



The Corporation of the City of Stratford Social Services Sub-committee MINUTES

Date: July 12, 2022
Time: 4:30 P.M.
Location: Electronic Meeting

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Henderson - Chair Presiding, Councillor Bunting - Vice Chair, Councillor Burbach, Councillor Ritsma

Regrets: Councillor Vassilakos

Staff Present: Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, Jeff Wilson - Manager of Housing, Jodi Akins - Council Clerk Secretary, Shannon Archer - Business and Integration Manager, Tatiana Dafoe - Clerk, Robin Brown - Supervisor of Social Services, Karmen Krueger - Director of Corporate Services

Also present: Members of the public

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

Councillor Vassilakos provided regrets for this meeting.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were made by a member at the July 12, 2022, Social Services Sub-committee meeting.

3. Delegations

None scheduled.

4. Report of the Director of Social Services

4.1 Annual Community Income Tax Clinic for Completion of 2021 returns (SOC22-009)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Annual Community Income Tax Clinic for Completion of 2021 Returns" (SOC22-009), be received for information;

AND THAT Social Services issue a thank you on behalf of the City of Stratford, to all businesses that offered and provided their support and services.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Social Services introduced two staff members who have recently taken new positions within the Corporation. The staff members introduced were Shannon Archer, Business and Integration Manager, and Robin Brown, Supervisor for the Ontario Works program.

The Director provided an overview of the staff report as follows:

- this service has been provided by the City since 1989;
- eligible annual incomes were increased to \$28,000 or less for individuals and \$32,500 or less for couples to be within the current Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative program guidelines;
- participant numbers increased to 146, up from 100 last year;
- scheduling was prolonged due to a delay in T4A slips being issued by the Canada Revenue Agency, however, the delay was accommodated by the accounting firms; and
- filing proper income tax returns enables clients to receive all government benefits they are entitled to.

The three accounting firms that participated in the program were thanked.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Annual Community Income Tax Clinic for Completion of 2021 Returns" (SOC22-009), be received for information;

AND THAT Social Services issue a thank you on behalf of the City of Stratford, to all businesses that offered and provided their support and services.

Carried

4.2 Identified Need within the Homelessness Portfolio for Enhanced Staffing (SOC22-012)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Identified Need within the Homelessness Portfolio for Enhanced Staffing" (SOC22-012), be received for information;

AND THAT Council approve the hiring of one FTE Supervisor of Homelessness and Housing Stability position.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Social Services advised that staff have identified a service gap in Social Services related to the prevention of homelessness portfolio. An overview of current trends related to housing insecurity, as outlined in the report, was provided.

The Director advised that to date, homelessness service delivery has been a split portfolio, utilizing existing management staff. With rising numbers, internal service delivery and coordination with external partners has exceeded current staffing. A request was made for a dedicated full time equivalent (FTE) Supervisor of Homelessness and Housing Stability position.

Motion by Councillor Ritsma

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Identified Need within the Homelessness Portfolio for Enhanced Staffing" (SOC22-012), be received for information;

AND THAT Council approve the hiring of one FTE Supervisor of Homelessness and Housing Stability position.

Support was noted by members for the position, as homelessness is an increasing challenge. In response to whether there was any possibility of bringing back a supportive housing project for consideration, the Director

stated that she has had recent meetings with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to try and move that project forward. If staff can find a feasible proposal, it will be brought forward to Council for consideration.

The Chair called the question on the motion.

Carried

5. Report of the Manager of Housing

5.1 200 Britannia Street Affordable Housing Project Update (SOC22-010)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "200 Britannia Street Affordable Housing Project Update" (SOC22-010), be received for information.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Manager of Housing advised the report is an update on the 200 Britannia Affordable Housing project. Construction of this development began in February and is progressing well. Staff are working closely with the architect and contractor. There are also internal working groups focused on construction progress, occupancy planning and communication.

The Manager advised staff have seen cost increases in building supplies, but the project remains within budget. With respect to construction progress, roof trusses are being installed and mechanical and electrical rough-ins are being completed on the first floor.

Motion by Councillor Bunting

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "200 Britannia Street Affordable Housing Project Update" (SOC22-010), be received for information.

Carried

6. Report of the Business and Integration Manager

6.1 Homemakers and Nurses Services Contract Renewal 2022-24 (SOC22-011)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Director of Social Services be authorized to renew the Agreement with One Care Home and Community

Support Services, for Homemakers and Nurses Services for the period from June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2024.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Manager of Business and Integration advised staff are requesting authorization to renew the agreement with One Care Home and Community Support Services. The program supports individuals to stay in their homes by providing in-home cleaning supports to those who qualify and assists clients with learning basic life skills for further independence.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the Director of Social Services be authorized to renew the Agreement with One Care Home and Community Support Services, for Homemakers and Nurses Services for the period from June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2024.

Carried

7. Next Sub-committee Meeting

The next Social Services Sub-committee meeting is August 9, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Social Services Sub-committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 4:41 P.M.