



COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

An electronic meeting of the Community Services Committee was held on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 1:25 p.m.

Present were: Chair James Brose
 Vice-Chair John Reinwald
 Councillor Debbi Grills
 Councillor Kim Love
 Councillor Cathy Regier

City of Pembroke

Representative: Councillor Ed Jacyno

Regrets: Warden Debbie Robinson

Staff Present: Paul Moreau, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk
 Laura LePine, Director of Community Services
 Craig Kelley, Director of Development & Property
 Jeffrey Foss, Director of Finance/Treasure
 Lee Perkins, Director of Public Works & Engineering
 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
 Wendy Hill, Administrative Assistant

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

RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-21-02-09

Moved by Councillor Love

Seconded by Councillor Reinwald

THAT the minutes of the January 13, 2021 meeting be adopted. CARRIED.

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

Councillor Jacyno expressed concern regarding the high number of people coming from larger cities to live in smaller communities such as Renfrew County. Rural areas may need to restrict growth in order to contain outbreaks such as Covid. The need for housing for seniors is increasing and there is a need to prepare for the future and anticipate any additional costs that may result.

Ms. LePine noted that these comments are being discussed in other rural communities as well, and work will continue to be done in this regard.

Mr. Moreau noted that there are a number of different things that in part address Counsellor Jacyno's concerns. In the Seniors' Housing Strategy from Re/fact Consulting it talks about long-term projections that put in place programs like our community paramedic program, our palliative care program and our in-home support program. The limit to people moving to Renfrew County will be the availability of housing supply, which is referenced in the Seniors' Housing Strategy.

Mr. Kelley commented that this is worthy of discussion with all municipalities and is included in the Official Plan. Municipalities should look at second dwelling units as an alternative to housing. Families could look at converting or creating a new building on the same lot. The Development & Property Department has been working with the Community Services Department and planning staff is happy to work with municipalities in working on these pressures and bringing seniors back home.

Ontario Works Division

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

Councillor Jacyno commented on homelessness in the County of Renfrew. It is good to see that there is collaboration with OPP, Community Services and staff in

mental health working with homelessness and it is vital to streamline our services. The goal is to see that there is no homelessness.

Committee requested statistics for the Ontario Works caseload to include the number of homeless persons categorized by age groups.

Child Care and Early Years Division

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

Chair Brose commented that it was brought forward at the ROMA delegation with the Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, the concern regarding the disparity in pay for Early Childhood Educators (ECE) as well as the challenge in recruiting and retaining ECE staff. It was also noted that child care workers that work in private centres do not receive any benefits, there is no access to a pension plan or health benefits, and again that means that not only is there a wage disparity there is also a disparity in that problem being exaggerated through the lack of benefits. Following the delegation an email was received from Assistant Deputy Minister Phil Graham, Early Years and Child Care, expressing thanks for the delegation, and noted that it was great to connect with the County of Renfrew and the presenters did a great job presenting the key issues facing the sector in our community.

RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-21-02-10

Moved by Councillor Regier

Seconded by Councillor Grills

THAT the Community Services Committee recommends to County Council the approval of Ms. Lorrie Baird and Dr. Jean Clinton providing professional development training to EarlyON and Licensed Child Care Providers throughout 2021 utilizing Capacity Funding. CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-20-02-11

Moved by Councillor Love

Seconded by Councillor Grills

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

RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-20-02-12

Moved by Councillor Love

Seconded by Councillor Jacyno

THAT this meeting adjourn and the next regular meeting be held on March 17, 2021. Time – 2:10 p.m. CARRIED.