



Human Services Committee Agenda

Thursday, January 4, 2018
Council Chambers
County Administration Centre, Walkerton

1. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

2. Action Items

- A. Burial and Cremation Rates (attached)
- B. Sale of Affordable Rental - 343 Kincardine Ave., Kincardine (attached)

3. Next Meeting

February 1, 2018

4. Adjournment



Committee Report

To: Warden Paul Eagleson
Members of the Human Services Committee

From: Christine MacDonald
Director of Human Services

Date: January 4, 2018

Re: Burial and Cremation Rates

Recommendation:

That the Bruce County Human Services Burial and Cremation rate be set at \$3,500.00 for the cost of direct burials and cremations effective March 1, 2018; and,

That Bruce County Human Services discontinue the practice of reimbursing funeral expenses.

Background:

Funeral and burial costs for social assistance recipients, including those in receipt of benefits through the Ontario Disability Support Plan are approved under Discretionary Benefits. Currently the cost for social assistance recipients is cost shared, effective January 1, 2018, Discretionary Benefits will be funded 100 percent by the Ministry of Community and Social Services with the completion of the provincial upload.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

Municipalities are required by the statutes of the Public Hospital Act and the Anatomy Act to cover the cost of disposal or burial expenses for persons who died in hospital and for unclaimed bodies. If a body has not been claimed by a relative for disposition or by any other person who gives a bona fide undertaking to dispose of the body, it is the responsibility of the municipality where the body exists, to cover the cost of burial. For those not in receipt of social assistance, the full cost of the related expense is absorbed by the levy.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

As a delivery agent cost recovery for an amount paid for a funeral, burial or cremation can be obtained from any person or organization liable for the payment of these expenses. These expenses are payable out of the deceased person's estate in priority to any other charge on the estate. Cost recovery includes: an application for the Canada Pension Plan



Death Benefit and/or recovery of funds from bank accounts that were not accessible at the time of the application for burial expenses.

This department currently provides financial assistance for funeral, burial and cremation expenses for both non-social assistance individuals and those in receipt of social assistance. Directive 7.2 of the Ontario Works Regulation states an amount of \$2,250.00 is the recommended maximum funeral and burial or cremation costs.

The cost of funeral, burial and cremation to the County in 2016 was \$40,138.05 and for 2017, the cost, to date, is \$32,672.46. The current approved funeral rate for this department is \$4,795.00. The following services are additional costs to the base rate: clergy honorarium, spring internment, winter storage, plot and liner. In 2016, the average cost of a funeral was \$4,698.34. To date for 2017, the average cost is \$4,588.51.

It is recommended that the Department cover the cost of a direct burial or cremation for those who were in receipt of social assistance and for non-social assistance individuals and discontinue the practice of covering the cost of funeral services.

A sampling of direct burial and cremation costs was completed among funeral providers for Bruce County. The fees range from \$1,860.00 to \$3,808.00 for a direct burial (fee does not include cost of plot or vault). Direct cremation fees range from \$2,324.80 to \$3,095.00. A sampling of funeral and burial costs paid by other service managers range from \$2,596.00 to \$4,994.85 with the average cost being \$3,563.85.

This department is recommending the following rate change:

Direct Burial or Cremations

Base Fee - Actual Cost to a maximum of \$3,500.00 plus applicable HST

Plot/liner/niche - Actual cost

The above rate considers the recommended fee rate of \$2,250.00 as stated in Ontario Works Directive 7.2 and includes other expenses such as: casket, registration fee and coroner fee.

Funeral providers will be reimbursed for actual costs based upon their posted rates up to a maximum of \$3,500.00.

The charge will be communicated to funeral providers in Bruce County through letters explaining the change and the effective date.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

A legal opinion was requested and received from Grove-McClement and Fischer. As noted in the background of the report the municipality is required by the Public Hospitals Act and the



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Anatomy Act to dispose or bury there is no language in the regulations that supports a requirement for the cost of funeral services. If the rate change is approved, it will reduce expenditures. The simplification of the process will lessen administration and staffing time.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

There was no interdepartmental consultation in the writing of this report.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

Goal #6 Explore alternate options to improve efficiency and service.

Written by: Nancy Reinhart, Income and Employment Supports Manager

Approved by:

Kelley Coulter
Chief Administrative Officer



Committee Report

To: Warden Paul Eagleson
Members of the Human Services Committee

From: Christine MacDonald
Director of Human Services

Date: January 4, 2018

Re: Sale of Affordable Rental - 343 Kincardine Ave.,
Kincardine

Recommendation:

That consent be granted for the sale of the Affordable Rental units at 343 Kincardine Ave., in the Municipality of Kincardine from 773472 Ontario Ltd. to 1741394 Ontario Inc. (operating as JNC Holdings); and,

That by-law 2013-041 be repealed; and,

That a by-law be introduced consenting to the sale of the property to 1741394 Ontario Inc. and authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute any documentation necessary to effect the assignment of the Municipal Contribution Agreement dated September 5, 2013 from 773472 Ontario Ltd. to the new purchaser, 1741394 Ontario Inc. operating as JNC Holdings, and the Mortgage in favour of The Corporation of the County of Bruce securing the sum of \$480,000.00 and any other security documentation deemed necessary.

Background:

On September 5, 2013, the Corporation of the County of Bruce and 773472 Ontario Ltd. signed a Municipal Contribution Agreement authorizing \$480,000 of the Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) be used to develop 6 affordable housing units located at 343 Kincardine Avenue, Kincardine.

An Occupancy Permit was received on April 1, 2014 and the 6 units have been operating as affordable units, as per the agreement, since such time.

The President of 773472 Ontario Ltd. approached Bruce County as Service Manager to gain consent to sell the unit and transfer the Municipal Contribution Agreement to 1741394 Ontario Inc. (operating as JNC Holdings), who agrees to continue maintain the 6 units at affordable rent.



Financial Considerations:

There are no financial considerations associated with this report. 773472 Ontario Ltd. has agreed to pay for the legal costs associated with the sale and transfer.

Staffing Considerations:

Considerable staff time has been used to ensure the proper channels have been exercised in regards to this report. All work was completed within the regular staffing complement.

Legal Considerations:

Housing staff have worked closely with the County's solicitor to ensure all legal requirements are met. Based on the Ministry of Housing requirement, the solicitor maintains the rental property will continue to be viable and therefore sustainable.

IT Considerations:

There are no IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Housing staff have consulted with the County Clerk to gain archived documents and comments on procedure.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

This initiative supports Bruce County's Long Term Housing Strategy Update: 2013-2023 actions to address the identified housing need by maintaining affordable housing for lower income seniors and individuals.

Written by: Tania Dickson, Housing Services Manager

Approved by:

Kelley Coulter
Chief Administrative Officer