



The Corporation of the County of Northumberland

Social Services Committee

Minutes

April 3, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Council Chambers

555 Courthouse Road, Cobourg, ON K9A 5J6

Hybrid Meeting (In-Person and Virtual)

Members Present: Chair John Logel
Warden Brian Ostrander
Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

Council Members

Present (non-voting): Councillor Mandy Martin (*attended virtually*)

1. Notices

1.a Accessible Format

If you require this information in an alternate format, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator at accessibility@northumberland.ca or 1-800-354-7050 ext. 2327.

1.b Meeting Format

This Committee Meeting was held using a hybrid meeting model. The public were invited to attend in-person in Council Chambers, view the meeting via the live stream, or join online or by phone using Zoom Conference Technology.

2. Call to Order

Chair John Logel called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2.a Territorial Land Acknowledgement

3. Approval of the Agenda

Committee Resolution 2024-04-03-232

Moved By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

Seconded By Warden Brian Ostrander

"**That** the agenda for the April 3, 2024 Social Services Committee be approved, as amended, to include correspondence from Town of Cobourg's legal counsel (LLF Lawyers LLP) to the Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission regarding 'Town of Cobourg Emergency Care Establishment By-law No. 018-2024', under Communications (item 7.h)."

Carried

4. Disclosures of Interest

- No disclosures

5. Delegations

N/A

6. Business Arising from Last Meeting

N/A

7. Communications

7.a Correspondence, City of Quinte West 'Housing Funding'

Committee Resolution 2024-04-03-233

Moved By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

Seconded By Warden Brian Ostrander

"**That** the Social Services Committee receive the correspondence from the City of Quinte West regarding 'Housing Funding' for information; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council receive this correspondence for information."

Carried

7.b Correspondence, Municipality of Port Hope 'Community Integration Opportunities - 310 Division Street, Cobourg'

Committee Resolution 2024-04-03-234

Moved By Warden Brian Ostrander

Seconded By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

"**That** the Social Services Committee receive the correspondence from the Municipality of Port Hope regarding 'Community Integration Opportunities - 310 Division Street, Cobourg' for information; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council receive this correspondence for information."

Carried

7.c Correspondence, Municipality of St. Charles 'Amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act'

Committee Resolution 2024-04-03-235

Moved By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

Seconded By Warden Brian Ostrander

"**That** the Social Services Committee receive the correspondence from the Municipality of St. Charles regarding 'Amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act' for information; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council receive this correspondence for information."

Carried

7.d Correspondence, Municipality of St. Charles 'Guaranteed Livable Income'

Committee Resolution 2024-04-03-236

Moved By Warden Brian Ostrander

Seconded By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

"**That** the Social Services Committee receive the correspondence from the Municipality of St. Charles regarding 'Guaranteed Livable Income' for information, noting that County Council previously considered correspondence regarding this subject matter and subsequently received the correspondence items for information; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council receive this correspondence for information."

Carried

7.e Correspondence, Northumberland Sleeping Cabin Collective 'Advocating for Sleeping Cabins for Transitional Emergency Housing in Northumberland'

Committee Resolution 2024-04-03-237

Moved By Warden Brian Ostrander

Seconded By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

"**That** the Social Services Committee receive the correspondence from the Northumberland Sleeping Cabin Collective regarding 'Advocating for Sleeping Cabins for Transitional Emergency Housing in Northumberland for information; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council receive this correspondence for information."

Carried

7.f Correspondence, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing 'Urgent Service Manager Notification - Ontario's National Housing Strategy Action Plan'

Committee Resolution 2024-04-03-238

Moved By Warden Brian Ostrander

Seconded By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

"**That** the Social Services Committee, having considered the correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding 'Urgent Service Manager Notification - Ontario's National Housing Strategy Action Plan', recommend that County Council direct staff to continue working with partners to advocate to the Federal and Provincial Government for continued National Housing Strategy Action Plan' funding; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council also advocate for the reestablishment of funding and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to key stakeholders regarding this urgent issue, including

to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Federal Minister of Housing, the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MP, and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South.”

Carried

7.g Correspondence, Ontario Human Rights Commission 'Emergency Care Establishment By-law'

Committee Resolution 2024-04-03-239

Moved By Warden Brian Ostrander

Seconded By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

"**That** the Social Services Committee receive the correspondence from the Ontario Human Rights Commission regarding 'Emergency Care Establishment By-law' for information; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council receive this correspondence for information."

Carried

***7.h Correspondence, Cobourg's Legal Counsel (LLF Lawyers LLP) to the Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission regarding 'Town of Cobourg Emergency Care Establishment By-law No. 018-2024'**

Committee Resolution 2024-04-03-240

Moved By Warden Brian Ostrander

Seconded By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

"**That** the Social Services Committee receive the correspondence from the Town of Cobourg's legal counsel (LLF Lawyers LLP) to the Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission regarding 'Town of Cobourg Emergency Care Establishment By-law No. 018-2024' for information; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council receive this correspondence for information."

Carried

8. Staff Reports

N/A

9. Other Matters Considered by Committee

9.a Northumberland Inter-Municipal Task Force on Housing and Homelessness, 'Request for Resolution of Support Regarding Housing and Social Services Funding'

Committee Resolution 2024-04-03-241

Moved By Warden Brian Ostrander

Seconded By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

"**That** the Social Services Committee, having considered the correspondence from the Northumberland Inter-Municipal Task Force on Housing and Homelessness, recommend that County Council pass a resolution of support at the April 17, 2024 County Council meeting regarding housing and Social Services funding."

Carried

10. Media Questions

11. Closed Session

Committee Resolution 2024-04-03-242

Moved By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

Seconded By Warden Brian Ostrander

"**That** this Committee proceed with the next portion of the meeting being closed to the public at 9:56 a.m.; and

Further That the meeting is closed to the public as permitted under the Municipal Act Section 239. (2.k) in order to address matters pertaining to confidential negotiations (Memorandum of Understanding with community non-profit), and that Jennifer Moore, Lisa Horne, Glenn Dees, Darrell Mast, Adam McCue, Jennifer Glover, Rob O'Neil, Maddison Mather, and Cheryl Sanders remain present; and

Further That the meeting is closed to the public as permitted under the Municipal Act Sections 239. (2.c) and (2.k) in order to address matters pertaining to a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board and confidential negotiations (Community Housing), and that that

Jennifer Moore, Lisa Horne, Glenn Dees, Rebecca Carman, Maddison Mather, and Cheryl Sanders remain present; and

Further That the meeting is closed to the public as permitted under the Municipal Act Section 239. (2.k) in order to address matters pertaining to confidential negotiations (Community Development), and that Jennifer Moore, Lisa Horne, Glenn Dees, Dwayne Campbell, Rebecca Carman, Maddison Mather, and Cheryl Sanders remain present; and

Further That the meeting is closed to the public as permitted under the Municipal Act Sections 239. (2.f) and (2.k) in order to address matters pertaining to advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose and confidential negotiations (310 Division Street, Cobourg), and that Jennifer Moore, Lisa Horne, Glenn Dees, Darrell Mast, Kate Campbell, Rebecca Carman, Maddison Mather, and Cheryl Sanders remain present."

Carried

12. Motion to Rise and Result from Closed Session

Committee Resolution 2024-04-03-243

Moved By Warden Brian Ostrander

Seconded By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

12.a (1)

"**That** this Committee rise from Closed Session at 11:19 a.m.; and

Further That the confidential resolution moved in Closed Session regarding matters pertaining to confidential negotiations (Memorandum of Understanding with community non-profit), is hereby referred to the Social Services Committee, which refers it to County Council for adoption."

Carried

Committee Resolution 2024-04-03-244

Moved By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

Seconded By Warden Brian Ostrander

12.a (2)

"**That** the confidential resolution moved in Closed Session regarding matters pertaining to a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the

municipality or local board and confidential negotiations (Community Housing), is hereby referred to the Social Services Committee, which refers it to County Council for adoption."

Carried

Committee Resolution 2024-04-03-245

Moved By Warden Brian Ostrander

Seconded By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

12.a (3)

"**That** the confidential resolution moved in Closed Session regarding matters pertaining to confidential negotiations (Community Development), is hereby referred to the Social Services Committee, which refers it to County Council for adoption."

Carried

Committee Resolution 2024-04-03-246

Moved By Warden Brian Ostrander

Seconded By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

12.a (4)

"**That** the confidential resolution moved in Closed Session regarding matters pertaining to advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose and confidential negotiations (310 Division Street, Cobourg), is hereby referred to the Social Services Committee, which refers it to County Council for adoption."

Carried

13. Next Meeting - Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

14. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.



Jeffrey D. Lanctot
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Ext. 240

April 2, 2024

Delivered by E-Mail

Ms. Patricia DeGuire
Chief Commissioner
Office of the Chief Commissioner
Ontario Human Rights Commission
180 Dundas Street West, Suite 900
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2G5

Dear Patricia DeGuire:

**Re: Town of Cobourg Re: Emergency Care Establishment By-law No. 018-2024
Our File No.: 20240428**

I am counsel for the Town of Cobourg. I am writing to acknowledge that Mayor Lucas Cleveland and Members of Council received your letter of March 28th, 2024. The Mayor and Council have asked me to express their appreciation for your letter and your interest and input into the Town of Cobourg's Emergency Care Establishment By-law (the "**ECE By-law**"). The Mayor and Council have also asked me to write to you to confirm that the Town of Cobourg welcomes the opportunity to discuss the ECE By-law with you if it is convenient for you and staff at the OHRC.

I can confirm that the Town of Cobourg certainly agrees with you when you state that:

1. Ontario is facing a homelessness crisis.
2. The Town of Cobourg, like other municipalities, is on the front line of this crisis.
3. The Town of Cobourg (to the degree that it can as a lower-tier municipality) wishes to ensure that Emergency Care Establishments within its jurisdiction are healthy and safe for their residents but also provide the reciprocal benefit of improving the well-being for all Cobourg residents. The Town of Cobourg does not see these two objectives as incompatible.

4. The Town of Cobourg must recognize its obligations under the Ontario *Human Rights Code* in all applicable matters, including when drafting and passing its by-laws. The Town of Cobourg does so.

In the third paragraph of your letter, you express concern “that Cobourg’s Emergency Care Establishment By-law may impose unnecessary restrictions on emergency and transitional housing that could have a discriminatory impact on people protected under the Ontario *Human Rights Code*”. As I mentioned earlier, the Town of Cobourg has considered its obligations under the *Code* when preparing and passing the ECE By-law and, to that end, the ECE By-law does not impose unnecessary restrictions on Emergency Care Establishments.

In fact, the ECE By-law does the reverse. Allow me to explain.

The Town of Cobourg, for the various reasons cited above, is working hard to ensure that individuals that find themselves in crisis and require accommodation services from an ECE can reasonably expect that such ECE services meet basic health and safety (and other) standards of operation. In other words, the Town of Cobourg’s focus in this context is on seeing that the needs of ECE residents are met and that the well-being of Cobourg residents more broadly is enhanced and not on fostering a situation that tends to diminish the standard of services provided by ECEs. That is, the Town of Cobourg believes that ECEs should be bound to deliver these critical care services to a reasonable standard. The Town of Cobourg believes that the needs of ECE residents should take priority and that ECEs should be required to meet stable, specific, identifiable standards of service for their residents. There are many examples, such as in the long-term care sector, where reasonable standards of service have been implemented in order to transform service delivery to resident-centred care from institutional-focused operations. The Town of Cobourg genuinely hopes that ECE service providers in the Town of Cobourg will join it in working towards meeting their resident-centred needs by meeting the standards set out in the ECE By-law.

Furthermore, the Town of Cobourg has been fully informed of the OHRC’s previous monitoring and review of various municipal by-laws regarding the licensing of rental housing. In that regard, I note your reference to the Commission’s publication entitled: Room for everyone: Human rights and rental housing licensing. I understand that the publication, as you mentioned, provides the Commission’s overview of human rights responsibilities in licensing housing. The Town of Cobourg is also aware that the Commission’s publication must be read in light of the guidance provided in relation to these issues by the *Ontario* Superior Court of Justice’s Divisional Court decision in the case of [Fodor v. North Bay \(City\)](#), 2018 ONSC 3722 (CanLii). The *Fodor v. North Bay (City)* decision provides guidance and direction regarding the scope and application of the *Code* in this context and, as such, must be observed by the Town of Cobourg.

Lastly, I can reassure the Commission that the Town of Cobourg has, and will continue, to work cooperatively (within the scope of its jurisdiction) with other municipalities and shelter operators to fulfil the need for shelter services.

Thank you.

Yours very truly,

LLF Lawyers LLP

Per:

Jeffrey Lanctot

Jeffrey Lanctot

JDL

cc. Brian Ostrander, Warden
Northumberland County