

Minutes

Community Services Committee

February 5, 2026

Present: Councillor Warren Dickert, Councillor Barbara Dobreen,
Councillor Scott Greig, Councillor Dane Nielsen

Regrets: Councillor Scott Mackey, Warden Andrea Matrosovs, Councillor
Terry McKay

Staff Present: Niall Loble, Deputy CAO, Anne Marie Shaw, Director of
Community Services, Tara Cockerill, Manager of Early Learning
and Child Care, Josh Gibson, Manager Housing Programs,
Sharon Irwin, Manager of Community Housing, Aaron Whitney,
Facilities and Operations Senior Manager, Robert Hatten,
Manager of Communications, Tara Warder, Clerk, Brittany Rier,
Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

The Community Services Committee met at the County Administration Building on the above date. The Clerk called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. with all members present with the exception of Warden Matrosovs, Councillor McKay and Councillor Mackey.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Moved by: Councillor Dickert
Seconded by: Councillor Greig

That Councillor Nielsen be elected as Chair of the Community Services Committee for 2026.

Carried

On motion by Councillor Dickert, nominations closed.

Councillor Nielsen was acclaimed as Chair.

Moved by: Councillor Nielsen
Seconded by: Councillor Greig

That Councillor Dickert be elected as Vice Chair of the Community Services Committee for 2026.

Carried

On motion by Councillor Nielsen, nominations closed.

Councillor Dickert was acclaimed as Vice-Chair.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Delegations

Beam Group - Lily Clark

Lily Clark of Beam Group, provided an overview of the Special Needs Resourcing Review conducted for Grey County's services. The goal is to have access and inclusion for childcare for children with special needs at no extra cost to families. Through the review, the team collected information from Grey County staff, special needs resourcing staff from community partners and community feedback to identify gaps in these services in our area.

Areas of opportunity include communication and coordination improvements, as well as service gaps with the potential for children to fall between the cracks and not get the support they need. Ms. Clark provided recommendations to staff to help streamline processes that will help save time, provide cost savings, and provide better resources to special needs children and their families.

OSHaRE - Colleen Trask-Seaman

Colleen Trask-Seaman, Executive Director of OSHaRE, shared the multitude of programs the organization provides for the community beginning back in 2013. Ms. Trask-Seaman noted that the organization is supported by seven full-time staff, a large group of volunteers, co-op students and volunteer groups.

She shared the growth of the programs expanding across food, shelter and healthcare, and the 30 community partner agencies OSHaRE works with. She noted that over 202 tonnes of food have been saved from going to the landfill.

OSHaRE is currently renovating a space to accommodate a depot to support the growth of the organization. She noted that construction is underway with hopes for it to be finished in April of this year.

Items For Direction or Discussion

CSR-CS-05-26 Grey County 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan Draft

Director Shaw noted that a report will come forward to Council in the future with further details of the plan. She noted that the province needs to recognize that housing needs more funding.

CSC01-26

Moved by: Councillor Greig

Seconded by: Councillor Dobreen

That report CSR-CS-05-26 regarding the updated Housing and Homelessness Plan be received for information.

Carried

CSR-CS-08-26 Short Term Housing and Homelessness Update February 2026

Josh Gibson, Manager of Housing Programs, noted that the County provided approximately 1000 more nights of shelter in 2025 versus 2024 and that the average length of stay increased from 21 days to 25 days showing the increasing demand in our area.

CSC02-26

Moved by: Councillor Dickert

Seconded by: Councillor Greig

That report CSR-CS-08-26 regarding Short Term Housing and Homelessness Update February 2026 be received for information.

Carried

CSR-CS-06-26 Rowe's Lane Redevelopment Update

Director Shaw noted that County staff are working with contractors to determine how the extent of the floodplain boundary will affect the build, and that the build may need to be adjusted after further discussions.

CSC03-26

Moved by: Councillor Dickert

Seconded by: Councillor Greig

That report CSR-CS-06-26 regarding an update on the Rowe's Lane redevelopment be received for information.

Carried

Canada Builds Program - Verbal Update from Director Anne Marie Shaw

Director Anne Marie Shaw noted that the program would be replacing the national funding strategy.

Correspondence

Partnering for Impact: Human Services as Essential Social Infrastructure for Poverty Reduction

CSC04-26

Moved by: Councillor Dickert

Seconded by: Councillor Greig

That the correspondence received from the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association regarding their submission for the Ontario's Consultation on the Poverty Reduction Strategy be received for information.

Carried

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On unanimous consent, the Community Services Committee adjourned at 4:20 p.m. to the call of the Chair.