Social Services Committee

October 9, 2013 – 10:00 AM

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

Present: Councillors Terry McKay, Wayne Fitzgerald, Kathi Maskell, Deborah Haswell, Brian Milne and Ellen Anderson; and Warden Duncan McKinlay

Regrets: Councillors Francis Richardson, John Bell and Dwight Burley;

Staff Present: Lance Thurston, Chief Administrative Officer; Kevin Weppler, Director of Finance; Rod Wyatt, Director of Housing; Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services; Karen Kraus, Long-Term Care Administrator; Mary Lou Spicer, Deputy Director of Finance; Rick Moore, Housing Manager; Anne Marie Shaw, Housing Programs Manager; Kathy MacMurdo, Children’s Services Manager; Debbie Pegelo, Ontario Works Manager and Tara Warder, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

In the absence of Chair Burley and Vice Chair Bell, Warden McKinlay called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM.

Nomination of Acting Chair

Warden McKinlay called for nominations for an acting chair to reside over the meeting.

SSC96-13 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor Maskell

THAT Warden McKinlay be appointed Acting Chair for this meeting in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Carried
Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There was none.

Minutes of Meetings

_Social Services Committee Meeting minutes dated September 26, 2013_

The Social Services Committee minutes were reviewed.

SSC97-13  Moved by: Councillor Anderson    Seconded by: Councillor McKay

**THAT the minutes of the Social Services Committee dated September 26, 2013 be adopted as presented.**

Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

Deputations

_Housing Department Review - Jane Londerville – GGA Management Consultants_

Jane Londerville attended the Committee meeting to present the Housing Department’s Service Review. Ms. Londerville began by outlining the purpose of the review, noting areas that are functioning well and areas that could be improved in terms of organization, service delivery, business processes and procedures, workload, tools and technology and financial management. The methodology was reviewed, which involved interviews, surveys and site visits and a review of policies and procedures, service delivery and benchmarking.

Additional information was provided on context and the difficulties the Housing Department faces in terms of increasingly complex tenant issues and changes to provincial funding. Ms. Londerville noted opportunities for improvement and cited recommendations for the County to follow to act on the opportunities.

Ms. Londerville addressed questions from the Committee regarding maintenance tracking, community relations and collaboration with outside agencies and organizations.

Reports – Chief Administrative Officer
CAOR-SS-18-13 Housing Department Review

Lance Thurston acknowledged staff for their contributions and cooperation during the Housing Review and thanked GGA Management Consultants for their work.

Mr. Thurston indicated that an implementation plan will be presented to the Committee in the near future as part of the annual work plan.

SSC98-13 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor Anderson

THAT Report CAOR-SS-18-13 and the report of GGA Management Consultants entitled, Service Review of the County of Grey Housing Department dated August 2013 be received and serve as the basis for strengthening the operations of the Housing Department;

AND THAT the Chief Administrative Officer in conjunction with the Director of Housing prepares an action plan for implementing the recommendations of the GGA Report, to be considered by the Social Services Committee as part of the annual departmental work plan deliberations.

Carried

Reports - Finance

FR-SS-37-13 2014 Corporate Budget Overview and Background

Kevin Weppler presented the 2014 corporate budget overview. The proposed budget reflects a tax increase of 1.07% over 2013 based on a 1% growth in assessment. Final assessment growth figures will be confirmed by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation at the end of the year.

Mr. Weppler highlighted assessment growth, case load projections, uploading to the Province, health care funding, staffing levels, and potential risks in the 2014 budget.

SSC99-13 Moved by: Councillor McKay Seconded by: Councillor Fitzgerald

THAT Report FR-SS-37-13 regarding the 2014 Corporate Budget Overview and Background be received for information.

Carried

2014 Social Services Committee Budget Summary

Kevin Weppler provided an outline of the Social Services Committee budget summary.
Reports – Long-Term Care

LTCR-SS-18-13 Budget Overview

Mary Lou Spicer noted that the Long-Term Care budget was deferred from the last meeting in order to provide the Committee with the opportunity to consider the corporate budget summary.

SSC100-13 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor Fitzgerald

THAT Report LTCR-SS-18-13 regarding the proposed 2014 Long-Term Care budget be received;

AND THAT the Long-Term Care budget be forwarded to County Council for consideration.

Carried

Reports - Housing

HDR-SS-27-13 2014 Budget Overview

Rod Wyatt presented the Housing Department’s 2014 budget overview, noting that the Housing budget has been prepared with a 0.23% corporate net levy increase over 2013.

Mr. Wyatt provided an overview of the operating and capital budgets. Discussion occurred regarding tenant rent revenue and the difference between the amount of shelter allowance paid by the Province to recipients of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program depending on whether they reside in subsidized housing or with a private market landlord. The rent scale for subsidized housing has not changed in many years and there is a need to advocate to the Province for the scale to be updated. Concern was expressed over certain projects not being completed in 2013 and the projected capital projects for 2014. Staff confirmed that recent changes in staffing will increase capacity to move forward with the projected plans for 2014.

SSC101-13 Moved by: Councillor Haswell Seconded by: Councillor Anderson

THAT Report HDR-SS-27-13 regarding the draft 2014 Housing Budget be received;

AND THAT the 2014 Housing Budget as presented be forwarded to Grey County Council for consideration.

Carried
**HDR-SS-28-13 Hot Water Pipe Replacement – 250 12th Avenue, Hanover**

Rick Moore presented the above report, noting that the tender issued for the replacement of a hot water pipe at 250 12th Avenue in Hanover has come in over budget. The details of the necessary work were provided. Staff are requesting that the additional funds be taken from any surplus in the 2013 budget or from the Housing Reserve if insufficient funds exist.

**SSC102-13**  
Moved by: Councillor Maskell  
Seconded by: Councillor McKay

WHEREAS the approved 2013 capital budget included funding to carry out domestic hot water pipe replacement at civic address 250 12th Avenue in the Town of Hanover with a budget estimate of $30,000;

AND WHEREAS a tender document RFT-HOU-17-13 closed on September 12, 2013 with a low bid of $49,000;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT report HDR-SS-28-13 regarding the domestic hot water pipe replacement at civic address 250 12th Avenue in the Town of Hanover be received;

AND THAT the shortfall of funding required to complete the domestic hot water pipe replacement in the amount of $19,863 be provided through any savings realized through the 2013 Housing Budget; or if insufficient savings exist, that the shortfall be funded from the Housing Reserve.

Carried

Reports – Social Services

**SSR-SS-27-13 Child Care Funding and Funding Framework**

Kevin Weppler addressed the above report and provided an overview of the changes to the child care funding model. Staff are recommending that, for the 2014 budget, the municipal contribution continue at the same level as the 2013 budget and that any budgetary increases be fully funded by municipal contributions.

Barb Fedy provided additional information to the Committee for consideration, noting that there are fewer child care aged children in Grey County. The County has been impacted by losses to the manufacturing and retail sector. Further information on changing demographics of the area were cited, as well as new initiatives such as
“welcoming communities” programs and the need to incorporate affordable child care into economic development plans.

Staff noted the need to further engage in planning for the impacts of the child care funding model changes.

The Four County Labour Board is holding a free “Delve Into Diversity” workshop on November 8th from 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM at the Best Western in Owen Sound.

SSC103-13 Moved by: Councillor Haswell Seconded by: Councillor Anderson

THAT staff be directed to prepare a work plan to review the changing child care funding model for presentation to the Social Services Committee.

Carried

SSC104-13 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor Anderson

WHEREAS Grey County is the Consolidated Municipal Services Manager for Child Care Services;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Education on December 18, 2012, announced Ontario’s new funding formula and funding framework for Child Care;

AND WHEREAS the County of Grey received $2,048,939 in one-time mitigation funding to mitigate the impact of the new funding formula that allows communities to plan for changes ahead;

AND WHEREAS the County of Grey staff has initiated the development of templates for the allocation of funding to child care providers based on the new funding framework and meeting with child care providers to inform them of the new funding formula and funding framework and the impact the Province’s initiative will have on Child Care Programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report SSR-SS-27-13 be received;

AND THAT the 2014 Social Services Departmental Child Care Budgets be considered with municipal funding levels as approved in the 2013 Budget;

AND FURTHER THAT to avoid any additional service level impacts on the community and child care service providers in Grey County, that the additional $54,096 in Child Care proposed 2014 budgetary increases be funded by 100% municipal contributions.
Barb Fedy spoke to the draft 2014 Social Services budget, outlining the various budgets and initiatives within the department.

Staff addressed questions from the Committee on the Van Program.

SSC105-13  Moved by: Councillor Milne  Seconded by: Councillor McKay

- THAT Report SSR-SS-26-13 regarding the Draft 2014 Social Services Budget be received;

- AND THAT the 2014 Social Services Budget as presented be forwarded to County Council for its consideration.

Closed Meeting Matters

There were none.

Other Business

Next Meeting Dates

November 13, 2013 at the Grey County Administration Building

On motion by Councillor Milne, the meeting adjourned at 12:33 PM.

Duncan McKinlay, Acting Chair