

Request for Decision City Council



Type of Decision											
Meeting Date		September 13, 2006				Report Date		September 7, 2006			
Decision Requested		X	Yes		No	Priority		X	High		Low
		Direction Only				Type of Meeting		X	Open		Closed


Report Title
Public Sale for tax arrears under the Municipal Act

Budget Impact / Policy Implication		Recommendation	
X	This report has been reviewed by the Finance Division and the funding source has been identified.		
N/A		N/A	
X	Background Attached		Recommendation Continued

Recommended by the Department
 Lorella Hayes Chief Financial Officer / Treasurer

Recommended by the C.A.O.
 Mark Mieto Chief Administrative Officer

Date: September 7, 2006

Report Prepared By	Division Review
 Tony Derro Supervisor of Tax / Chief Tax Collector	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Part XI of the Municipal Act provides the authority for a municipality to collect property tax arrears through tax registration and public sale. On Thursday, September 28, 2006, the City of Greater Sudbury will conduct a public tax sale in accordance with this legislation. Approximately eight (8) properties will be offered for sale. Tenders will be accepted until 3:00 p. on the day of the sale and tenders will be opened at 3:30 pm.

BACKGROUND

On September 28, 2006, the City of Greater Sudbury will conduct a Public Sale for properties with tax arrears, under the authority of the Municipal Act. The Finance Division, with the assistance of Supplies and Services, will be co-ordinating the Public Sale in accordance with the Rules and Procedures as outlined in Provincial Legislation.

Approximately eight (8) properties will be offered for sale on September 28, 2006 and full payment in certified funds by the current property owner will be accepted up until 3:00 pm, after which tenders will be opened at 3:30 pm the same day and a successful bidder declared.

The following outlines the procedures undertaken with respect to the collection of tax arrears:

- ▶ Regularly throughout each year, arrears notices are sent to the assessed owners of all properties on which realty taxes remain unpaid.
- ▶ Under the authority of the Municipal Act, for those properties which are three (3) years in arrears, a notice of upcoming legal action is sent to the owner.
- ▶ If payment is not received or if satisfactory repayment arrangements are not made, a tax arrears certificate representing a lien against the property is registered on title in accordance with the Municipal Act. Notices are sent by registered mail to the assessed owner and all parties having an interest in the property. An administration charge representing costs of collection is levied on the property.
- ▶ The property owner has one (1) year from the date of registration to pay the taxes and administration fee in full or enter into a tax extension agreement with the municipality.
- ▶ A final notice is sent by registered mail to the assessed owner and all interested parties 280 days after the lien has been registered.
- ▶ If taxes still remain unpaid after the redemption period (one year), the Municipal Act authorizes the Treasurer of the municipality to offer the property for public sale. For all of the properties proceeding to tax sale, the one year redemption period has expired.
- ▶ A notice is sent to the assessed owner by registered mail advising of pending tax sale action.
- ▶ All affected properties are advertised for sale in accordance with procedures outlined in the Municipal Act.


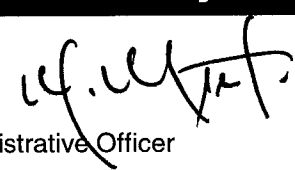
Request for Decision City Council



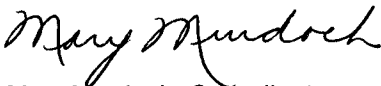
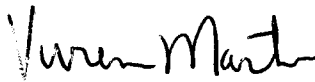
Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	September 13, 2006				Report Date	August 25, 2006			
Decision Requested		Yes	X	No	Priority		High		Low
	Direction Only				Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

Report Title
Update on the Activities of the Community Solutions Team on Homelessness Initiatives

Budget Impact / Policy Implication	Recommendation
<div> <div>This report has been reviewed by the Finance Division and the funding source has been identified.</div> <div>Information Only</div> </div>	<div>Information Report to Council as requested at the meeting of June 14, 2006 when the Community Solutions Team was reactivated.</div>
Background Attached	Recommendation Continued

Recommended by the Department	Recommended by the C.A.O.
 Catherine Matheson General Manager Community Development	 Mark Mieto Chief Administrative Officer

Date: August 25, 2006

Report Prepared By	Division Review
 Mary Murdoch, Co-ordinator Emergency Shelters and Homelessness Initiatives	 Vivienne Martin Acting Director of Social Services

Background

On June 14, 2006, the Council of the City of Greater Sudbury passed a resolution that the Community Solutions Team on Homeless Initiatives be reactivated to develop a realigned community plan for outreach services for emergency shelters and homelessness initiatives.

The following members of the community are participating on the Community Solutions Team:

Janet Gasparini (Co-chair), Councillor, Ward 6;
Vicki Smith (Co-chair), Chair, Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce;
Nancy Dubé, Director, YMCA Employment Services, Chair of the Community Advisory Committee for Homelessness Initiatives;
Penny Earley, Professor, Social Services Worker Program, Cambrian College;
Terry Fortin, FedNor Initiatives Officer, FedNor - Industry Canada;
Margaret Borley, Member of the Community Advisory Committee for Homelessness Initiatives, United Way/Centraide Board of Directors;

Staff support is being provided to the team by Jamie Brunette from the Social Planning Council, Glenn Thibeault from the United Way/Centraide and Vivienne Martin, Luisa Valle, Dianne Jones and Mary Murdoch from the City of Greater Sudbury. The General Manager of the Community Development Department provided the Community Solutions Team with Terms of Reference which are included as an appendix at the end of this report. The Team met July 6, August 9 and 29.

The Team has done an extensive literature review to identify “best practices”. Best practices show that a “Housing First” strategy is the most successful approach to assisting those who are homeless. This approach is premised on the belief that vulnerable and at-risk homeless individuals and families are more responsive to interventions and social service support after they are in their own housing, rather than while living in temporary/transitional facilities or housing programs. With permanent housing, these individuals or families can begin to regain the self-confidence and control over their lives they lost when they became homeless. Once the individuals or families are housed, they are linked to ongoing individualized home-based social services supports to help each individual or family transition to stability.

As a result, the Community Solutions Team will be providing Council with a comprehensive strategy that will have a “Housing First” focus.

Date: August 25, 2006

**Appendix A
Terms of Reference for the
City of Greater Sudbury
Community Solutions Team on Homelessness Initiatives
August 11, 2006**

Background:

At its Priorities Committee meeting of September 28, 2005, City Council endorsed the formation of a Community Solutions Team to address the funding crisis facing emergency shelters and homelessness initiatives. As a result of the recommendations from this Team, Council provided one-time bridge funding to existing homelessness service agencies to enable the continuation of all programs January 1, 2006, to June 30, 2006, while staff searched for additional funding from the provincial and federal governments.

Staff, in the interim, did an extensive review of emergency shelter and homelessness initiatives to strategically deploy the financial resources currently dedicated to homelessness. Upon review of the strategy presented by staff, Council on June 14, 2006, endorsed the continued funding of current services until the December 31, 2006, and the reactivation of the Community Solutions Team on Homelessness Initiatives.

Purpose:

1. To provide Council with a comprehensive strategy for a strongly co-ordinated and integrated continuum of services required to address homelessness in our community; and
2. To advocate community requirements to varying levels of government for the purpose of achieving system changes for the community and required funding for the same.

Objectives

1. Review information and best practices related to the provision of services to the homeless.
2. Consider information from agencies that provide homelessness services ensuring that all sectors (e.g. youth, francophone, aboriginal) are included in the community plan.
3. Review the current delivery of emergency shelter services, transitional and supportive housing, and outreach support services for the purpose of exploring new alternatives in service delivery.
4. Review the staff report of May 9, 2006, and provide recommendations regarding the same.
5. Develop an affordable plan with creative solutions that will strive to meet the need of all the people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Date: August 25, 2006

6. Meet with the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development; the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services; and other key political leaders including the Honourable Rick Bartolucci, MPP for Sudbury, and Minister of Northern Development and Mines; Shelley Martel, MPP for Nickel Belt; Ray Bonin, MP for Nickel Belt; and the Honourable Diane Marleau, MP for Sudbury, to attain a reasonable sustainable funding level for local homelessness initiatives.
7. Report on progress to Priorities Committee of Council September 20, 2006.
8. Report with options and recommendations to City Council on December 13, 2006.

Membership

The Team will be comprised of community experts on homelessness who are not affiliated with agencies and organizations that are affected by the loss of funding.

A minimum of four (4) community members are required for quorum.

Term of Office

The Team's term of office shall be for the period covering July 1, 2006, to December 31, 2006.

Resources

Staff of the City of Greater Sudbury will provide support to the Team.