



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the General Committee

From: Sheldon Laidman, Commissioner of Community Services

Meeting Date: March 8, 2021

Subject: Report CSSS21-004
Funding Agreement – 681 Monaghan Road

Purpose

A report to recommend entering into an agreement with the United Way of Peterborough and District (United Way) towards the purchase of 681 Monaghan Road.

Recommendation

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report CSSS21-004, dated March 8, 2021, of the Commissioner of Community Services, as follows:

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute agreements with the United Way for the provision of \$800,000 in funding under Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan to Support People Experiencing and At Risk of Homelessness towards the purchase, costs and use related to 681 Monaghan Road on terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Community Services and in forms acceptable to the City Solicitor.

Budget and Financial Implications

The purchase of 681 Monaghan Road closed on November 20, 2020 with a purchase price of \$750,000 plus closing costs of \$11,540.30. The property was purchased using the Delivering Opportunities for Ontario Renters Reserve. The United Way funding will allow for the Delivering Opportunities for Ontario Renters Reserve to be fully replenished and the balance will go towards building costs such as insurance, security, etc.

Background

The City of Peterborough acquired 681 Monaghan Road from the Community Training and Development Centre on November 20, 2020. Until recently, the building on the property had been used as a school/daycare facility. There is approximately 9,000 square feet of parking and vacant land. The property was purchased with the intent of providing affordable housing on the site.

At the meeting of December 14, 2020, Council approved an application being made to develop 10 units of affordable housing on the property through the federal Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) Program. The RHI program prioritizes projects that will provide housing for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The application submitted focussed on the use of the units for families and women moving from homelessness into housing with supports. At the time of the writing of this Report the City had not heard back regarding this funding request.

Staff have been working to review other funding opportunities for this property. The United Way is the Community Entity for Peterborough City and County, which oversees Canada's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy. This is a federal funding program aimed at preventing individuals and families at imminent risk from becoming homeless. The United Way has determined that the acquisition of 681 Monaghan Road along with its vision of ensuring homeless families and women can transition to stable housing is eligible to receive \$800,000 in funding through Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan to Support People Experiencing and At Risk of Homelessness program.

In order to meet the expectations of the United Way as the Community Entity for this program and the federal program guidelines, the property must demonstrate an effective immediate and long-term response to the homelessness needs of the community brought on by the COVID-19 emergency. The intended use of the property for affordable housing specifically to house those experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness with supports demonstrates the long-term response to the COVID-19 emergency and homelessness. The City is currently renting space to store furnishings that have been donated to support rehousing efforts and could use this space for these and other COVID supplies in the short term.

Major Components of the Draft Funding Agreement with the United Way

- Establish affordable housing on the site to address homelessness and reduce the longer term need for an Overflow Shelter;
- Ensure the alignment of the affordable units with the Built for Zero strategy goals;
- Rents are to be targeted to the shelter rates of those on Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program; and

- That if the units are not constructed within 18 months of the date of the agreement, the United Way has the right to request that the funding be returned.

Summary

This report recommends entering into an agreement with the United Way to receive \$800,000 in funding through Canada's Reaching Home Strategy towards the acquisition of 681 Monaghan Road to be used for affordable housing.

Submitted by,

Sheldon Laidman
Commissioner of Community Services

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