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Report 2024-099

Report Title: Approval of Updated NCHC Corporate By-law No. 1

Committee Name: Social Services

Committee Meeting Date: July 31, 2024

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Community and Social Services

Reviewed by: Rebecca Carman
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Director
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Approved by: Jennifer Moore, CAO

Council Meeting Date: August 14, 2024

Strategic Plan Priorities: Innovate for Service Excellence
 Ignite Economic Opportunity
 Foster a Thriving Community
 Propel Sustainable Growth
 Champion a Vibrant Future

Recommendation

“**That** the Social Services Committee, having considered Report 2024-099 ‘Approval of Updated Northumberland County Housing Corporation (NCHC) Corporate By-law No. 1’, recommend that County Council approve the updated Corporate By-law No. 1 for the Northumberland County Housing Corporation, as sole shareholder of the corporation.”

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek County Council’s approval of the updated Corporate By-law No.1 for the Northumberland County Housing Corporation (NCHC) in its capacity as sole shareholder of the NCHC.

Background

The NCHC was incorporated on December 14, 2000 pursuant to the Business Corporations Act (Ontario) (the OBCA) under the authority of the Social Housing Reform Act, 2000 (the SHRA). The corporation's sole shareholder is the County of Northumberland and currently owns 373 units of social housing. On June 24, 2019, Northumberland County appointed a new skills-based board that includes the Chief Administrative Officer of Northumberland County, two Council representatives and ten community members. The NCHC is governed by both a shareholder direction and corporate by-laws. In addition, the provision of County-based services for the NCHC is secured by a purchased services agreement between the County and the NCHC. The last time the corporate by-laws were reviewed was in February 2023.

The attached updated corporate by-law of the NCHC was presented to the Board of Directors on June 6, 2024 for approval, and was referred to County Council for final approval as outlined in the Shareholder Direction.

Consultations

Consultations took place with the NCHC Board of Directors and internal County staff in key departments for their consideration of the impact of proposed amendments. Departments consulted in these revisions included: Corporate Services (Human Resources and Clerk's Office), the CAO and the Municipal Solicitor.

Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations

The NCHC was incorporated under the authority of the Social Housing Reform Act which gave Service Managers the ability to create local housing corporations. This authority was not included in the Housing Services Act, 2011 (the HSA). As an incorporated entity under the Ontario Business Corporation Act, the NCHC is required to remain in compliance with the Act.

As Shareholder, County Council is required to approve the updated by-law as outlined in the Shareholder Direction for the NCHC.

Discussion / Options

The proposed changes to the updated corporate by-law is reflective of changes to meeting practices that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the removal of options for hybrid meeting options.

In addition to minor grammatical changes required to clarify meaning and intent of the by-laws, a detailed summary of all changes proposed in the by-law can be found below:

- Section 4.2
 - The meeting schedule of the NCHC has been clarified to outline specific meetings which will occur in person and which ones will be for electronic participation. Meetings in person will be: April, May, June, September and October.
- Section 4.4
 - This section has been removed as meetings will either be held in person or via electronic participation.

- Section 4.5 (now section 4.4)
 - Change references to specific sections to realign with new numbering.
- Section 4.19 (now section 4.18)
 - Added an additional clause that allows sub-committee meetings to be closed to the public. Noting that minutes of sub-committee meetings will be shared and discussed in the open agenda of regular Board meetings.

Financial Impact

N/A

Member Municipality Impacts

N/A

Conclusion / Outcomes

It is recommended that County Council, as shareholder of the NCHC approve the updated corporate by-law as referred to Council from the NCHC Board of Directors. Upon Council's approval the previous version of NCHC Corporate By-law No. 1 will be considered repealed and replaced with this updated version.

Attachments

- 1) Report 2024-099 ATTACH 1 'Northumberland County Housing Corporation Corporate By-law No.1'