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Coming up at 1 pm it's this month's Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee at Wellington County. This is what's coming up on the agenda:



MEETING PREVIEW: Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Com...

There were already thoughts about the June meeting of the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee in May when a housing matter came to Guelph City Council for discussion. Now in the real...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/06/07/meeting-preview-joint-social-services-and-land-am...>

Chair Anderson calls the meeting to order. Lays out the flow of things today given how we're in the council chambers today and there's a packed agenda.

Covering the delegations, everyone will get 10 minutes. There are five delegations in total.

There's a change to the agenda: 65 Delhi Transitional Housing Construction Project - Status Report # 6 and Tender Award – Roof Replacement and MUA at 263 Speedvale Avenue East will go before delegations.

No Declaration of Pecuniary Interest.

First, 65 Delhi Transitional Housing Construction Project: Status Report # 6. Things are going well with work on the interior and electrical will starting going in next month. Floors and roofing are also starting soon, new stairs and windows too as weather permits.

Completion is still slated for November or December this year.

O'Rourke/Lennox move receipt and it's approved.

Next, Tender Award: Roof Replacement and MUA at 263 Speedvale Avenue East. It's a big tender, and there was a mandatory site meeting for this project. 9 submissions, Roofing Inc. of Hamilton gets the tender.

Recommendation to award tender moved by Busuttil/Bulmer. Motion approved.

Next, delegations! First us is Liz Hales and Mike Marcolongo, Members, Guelph Tiny Homes Coalition and Allen Remley, Principal, Remley Homes.

Marcolongo outlines how the project started, looking at A Better Tent City model in Kitchener and believing that something similar can be done here. Pressures have overwhelmed shelter system and left people to live around Guelph in tents.

Marcolongo says that this is the fastest, and most cost effective way to tackle the problems. Hales takes over to outline the proposal: 25-50 tiny homes to stabilise people as they look for other options, staffed 24/7 by current agencies.

Hales says that this has proven to be effective in communities across the county, and their hope is to have something ready for December (appreciating that this is June now). GTHC is incorporated w/ a board, has blueprints, a prototype home, tax receipts and in-kind resources.

Royal City Mission will co-ordinate 24/7 servicing with the agencies, and they've got an ongoing commitment from those agencies. That part is key, and it's been a primary consideration.

Looking for land that is serviced and closed to amenities zoned for public use to speed along. Looking for initiation with the County's by-name list, and the housing pipeline.

Allen Remley, Principal, Remley Homes, says that he believes that they can pull this off. Got a deal with Collaborative Structures in Burlington to provide common amenity space like kitchen. Aiming to get 50, but don't need to build all 50 at once.

Marcolongo wraps up noting that the situation is getting worse and notes the pressure on shelter demand mentioned in the County's 2023 housing report. It's not getting easier to service the displaced.

Busuttill asks "integration" meaning. Hales says she's talking about the housing continuum. The tiny homes project is a little outside that structure, it's meant to help people build capacity so that they can get into the continuum.

Marcolongo addresses the idea that this is taking away from other shelters. He says it's unrealistic to expect people living under the Hanlon to go to a facility like the Kindle Community and succeed, they need to build up to that.

O'Rourke asks about capacity of RCM considering they just downsized due to lack of funding. Hales says there's a correspondence from Kevin Coghill, but nothing's being formalised until they have a site. The plan is to raise the money.

Marcolongo says goal to raise for operating funding is \$500k, and that should make sure that RCM has enough resources to work with.

O'Rourke says asks if this will be ongoing. Marcolongo says this will only succeed if its integrated, this is only a pilot in the way they want to grown and change as the project's being implemented.

Next, Melissa Kwiatkowski, CEO, Guelph Community Health Centre, Kristin Kerr, CEO, Stonehenge Therapeutic Community, Helen Fishburn, CEO, CMHA Waterloo Wellington. It

looks like Mark Walton from Guelph General Hospital is joining too.

Fishburn says they're committed to working for change, and creating options to address homelessness. She acknowledges that there are costs associated with this, and that tiny homes is not a perfect option. They're not looking for perfect, they're looking for progress.

Fishburn says there can't be another winter without there being an option. The need and volume of people with complex needs is outpacing capacity and as a healthcare team they will assist the City and the County to get it done.

Kwiatkowski says that there's a cost to acting on this, but there's also a cost to doing nothing. This will help centralise care because they spend so much time in the day looking for the ppl they're trying to help. Homelessness has changed: more people, complexity, diversity...

Lots of wound care, and lots of addressing people in crisis and they can't get people out of crisis w/o stable housing, and that's not what a shelter is, Kwiatkowski adds.

Kerr notes that they've done amazing work with the community to get over 100 units of supportive housing, but there are still 100 people waiting to be helped. That's why they're supporting the Tiny Homes Coalition.

Walton says that the hospital is at the receiving end of what doesn't work, and they have to start somewhere. Collectively, there's a will to take action, and they're committed to wrap services around tiny homes b/c if we're not helping people there, they end up in the ER.

Guthrie asks about how this group can help offset costs. Kwiatkowski says they're committed to co-ordinating the healthcare services, they know the people on the by-name list b/c they already work with them, and having central location will help service delivery.

Downer says that there will still be people that choose not to live in a structured encampment, what about them? Kwiatkowski says that's always the case, but homeless people will have another option, and that's a key factor in supporting them.

Kerr adds that while there was an option to go to a hotel this past winter, not everyone took the County up on the option. There are challenges with people living in a hotel, perhaps different from tiny homes, but the hotels were still only short-term, and costly.

Next, Chris and Tamara Williams. Her son Tim lived at A Better Tent City. He was homeless for many years, he almost died on the streets of Guelph, got brain damage from a beating, but he's funny and positive and found peace and security at ABTC.

She says her son has community and he helps his neighbours. Williams believes this model suits the needs of people like her son, and has offered her peace of mind that he's somewhere safe and appreciated.

Williams says a home is a completely different level of respect versus staying in a shelter. She's done a lot of thinking about these issues, and believes that solving the problem begins with providing people with shelter, food and safety.

Chris is Williams' other son. He's a contractor, and says that before ABTC his brother and his partner were staying in a tent at various places. Now, they know where he is and where to find him, saving his family the stress of the unknown.

Chris says that things are looking up for his brother, enjoying better luck than he has at any time in the last 20 years. That's why he's working with the Tiny Home Coalition, he's seen the effectiveness of the model.

Karen Wallace Wright is next. She notes that the mortality rate of unhoused people in San Francisco is higher than NYC despite the more temperate climate in north Cali. The difference? More options to stay inside in NYC.

She thinks about Frank (not his real name) who lives rough, has complicated health issues, and doesn't trust the establishment b/c of a childhood where he bounced around the system. She also thinks of "Karen", who's a sex worker, who can't access shelters b/c she works at night.

Wright says that tiny homes have been a big asset in Kitchener and Peterborough and have had a measurable impact. With \$2000/1 bedroom, the closure of 90 Carden and other factors, we need a creative solution like tiny homes.

Sorry, that was Julie Porter. I guess Wright passed on delegating.

Anderson says that there will be questions about tiny homes later in the agenda. Now we will move on.

Busuttill/Guthrie move to accept the delegations for information. It's approved.

Motion to received the two correspondences on this matter approved.

We just can out of a 45 minute closed session. Nothing was reported from the chair, so we're moving on with the rest of the agenda.

Experiencing some technical difficulties, please standby.

Financial Statements and Variance Projections as of May 31, 2024 approved for information.

Next, Paramedic Service Response Performance 2023 and Performance Plan 2025. Guelph DCAO Clack-Bush begins by talking about the recommendation b/c it's kind of a different format. In past years, this goes to CoW in Guelph first and then received for info at committee...

...But now with the new joint committee it will be approved here and then go to Guelph council for ratification at the end of this month.

One thing of note, this staffing of the second paramedic shift that was paused until they received this data has now been unpaused. The second shift will be hired, as scheduled, later this year.

Chief Dewar takes over to say that main pressures in 2023 was offload delays at Guelph Hospital, which were reduced significantly in the second half of the year. They are less frequent and not as long in duration.

Other pressures incl. ageing population and increasing population. They use complex patterns to cover the community and use the community paramedicine program to stop emergencies from happening in the first place.

Paramedic services are required to report on the coverage areas as a whole and it's harder to develop specific info about specific townships. The data in this report is not as specific, but it does give people an idea of the effectiveness and response times.

The breakdown:

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Combined	Number of Code 4 calls	16,626	15,506	17,264	18,045	17,091
	90th percentile	12:07	12:29	12:36	14:00	13:18
	Average	07:02	07:28	07:39	08:08	07:48
City of Guelph	Number of Code 4 calls	10,749	9,843	11,052	11,251	11,031
	90th percentile	10:24	10:08	10:00	10:32	09:58
	Average	06:51	07:00	06:49	06:53	06:38
County of Wellington	Number of Code 4 calls	5,877	5,663	6,212	6,794	6,060
	90th percentile	15:48	16:00	16:00	17:14	16:35
	Average	09:23	09:30	09:28	10:15	09:54
Puslinch	Number of Code 4 calls	812	647	781	839	774
	90th percentile	15:15	15:00	15:00	16:32	16:32
	Average	10:08	10:06	09:58	10:43	11:13
Erin	Number of Code 4 calls	645	682	598	643	531
	90th percentile	18:17	18:00	19:01	20:42	19:58
	Average	12:18	12:18	12:52	13:29	13:28
Minto	Number of Code 4 calls	596	582	629	672	608
	90th percentile	16:11	17:00	16:33	17:24	16:35
	Average	09:57	10:30	10:10	11:14	10:39
Centre Wellington	Number of Code 4 calls	1,836	1,785	1,985	2,057	1,948
	90th percentile	13:25	13:00	13:31	14:11	13:59
	Average	07:28	07:30	07:39	08:06	07:57
Guelph-Eramosa	Number of Code 4 calls	897	851	995	1,193	896
	90th percentile	14:53	15:00	14:49	16:07	15:30
	Average	09:38	09:44	09:37	10:28	10:14
Mapleton	Number of Code 4 calls	308	305	334	413	406
	90th percentile	19:09	21:00	20:38	21:49	19:59
	Average	12:35	13:49	12:52	13:16	11:50
Wellington North	Number of Code 4 calls	783	811	890	977	897
	90th percentile	16:07	15:52	16:29	18:10	16:51
	Average	08:45	08:29	08:49	09:59	09:11

The service is not working with the same consultant that they developed the growth plan with in 2016 to review growth targets and coverage. Look for more information about that by the end of the summer. The performance targets are unchanged for 2025.

Bulmer appreciates the additional info however imperfect, notes though that 90 percentile numbers in Mapleton and Erin are double than the City. Need to figure out what the expectation is for what a good performance number is to make a committee recommendation.

Dewar says that he hopes new resources allocated to Mapleton in April are already having an impact. In 2016, they were able to run scenarios using a computer model, so he hopes to recreate that with the consultant as they're exploring options this summer.

Bulmer asks about a reasonable rural target so that they can set residents' expectations. Dewar says that's hard to figure out because there's a difference btw what people want w/o an emergency and what they want in an emergency. They haven't got a lot of input from residents.

Bulmer asks if it's possible to get a sense in the future about expectations. Dewar says they can attach both positive and negative feedback. They get both.

Lennox wonders if it would be valuable to better understand the levers of control in order to get better service, what would it take to get a better response by even 5-10%? If there are ways we can start having that discussion it would be good.

Guthrie asks how the second new shift will help. Dewar says it was a 12-hour day shift for Guelph, but during busy times, ambulances are called in from other areas. (Important to note that ambulance dispatch is run through central dispatch for Ontario).

Recommendation:

That the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee recommends to City Council that the Response Time Performance Plan for 2025, as outlined in the report Paramedic Service Response Performance 2023 and Performance Plan 2025, dated June 12 be approved.

The recommendation is approved.

Next, 2023 Housing and Homelessness Plan Annual Report. This is the third report in the County's five-year update and its got to be submitted to the province by the end of June.

Director of Housing Mark Poste says that it's a good report and comprehensive, shows the achievements against the objectives plus context. You can see the pull 30-odd page report here: <https://pub-wellington.escrimemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=10330>

Motion to receive the report for info approved.

Next: Reaching Home: One-Time Funding Winter 2023-24 Unsheltered Homelessness Summary. This report covers how one-time funding from the feds was spent last winter:

Supports Provided	Unique Individuals or Households Supported	Expenses
Temporary Accommodations	35	\$ 201,238
Silvercreek Temporary Accommodation Site	109	\$ 261,420
Supports and Connections at Unsheltered Locations	40	\$ 5,823
Transportation to Stable Shelter Options	18	\$ 7,118
Permanent Housing Solutions Secured	53	\$ 105,581
Rent Supplements (time limited)	9	\$ 5,025
Homelessness Prevention (utility and rent arrears)	31	\$ 37,359
Tangibles	26	\$ 9,754
Total		\$ 633,318

Downer asks about the 53 people housed in hotels, did they come from encampments? Poste says they came from different kinds of homelessness, shelters, couch surfing, et al.

Downer asks if anyone in an encampment was offered a space. Poste says that partners and support agencies were doing the outreach and making the offers, so he can't speak to every offer but knows not every offer was accepted.

Downer: How many encampments today?

Poste: 21 in Guelph, 16 active today that are being regularly visited. It's hard to say how many people given the ebb and flow, but there are around 17.

Downer asks about the plan for next winter. Poste says they've been making a lot of changes in shelter system, right now there's 146 spaces including 38 new spaces and additional 20 when there's capacity issues. 24 new shelter beds coming online this winter, plus supportive house

98 individuals experiencing chronic homeless have been housed this year, and outreach workers are hitting the encampments in the winter months. Weather advisories and cold weather protocol also considerations.

\$250 million in federal budget to help end encampments, but those deets haven't been released yet, but they are working on winter response plan regardless of the feds. Will hear those details over summer and into fall.

Guthrie asks how many unique individuals were accommodated with funding. Poste says there's some overlap so it's not all unique in every category but he doesn't have that number.

Guthrie says there was a narrative that the \$633k was divided by set number of people and it was only for hotel rooms. So it would have handy to know how many people were helped.

Guthrie asks how many people from encampments were helped, temporarily and permanently? Poste says he doesn't have those exact numbers. Guthrie asks if he can bring that back to committee because its important to know who was in a hotel from a camp and then went back to camp.

Busuttill asks if the data is Guelph and Wellington? Yes.

Is there any follow-up? Poste says permanent housing is the solution, emergency solutions are a reaction to homelessness. There are check-ins with people on the by-name list.

Motion to receive the report for info approved!

Health and Housing Community Plan update. The planning table is to support the community plan with an integrated system and advocate for additional resources. Next meet is June 18, 13 agencies at the table. This is the third meeting.

At the last meeting, there was a decision to invite additional groups to take part to balance out urban and rural based agencies. They're also looking to invite people with lived experience to augment the group's knowledge.

To avoid duplication, they're collecting information on other community plans and advisory groups. They will soon begin mapping of services and data collection, and a consultant has been contacted to create terms of reference. The group will meet throughout the summer.

Guthrie asks when the community plan will come to action. Lusia Artuso says it will be about 6 months before they will have a plan ready to go with action items and goals.

Guthrie asks about the urgent needs subgroup. Is Tiny Homes Coalition part of that? Artuso says she doesn't have a list, but the action items she mentioned came out of the symposium.

There will be broader community plan, the integration of health and housing, and the urgent needs subgroup. All three are going to be happening in tandem.

O'Rourke asks if its possible to know what the urgent actions are. Artuso says that there was a lot of great info that came from the symposium and one of the first tasks is to prioritise,

what can be done immediately with little to no funding?

Busuttill asks if one of the purposes is to inform funding priorities and how are they validated. Artuso says it will go through the data, and that's one of the reasons why they're doing the services mapping, to find the gaps.

Busuttill asks about how current the data will be. Artuso says they will use the freshest data possible, and they're also committed to not duplicating any efforts.

Motion to receive the report for information approved.

Next, the correspondences from the City around temporary encampments. Guthrie wants to go through the recommendations from the City.

1. That the report titled Mayoral Direction B4 -Temporary Structured Encampment dated May 15, 2024, be received.
2. That staff be directed to forward a copy of this report to the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee for information.
3. That City staff identify any potential suitable municipally owned sites including site servicing requirements, zoning requirements and other necessary approval processes, as well as identify potential cost implications to the City for site preparation.
4. That City Council request that County of Wellington's Housing Services staff work with City staff to evaluate and determine the viability and suitability of the of the Guelph Tiny Homes Coalition's proposal and gauge the County's potential involvement in the project; and that staff report back to City Council no later than July 2024, or sooner.

5. That Guelph City Council respectfully requests that if the County of Wellington Housing Services staff determines that the Tiny Homes Coalition proposal is not viable, that the County provide an alternative accessible solution be presented to address people living in encampments in Guelph, including a winter plan to support people experiencing homelessness, and that County staff report back to the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee in appropriate timing to accommodate people for winter 2024-25.

Guthrie says that it seems like #5 has been answered as a winter plan is in the works, so we seem to be now stuck on #4. What kind of motion would county staff need to take action on this?

We seem to be stuck on a matter of process, approved the receipt of the correspondences, and then discussing Guthrie's questions. What about questions from delegations?

Okay so the correspondences are received. So we go to questions: Bulmer says he like the Tiny Homes presentation, but he's not entirely sure what they're proposing? Are they filling a gap permanently or is it temporary?

Hales says the vision is to make it an option so long as there's a need. The people who have come together are grounded in client-centre, trauma informed support, and they believe that they have the knowledge and skill to build community.

Marcolongo says the challenge before us that does 2025 and 2026 look like? They will be advocates for the next phase of supportive housing projects and there are people who are going to be out in the cold this winter.

Bulmer says he's still stuck, is it a missing piece or is it a temporary measure? Marcolongo says that they struggle with it as well. If we accept chronic homelessness then tiny homes are here to stay, if we don't it's temporary.

Busuttill says that she knows not all needs will be met on the table, but is wondering about innovation. Hales says that it could be permanent for some people, she works with people for whom this would be the type of housing that suits their needs, others will find stability.

Lennox says he's struggling, if we can meet the demand thru more traditional housing, do we need this? Marcolongo says it's being proposed b/c its fast and effective, they can be flexible, but there's clearly not a plan for beyond this year when it comes to new projects.

O'Rourke asks about pre-fab tiny homes, is that feasible? Marcolongo says they've been looking at lots of options incl. Microshelters. The challenge is that many of those options not built for cold climates.

As for the question about county staff work from here, Anderson asks committee members to send thoughts to Clerk Adams.

4. That City Council request that County of Wellington's Housing Services staff work with City staff to evaluate and determine the viability and suitability of the of the Guelph Tiny Homes Coalition's proposal and gauge the County's potential involvement in the project; and that staff report back to City Council no later than July 2024, or sooner.

Motion from Anderson: Staff be directed to prepare a response by July 2024 to the City of Guelph's recommendations. Guthrie notes that this will be referred to county council last Thursday, and then Guelph's CoW is a few days later.

Clack-Bush notes that this is schedule to come to city council meeting on July 16, that agenda will come out July 4 even though that's still now a lot of time. She says they will look at County staff indulgence to do some pre-work before council meeting at end of month.

CAO Wilson confirms that they're not waiting for county council to affirm this and are already talking to colleagues at the city. He says they've also got data and Info from Waterloo Region so all they can do is evaluate likely effectiveness.

Guthrie moves Anderson's recommendation and Bulmer seconds.

Downer asks about the integration of services like ODSP and OW, can that be taken into account. Wilson says they can address that reasonably quickly.

Busuttill asks if there could be alternatives captured in the report given when they heard in closed (?). Wilson says that will laid out in Sept report but he's not sure it can get done in

July.

Bulmer notes that there's a lot of burden falling on County staff, the blame should not fall on one side or the other and that's how he feels it was worded in the City's motions. Doesn't go to the spirit of co-operation.

Guthrie says he thought it was clear what the Tiny Home Coalition wanted, which is why he used Strong Mayor Powers. The goal should be to ensure its temporary. He thinks back to Sanguen van and the arguments they made, a lot of common ground.

Guthrie says he appreciates the point about pointing fingers, and the city put \$100k in their budget for an encampment team in that spirit of co-operation. Also, there is urgency, so respectfully pushes back on #5. We can't wait till September to find alternative.

Lennox says he respects the City sending this to the committee but the County is looking to the City to know that this is a project that they want in their community. Lennox says they need some clarity on that from Guelph council.

Motion to direct staff to bring back repot passes.

That's a wrap for this meeting!



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