joint letter from Grey County and UNIFOR be sent to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care expressing the County's concerns facing the long-term care sector and requesting support in the development of a multi-year investment for front line staff.

Carried

LTCR-SS-14-14 Funding of Food Procurement and Services Programs

Karen Kraus presented the above report. Staff are requesting authorization to fund new menu kiosks from each of the long-term care homes operational reserves. The purchase was authorized by Council in 2013, however due to delays, the work did not begin until 2014. Staff require authorization to fund the project from reserves in the current year.

SSC62-14 Moved by: Councillor Richardson Seconded by: Councillor Bell

WHEREAS RFP-LTC-14-12 for food services and menu planning was awarded by resolution SSC-15-13 on January 16, 2013 and adopted by County Council on February 5, 2013;

AND WHEREAS report LTCR-SS-02-13 requested that the project be funded from each of the Long Term Care Homes Operational Reserves;

AND WHEREAS the project was not completed until 2014 due to delays;

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

AND THAT the funds required for this project be funded from each of the Long Term Care Homes Operational Reserves in the amount of:

- Grey Gables \$9,800
- Lee Manor \$13,800
- Rockwood Terrace \$7,800

Carried

Other Business

Anne Marie Shaw updated the Committee on a recent fire in a housing building. No damage was done to the unit.

Ms. Shaw noted that at a separate location on Alpha Street, smoke and water damage occurred within a unit due to an issue from a faulty appliance.

Next Meeting Dates

Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at the Grey County Administration Building

On motion by Councillor McKay, the meeting adjourned at 10:43 AM.

Dwight Burley, Chair