



## **Minutes of Homelessness Task Force**

**February 21, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

**Electronic and In-Person Participation - Homelessness Task Force**

**The Corporation of the Town of Orangeville**

**(Chair and Secretary at Town Hall - 87 Broadway)**

**Orangeville, Ontario**

Members Present: Councillor Andrews  
T. Carter  
E. Dunn  
T. Grabb  
Councillor Sherwood

Members Absent: R. Alvarez  
E. Goodyear

Staff Present: T. Barry, Executive Assistant, Community Services  
H. Savage, General Manager Community Services

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

### **2. Disclosures of (Direct or Indirect) Pecuniary Interest**

None

### **3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The January 17, 2024 meeting started late due to the roundtable running longer than anticipated. The roundtable was held immediately before the Homelessness Task Force Committee meeting.

**2024-002**

**Moved By T. Grabb**

That the minutes of the following meeting are approved: January 17, 2024

**Carried**

#### **4. Presentations**

##### **4.1 Cory O'Handley, Director of Housing and Service Innovation (SHIP)**

Cory O'Handley, Director of SHIP attended the meeting to speak about SHIP and provide a presentation.

SHIP has developed a capital program in Orangeville to help those in crisis with the creation of 236 First Street. SHIP has been around for 30 years and it owns and operates 10 capital buildings. After the presentation, C. O'Handley took questions from the committee.

T. Grabb - how many apartments does the dwelling on First Street provides. Advised they have 60 units and that they have partnered with Dufferin County (housing is tied to case management supports and they receive a subsidy).

H. Savage - are all the individuals housed Dufferin residents. The individuals are Dufferin residents as their focus is on Dufferin.

D. Sherwood - how many are on the wait list. There are 2500 individuals on the list (which includes Dufferin) with Dufferin sitting at approximately 100; SHIP likes to "triage" those individuals and will sometimes do the selection by need (when they get to the top of the list they look at who needs it most). C. O'Handley also advised that they at one time worked with Choices, but that partnership does not exist now.

Chair J. Andrews - Housing is a crisis right now at both Provincial and Municipal level. What are SHIP's plans moving forward?. SHIP is looking at a development in Peel (modular housing - 50 to 60 units). It is also looking at how do we capitalize on current stock and how do we make more of a capacity (deconstruct and rebuild and increase the amount of units). Looking at Tiny Homes and looking at developing 5 tiny homes at Peace Ranch in Caledon. SHIP is talking to a modular company (Farrow) who do great work. Need more capital money to buy more land to tap in and get more buildings.

Town of Orangeville does have some potential in the future to partner further with SHIP.

#### **5. Items for Discussion and Reports**

## **5.1 Out of the Cold Update**

Chair J. Andrews provided an update on the status of the Out of the Cold Program.

Mayor Post and Chair J. Andrews met with The Centre Fellowship (the church on Hansen Blvd.). There is a lot of interest but to take it on solely is difficult and we need a collaborate approach. Arranging a roundtable with all faith-based organizations is needed to discuss process, volunteers, education, training, appropriate facility and how we can collectively work to operate an Out of the Cold Program. Recommended to have a discussion with Compass Community Church and Chair J. Andrews will send out an invitation to all faith-based organizations to see how we can move this forward. Potentially host the discussion in early spring (after March Break).

H. Savage suggests creating a presentation setting out all details so they are aware what they are signing up for. Ask Choices to "design the program" as they have already done it.

H. Savage also advised the committee that after talks with staff, the train station was declared to not be a sustainable option. Recommended to invest time and energy for a more sustainable program in a location that we will continue with in future years. H. Savage, Chair J. Andrews and D. Sherwood will work on a "program" with E. Goodyear or J. Edge.

## **5.2 Criteria for Hotel Program**

H. Savage discussed the response received from A. MacGregor regarding hotel program.

Discussed the shelters first and the discrepancy around the number of individuals using shelters and it was recommended that a report be provided by Jaime Edge ahead of any further meetings/updates as to what the occupancy levels are. The committee is just looking to receive the shelter actuals, not the by-names list numbers. E. Dunn said that she will provide the numbers.

Criteria for the motel program needs to be done in a more generous/compassionate way. Suggest that this be presented to Dufferin County regarding the criteria for the motel program. Is it the hotel that is banning these individuals or the County. Need to find out from County

who creates the criteria. Is it possible for the County to purchase more beds?

Action Item for H. Savage: Reach out to A. MacGregor to ask who sets the criteria, can more beds be purchased. Is there an actual limit for beds (is there only 4 for the one day passes).

1. Basis for criteria that is set out in the response
2. Who is mandating it
3. Number of rooms available (how many long term with County and how many one-day clients)
4. Advocating to get off the banned list - is it a lifetime ban
5. Has the Best Western been approached.
6. Motel rooms outside of Orangeville - will the County consider rooms in Peel area?

### **5.3 Status of Homelessness Task Force Committee**

Discussed that this committee is a Task Force, which has a beginning and an end, and the objective (Mayor leading dialogue at County) is to have an official Dufferin County Homelessness Task Force (the Mayor is leading the dialogue at the County level).

Proposed that the task force wind down in April or May of 2024. Look at the next part of the housing continuum which the municipality can advise on, and look toward creating an affordable housing task force, which may take a period of time to establish.

In the meantime Chair J. Andrews stressed that all recommendations made to Council by the current Homelessness Task Force will pass to staff and the County so that projects are not left off the table and are addressed, and the membership of the new task force will incorporate the current members, if they are interested.

Chair J. Andrews distributed a draft workplan for the wind down of the Homelessness Task Force and asked the committee to review prior to the meeting. If there is any feedback, he asked that it be emailed to T. Barry.

The next meeting will discuss assembling the report to Council with recommendations. Key points to address what the task force has accomplished and discuss the successes.

The committee did discuss their reluctance only in that they feel their voices will be "muzzled" at County level, but other than that the committee supported this decision.

#### **5.4 Affordable Housing**

Council and surrounding municipalities attended a roundtable by Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Green Party, where he spoke about presenting his Bill 156 which discussed the legalizing of fourplexes in detached, semi-detached, row homes (amongst other things). It was a very enlightening roundtable by Mr. Schreiner.

When thinking about impact on our own municipality, it would enable the municipality to speed up the process to allow for affordable housing for development within our community. Currently the planning department is creating an inventory of Town owned land which will be coming to Council soon at which time an overview of where there is land for potential affordable housing will be addressed. Internally we have the expertise in the organization to address affordable housing and create a task force.

#### **5.5 Future Guest Speakers**

Inspector Michael DiPasquale at the next meeting.

Formalize components for next meeting.

#### **6. Correspondence**

None

#### **7. Announcements**

#### **8. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is March 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

#### **9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.