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, Wayne Fitzgerald, Kathi Maskell, Francis Richardson, Deborah Haswell, Brian Milne and Ellen Anderson; and Warden Duncan McKinlay

Regrets: Councillor John Bell

Staff Present: Lance Thurston, Chief Administrative Officer; Rod Wyatt, Director of Housing; Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services; Lynne Johnson, Director of Long-Term Care; Kevin Weppler, Director of Finance; Mary Lou Spicer, Deputy Director of Finance; Sandra Manser, Accounting Supervisor; Rick Moore, Housing Manager; Anne Marie Shaw, Housing Programs Manager; Wendy Henderson, Ontario Works Manager; Jennifer Cornell, Long-Term Care Administrator and Tara Warder, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

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

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

Business Arising from the Minutes

_Social Services Committee minutes dated October 9, 2013_

These minutes are for information only as they were adopted by Grey County Council
on November 5, 2013.

Reports – Finance

FR-SS-42-13 Long-Term Care Financial Update and Year End Projection as of September 30, 2013

Mary Lou Spicer presented the above report, noting that a net shortfall of $126,600 is predicted for Long-Term Care at the end of the year. A report will be presented next month seeking direction on how to handle any surplus or deficit occurring at year end. Ms. Spicer provided highlights of the budgets under each of the long-term care homes and the origins of the anticipated shortfall.

SSC106-13 Moved by: Councillor Haswell Seconded by: Councillor Fitzgerald

THAT Report FR-SS-42-13 regarding a Financial Update and Year-End Projection as of September 30, 2013 for the Long Term Care department budgets be received for information.

Carried

FR-SS-43-13 Housing Financial Update and Year End Projection as of September 30, 2013

Mary Lou Spicer addressed the above report. A combined operating and capital surplus of $184,500 is projected for year-end in the Housing Department. Ms. Spicer outlined the details and origin of the anticipated surplus.

Ms. Spicer spoke to the difficulty in predicting utility costs due to frequent cost fluctuations.

The Committee inquired as to any incentives that exist to encourage tenants to reduce utility consumption. Staff noted that attempts are made to promote this practice through tenant meetings and distribution of information on reduced utility consumption. It was further noted that difficulty exists in offering incentives due to administrative aspects.

The Committee suggested that a request for reduced hydro rates be sought as well as having staff adjust thermostat controls in housing units so tenants do not use excessive heat in units. Staff indicated that upper limits on heat are set; however spoke to the difficulties resulting from the practice of lowering the thermostat limits.

SSC107-13 Moved by: Councillor Haswell Seconded by: Councillor Anderson
THAT the County of Grey submit a letter and background document to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Minister of Energy, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Premier’s Office expressing concern with the escalating costs of hydro, particularly global adjustment, and inadequate mechanisms to effectively manage negative impacts.

Carried

SSC108-13 Moved by: Councillor Richardson Seconded by: Councillor Maskell

THAT Report FR-SS-43-13 regarding a Financial Update and Year-End Projection as of September 30, 2013 for the Housing department budget be received for information.

Carried

FR-SS-44-13 Social Services Financial Update and Year End Projection as of September 30, 2013 and Treatment of Year End Surplus - Deficit

Sandra Manser presented the above report, outlining the origin of the projected surplus of the Social Services department. The anticipated surplus totals $271,700. Staff are also requesting authorization to transfer the year end surplus to the Social Services Operations Reserve.

SSC109-13 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor McKay

THAT Report FR-SS-44-13 regarding the Social Services financial update and year end projection be received;

AND THAT any Social Services surplus funds be transferred to the Social Services Operations Reserve at year end.

Carried

Reports – Long-Term Care

LTCR-SS-19-13 Ministry of Labour Musculoskeletal Disorder Blitz

Lynne Johnson addressed the Committee on the above report, noting that the Ministry of Labour recently undertook a compliance review and blitz on ergonomics, mainly practices related to musculoskeletal disorders. The Ministry examined health and safety policies, workplace harassment policies, health and safety certifications, and policies related to the handling, transferring and positioning of residents, among others. Staff reported very positive results from the review. It was noted that resources are available
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in the Human Resources Department to assist in administering Health and Safety practices.

**SSC110-13** Moved by: Councillor Milne  Seconded by: Councillor Richardson

**THAT** Report LTCR-SS-19-13 regarding musculoskeletal disorder blitz be received for information.

Carried

**LTCR-SS-23-13 Donation Funds – Grey Gables Outdoor Furniture**

Jennifer Cornell presented the above report. Ms. Cornell noted that the Maple Lane garden and pergola has been a success with residents at Grey Gables and staff are requesting authorization to purchase outdoor furniture from Brown’s furniture for use at Grey Gables.

**SSC111-13** Moved by: Councillor Haswell  Seconded by: Councillor Anderson

**WHEREAS** all purchasing policies and protocols have been adhered to;

AND **WHEREAS** three quotes were obtained for the purchase of outdoor furniture;

NOW THEREFORE **BE IT RESOLVED** THAT Report LTCR-SS-23-13 regarding an outdoor furniture purchase for Grey Gables be received;

AND **THAT** $12,584 + HST required for the outdoor furniture be allocated from the Grey Gables Donation Account for the purchase of outdoor furniture.

Carried

**SSC112-13** Moved by: Councillor Haswell  Seconded by: Councillor Anderson

**THAT** staff review the current Purchasing Policy and Procedures, as well as annual budget practices, in order to permit the delegation of authority to the Administrators of each of the Long-Term Care facilities, in consultation with the Director of Long-Term Care, to administer donated funds to the benefit of the residents.

Carried

The Committee briefly recessed then reconvened.
LTCR-SS-24-13 Quarterly Purchasing Report – Quarter 3 of 2013

Lynne Johnson presented the above quarterly purchasing report as required by the purchasing policy. Ms. Johnson outlined the purchases made between $25,000 and $100,000 by the Long-Term Care department in the third quarter of 2013.

SSC113-13 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor Fitzgerald

THAT Report LTCR-SS-24-13 regarding the quarterly purchasing report for the third quarter of 2013 be received for information.

Carried

Reports – Social Services

SSR-SS-28-13 Quarterly Purchasing Report Quarter 3 of 2013

Barb Fedy presented the above quarterly purchasing report as required by the purchasing policy, outlining the purchases made by the Social Services department between $25,000 and $100,000 in the third quarter of 2013.

SSC114-13 Moved by: Councillor Fitzgerald Seconded by: Councillor Richardson

THAT Report SSR-SS-28-13 regarding the quarterly purchasing report for the third quarter of 2013 be received for information.

Carried

SSR-SS-29-13 Y Emergency Shelter Services Agreement 2014

Wendy Henderson addressed the Committee on the above report, requesting authorization to enter into a second one year agreement with the Owen Sound Family YMCA for the continued provision of housing support and emergency shelter services during the first year of implementation of the County’s Ten Year Housing and Homelessness Plan.

Councillor Haswell then left the meeting.

SSC115-13 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor Fitzgerald

WHEREAS Grey County Social Services has had an agreement with the Owen Sound Family YMCA for the provision of housing support services since 1999 and for emergency shelter services since January 2008;
AND WHEREAS the need for housing support and emergency shelter services remains in the community, the funding for which is provided by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the delivery of such is included in the County’s Ten Year Housing and Homelessness Plan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report SSR-SS-29-13 be received;

AND THAT approval be given to enter into a second one year agreement with the Owen Sound Family YMCA for the continued provision of housing support and emergency shelter services during the first year of implementation of the County’s Ten Year Housing and Homelessness Plan;

AND THAT the Warden and Clerk be hereby authorized to execute the necessary documents.

Carried

SSR-SS-30-13 Ontario Works Transportation Ridership Report

Wendy Henderson presented the above report in response to a question from the Committee on the Ontario Works Transportation Ridership program.

SSC116-13 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor Anderson

THAT Report SSR-SS-30-13 regarding the ridership of the Ontario Works Transportation program be received for information.

Carried

Reports - Housing

HDR-SS-29-13 Quarterly Purchasing Report Quarter 3 of 2013

Rod Wyatt presented the above quarterly purchasing report as required by the purchasing policy, outlining the purchases made by the Housing department between $25,000 and $100,000 during the third quarter of 2013.

SSC117-13 Moved by: Warden McKinlay Seconded by: Councillor Richardson

THAT Report HDR-SS-29-13 regarding the quarterly purchasing report for the third quarter of 2013 be received for information.

Carried
Rod Wyatt presented the County of Grey’s Housing and Homelessness Ten Year Plan as required by the Housing Services Act, 2011. Mr. Wyatt began by outlining the consultation and collaboration process, the mission, the key strategic areas in which to accomplish the mission, and measures of success and outcomes.

The Committee discussed the importance of preventing homelessness in addition to housing issues.

**SSC118-13** Moved by: Councillor Richardson Seconded by: Councillor Maskell

WHEREAS Report HDR-SS-24-13 pertaining to the Grey County Housing and Homelessness Ten Year Plan was received and supported in principle by County Council on September 3, 2013 and submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for comment as required by the Housing Services Act 2011;

WHEREAS comments received from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing were addressed in the revised draft of the Grey County Housing and Homelessness Ten Year Plan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report HDR-SS-30-13 pertaining to the revised Grey County Housing and Homelessness Ten Year Plan be received;

AND THAT the revised Grey County Housing and Homelessness Ten Year Plan be hereby endorsed.

Carried

Closed Meeting Matters

There were none.

Correspondence

*Bridges Out of Poverty – It’s Our Business Too*

The Committee considered the above correspondence and the details of the Bridges Out of Poverty program.

**SSC119-13** Moved by: Councillor McKay Seconded by: Councillor Fitzgerald
THAT the Bridges Out of Poverty correspondence be received for information.

Carried

Association of Municipalities of Ontario Correspondence – Federation of Canadian Municipalities - Fixing Canada’s Housing Crunch Campaign

Rod Wyatt presented the above correspondence. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario is requesting that a resolution similar to that of the Federation of Municipalities of Ontario (FCM) be passed by municipal councils to help address Canada’s housing crunch.

SSC120-13 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor Maskell

WHEREAS a stable and secure housing system that creates and maintains jobs and allows for a range of living options is essential to attracting new workers, meeting the needs of young families and supporting seniors and our most vulnerable citizens;

AND WHEREAS the high cost of housing is the most urgent financial issue facing Canadians with one in four people paying more than they can afford for housing, and mortgage debt held by Canadians now standing at just over $1.1 trillion;

AND WHEREAS housing costs and, as the Bank of Canada notes, household debt, are undermining Canadians personal financial security, while putting our national economy at risk;

AND WHEREAS those who cannot afford to purchase a home rely on the short supply of rental units which is driving up rental costs and making it hard to house workers in regions experiencing strong economic activity;

AND WHEREAS an inadequate supply of subsidized housing for those in need is pushing some of the most vulnerable Canadians on to the street, while $1.7 billion annually in federal investments in social housing have begun to expire;

AND WHEREAS the stakes are especially high for Ontario’s municipal governments as housing responsibilities have already been downloaded (unlike other provinces and territories) and this is not sustainable on the property tax base;
AND WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched a housing campaign, “Fixing Canada’s Housing Crunch,” calling on the federal government to increase housing options for Canadians and to work with all orders of government to develop a long-term plan for Canada’s housing future;

AND WHEREAS FCM has asked its member municipalities to pass a council resolution supporting the campaign;

AND WHEREAS our community has continuing housing needs, such as more supportive housing and affordable housing that can only be met through the kind of long-term planning and investment made possible by federal leadership;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County of Grey endorses the FCM housing campaign and urges the Minister of Employment and Social Development to develop a long-term plan for housing that puts core investments on solid ground, increases predictability, protects Canadians from the planned expiry of $1.7 billion in social housing agreements and ensures a healthy stock of affordable rental housing for Canadians;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Employment and Social Development, Ontario’s Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to the Member of Parliament for Bruce – Grey – Owen Sound, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Carried

Other Business

Staff noted that research could be undertaken to look at the possibility of using clotheslines at housing buildings as well as incentives to use cold water instead of hot water for laundry. Staff will provide a report on these matters at an upcoming meeting.

Next Meeting Dates

December 11, 2013 at the Grey County Administration Building

On motion by Councillor McKay, the meeting adjourned at 12:16 PM.

Dwight Burley, Chair