



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

The Committee met at 1:00 p.m. at the W & M Edelbrock Centre, 30 Centre St, Orangeville.

Members Present: Councillor Darren White (Chair)
Councillor Guy Gardhouse
Councillor Earl Hawkins
Councillor Gail Little
Councillor James McLean
Warden Wade Mills (joined at 2:05 p.m.)
Councillor Fred Nix
Councillor Lisa Post
Councillor Philip Rentsch

Staff Present: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer
Michelle Dunne, Clerk
Rebecca Whelan, Deputy Clerk
Aimee Raves, Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer
Brenda Wagner, Administrator, Dufferin Oaks
Anna McGregor, Director of Community Services
Tom Reid, Chief Paramedic

Chair White called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Chair White shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk verbally took a roll call of Councillors in attendance.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions from the public.

DELEGATIONS

1. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – August 24, 2023 – ITEM #1
Dufferin Men’s Shelter

Erin Goodyear, Director, and Brian Scott, Board Member, Dufferin Men’s Shelter, delegated regarding current funding gaps and a request for support. Dufferin Men’s Shelter is requesting \$116,000 to continue operating until the end of the year, as well as ongoing funding. The Committee directed staff to work with the shelter to look for sustainable funding solutions and options, as well as bring forward a report regarding the progress to September Council.

REPORTS

2. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – August 24, 2023 – ITEM #2
Paramedic Agreement Extension

A report from the Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer and Chief Paramedic, dated August 24, 2023, to seek Council approval to exercise the two-year extension clause within the current Paramedic Services Agreement with Headwaters Healthcare Centre.

Moved by Councillor Post, seconded by Councillor Nix

THAT the report of the Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer and Chief Paramedic, regarding the Paramedic Agreement extension, dated August 24, 2023, be received;

AND THAT the Agreement for Provision of Paramedic Services with Headwaters Health Care Centre be extended for a period of two years, ending December 31, 2025.

-Carried-

3. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – August 24, 2023 – ITEM #3
Community Services Activity Report – Second Quarter 2023

A report from the Director of Community Services, dated August 24, 2023, to provide Council with quarterly infographics that summarize the work undertaken by the Community Services Department, across Housing Services, Ontario Works and Early Years and Child Care (EYCC) Divisions.

Moved by Councillor Little, seconded by Councillor Gardhouse

THAT the report of the Director, Community Services, titled Quarterly Community Services Activity Report – Second Quarter 2023, dated August 24, 2023, be received.

-Carried-

4. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – August 24, 2023 – ITEM #4
Annual Rent Increase Guideline 2024

A report from the Director of Community Services, dated August 24, 2023, to seek approval to apply the Annual Rent Increase, as set by the Province, to the Market rents and Affordable rents for County-owned community housing locations.

Warden Mills joined the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Post, seconded by Councillor Little

THAT the report of the Director, Community Services dated August 24, 2023, titled Annual Rent Increase Guideline 2024, be received;

AND THAT the 2024 Market Rents of County of Dufferin owned housing units be increased by the maximum level of 2.5% over the previous year.

-Carried-

5. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – August 24, 2023 – ITEM #5
Social Services Relief Fund

A report from the Director of Community Services, dated August 24, 2023, to detail the final spend for all phases of the Social Services Relief Funding (SSRF).

Moved by Councillor McLean, seconded by Councillor Hawkins

THAT the report of the Director, Community Services, titled Social Services Relief Funding Update, dated August 24, 2023, be received.

-Carried-

6. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – August 24, 2023 – ITEM #6
Dufferin Oaks Capital Workplan Update

A report from the Administrator of Dufferin Oaks, dated August 24, 2023, to provide an update regarding necessary changes to the Dufferin Oaks Capital Workplan.

Moved by Councillor Post, seconded by Councillor Hawkins

THAT the report of the Administrator, dated August 24, 2023, regarding the 2023 Capital Workplan Update, be received;

AND THAT the upgrade to the Nurse Call System be awarded through Single Source procurement;

AND THAT additional costs for the parking lot paving project be funded through the current Dufferin Oaks Capital Reserve Fund;

AND THAT the Dufferin Oaks Capital Workplan be adjusted accordingly.

-Carried-

CORRESPONDENCE

7. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES – August 24, 2023 – ITEM #7
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

Correspondence from Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, dated July 19, 2023, requesting a resolution of support for more funding to address Ontario's housing challenges.

Moved by Councillor Nix, seconded by Councillor McLean

THAT the following resolution from the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, be supported:

WHEREAS the Federal and Provincial Governments need to support their most vulnerable households, the ones who are or are at risk of becoming homeless. Overall, housing and services for low-income, vulnerable, or marginalized people should be a primary consideration moving forward so we help those who need it the most;

WHEREAS Dufferin County understands every community across Ontario is impacted by a need for affordable housing and support for people at risk of homelessness. Municipal governments are working in collaboration with all orders of government to invest in permanent solutions to the housing and homelessness crisis in Ontario;

WHEREAS the Dufferin County understands that the Federal National Housing Strategy allocation formula to provinces and territories for jointly funded housing initiatives, roughly follows their share of the national population. This approach leaves Ontario underfunded because, as per the 2021 Census figures, the number of Ontario households in Community Housing Network as a share of the national total is 44.1 percent, which is well above the provincial share of the national population at 38.5 percent. This is also by far the highest share of national Community Housing Network relative to every other province and territories;

WHEREAS receiving a by-population allocation from the federal government hampers Ontario's ability to reach more of those households in need that require assistance with housing;

WHEREAS the lack of ongoing federal operating funding for National Housing Strategy initiatives leads to significant underfunding for subsidized housing projects and can undermine the physical and financial viability of the community housing stock;

WHEREAS a similar situation occurs with federal homelessness funding to Ontario through Reaching Home, where the share allocated to Ontario is also below the provincial share of Community Housing Network nationally;

WHEREAS there is an inequitable distribution of Reaching Home funding in Ontario as only 25 of 47 Service Managers have designated communities receiving funding under the program, despite the prevalence of need across the entire Province;

WHEREAS Dufferin County understand the federal government takes the position that its role is to provide capital funding while Provinces and Territories are to fund operating expenses, but this approach does not create an equitable sharing of the burden of funding long term operating costs, which continue for the life of a project;

WHEREAS taken altogether, the underfunding to Ontario for housing and homelessness relative to its share of national Canadian Housing Network amounts to approximately \$480 million over the term of the Federal National Housing Strategy;

WHEREAS the federal government previously provided leadership in ensuring the long-term financial and physical viability of the social housing stock under the Social Housing Agreement for several decades through federal social housing operating agreements that provided funding for both mortgages and operating costs;

WHEREAS without some flexibility on the part of the federal government, Ontario and its municipalities will be poorly positioned to take advantage of this funding, and this will turn into a significant missed opportunity, leading to a further deterioration in the long-term physical and financial sustainability of the community housing stock;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Dufferin County also supports the provincial ask for federal operating funding for National Housing Strategy initiatives;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Dufferin County would appreciate the federal effort to repurpose this funding quickly from the main National Housing Co-Investment Fund program line, Service Managers across the province have indicated their challenges with meeting the terms of the federal proposal, particularly as they relate to cost matching and meeting the requirements for greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency and accessibility;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dufferin County would like need-driven indicators incorporated into the funding allocation formulas for all federal programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT FONOM appreciates the federal government's commitment to end chronic homelessness and wishes this to be inclusive across all areas of our province by expanding Reaching Home funding to all Service Managers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) also supports the provincial position in relation to the provinces and territories Repair Fund under the National Housing Co-Investment Fund;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) supports the Province of Ontario position on the application-based \$4 billion federal Housing Accelerator Fund. We wish to emphasize the importance of providing municipalities with maximum support in preparing applications to the HAF, understanding that some rural and northern municipalities may face capacity challenges in applying to this program on the anticipated tight timelines;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Dufferin County wishes to request that Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation consider actions taken by municipalities under the province's Housing Supply Action Plans into account when assessing municipal applications, recognizing that these initiatives have the potential to significantly increase the supply of housing in our communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Dufferin County believes the lack of ongoing federal operating funding for National Housing Strategy initiatives leads to significant underfunding for subsidized housing projects and can undermine the physical and financial viability of the community housing stock;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Dufferin County believes the federal government should heed the precedent of the Social Housing Agreement and recommit itself to funding operating costs that often stretch out over decades for the lifetime of a housing project. As an example, the Rapid Housing Initiative's 20-year affordability requirement and lack of federal operating dollars will very likely result in housing providers asking Service Managers and the provincial government to fund operating expenses to ensure the long-term affordability of units given housing providers' limited revenue-raising capacity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED this lack of ongoing federal operating funding for National Housing Strategy initiatives leads to significant underfunding for subsidized housing projects and can undermine the physical and financial viability of the community housing stock;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Dufferin County urges the Federal Government provide additional funding for Ontario so that we can deal with our shortages

of safe and affordable housing and at the same time build safer and healthier communities for all our residents;

FURTHER IT BE RESOLVED THAT a copy of the resolution be forward to the individuals listed below for consideration and support, Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Sean Fraser, Kyle Seeback, MP, Premier Ford, Minister Clark, Sylvia Jones, MPP, Leaders of the Federal and Provincial Opposition Parties, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

-Carried-

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 28, 2023
W & M Edelbrock Centre, 30 Centre St, Orangeville

Respectfully submitted,

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Councillor Darren White, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee