



## **SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, June 10, 2020**

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A virtual meeting of the Social Services Committee was held on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 1:25 p.m.

Present were: James Brose, Chair  
Debbie Robinson, Warden

Committee Members: Debbi Grills, Kim Love, Cathy Regier, John Reinwald

City of Pembroke

Representative: Ed Jacyno

Staff Present: Laura LePine, Director of Social Services  
Shelley Sheedy, Director of Long-Term Care  
Carol Neill, General Manager, Renfrew County Housing Corporation  
Judy Mulvihill, Manager of Child Care & Early Years Services  
Andrea Patrick, Ontario Works Manager  
Rosalyn Gruntz, Deputy Clerk  
Evelyn VanStarkenburger, Administrative Assistant

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Chair Brose called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m. The roll was called and no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

### **RESOLUTION NO. SS-C-20-06-25**

Moved by: Councillor Love

Seconded by: Warden Robinson

THAT the minutes of the March 11, 2020 meeting be adopted. CARRIED.

Ms. LePine overviewed the Social Services Department Report, which is attached as Appendix A.

Discussion occurred in regards to the resolution from the City of Kitchener, which proposes that the Provincial government pursue a partnership with the Federal government to establish a universal basic income. Committee directed Ms. LePine to provide further information to Committee in August.

Ms. LePine advised Committee that 15 applications have been received to date under the special Social Services Relief Fund to establish a Community Garden. Six have been approved and three are currently being reviewed. Any funds granted towards Community Gardens must be expended by the end of October 2020 and any unused funds returned to the County. Ms. LePine noted that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has advised that the emergency funds are to be expended by March 31, 2021.

### **Ontario Works Division**

Ms. Patrick overviewed the Ontario Works Division Report, which is part of the Social Services Department Report.

Ms. Patrick advised Committee that from March to May, 218 applications for assistance were processed. Half of these were emergency applications to provide assistance to those who did not fall under the eligibility criteria for Ontario Works. These individuals received a one-time funding benefit to a maximum of 48 days.

Ms. Patrick advised Committee that two long-standing employees in Ontario Works, Ms. Paulette Shank who has worked for the County of Renfrew for 23 years and Ms. Colleen Desjardins who has a total of 39 years of experience in the Social Services field, are retiring in July. Committee extended congratulations and best wishes to both employees.

### **Child Care and Early Years Division**

Ms. Mulvihill overviewed the Child Care and Early Years Division Report, which is part of the Social Services Department Report.

Ms. Mulvihill advised Committee that the Provincial government has announced that licensed Child Care facilities are permitted to reopen on June 12, 2020 with proper precautionary measures in place. Some of the guidelines the government

has implemented are that children and staff will be limited to groups of 10 or fewer and all children and staff must be screened for symptoms daily.

Ms. Mulvihill noted that the Renfrew County and District Health Unit will provide further guidelines under direction of Ministry of Health.

Child Care staff who were deployed to other departments will be returning to Child Care to assist with preparations to move forward with this announcement. A meeting has been scheduled with childcare providers for June 12, 2020 to discuss which programs can start to open. Ms. Mulvihill noted that EarlyON continues to remain closed. Currently staff are doing virtual programming with the EarlyON group.

**RESOLUTION NO. SS-C-20-06-26**

Moved by: Councillor Reinwald

Seconded by: Councillor Regier

THAT the Social Services Department Report attached as Appendix A be approved. CARRIED.

**RESOLUTION NO. SS-C-20-06-27**

Moved by: Councillor Grills

Seconded by: Councillor Reinwald

THAT this meeting adjourn and the next regular meeting be held on August 12, 2020. Time – 1:55 p.m. CARRIED.