



PROCEEDINGS
for a Public Meeting
to discuss a Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment
(Re: D14-16-05 Temporary Emergency Shelter)
Tuesday, January 10, 2017
11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Mayor D. Canfield
Councillor M. Goss
Councillor R. McMillan
Councillor L. Roussin
Councillor S. Smith

Regrets: Councillor D. Reynard
Councillor C. Wasacase

Staff: Karen Brown, CAO
Heather Kasprick, City Clerk
Melissa Shaw, Planning Assistant
Devon McCloskey, City Planner

Mayor Canfield opened the meeting and indicated that the public meeting is being held by the Council of the City of Kenora in accordance with Section 39 of the Planning Act to consider an amendment to the City of Kenora Comprehensive Zoning By-law No. 101-2015, as amended.

Notice was given by publishing in the Daily Miner and News which in the opinion of the Clerk of the City of Kenora, is of sufficiently general circulation in the area to which the proposed by-law amendment would apply, and that it would give the public reasonable notice of the public meeting. Notice was also provided by mail to every owner of property within 120 metres of the subject property, prescribed persons and public bodies, and posted online on the City of Kenora portal.

If anyone wishes to receive the Notice of the Decision of Council, please leave your name and address with the Clerk

An appeal may be made to Ontario Municipal Board not later than 20 days after the day that the giving of notice as required by section 34(18) is completed by either the applicant or person or public body who, before the by-law is passed makes oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the Council by filing a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons in support of the objection, accompanied by the fee prescribed under the Ontario Municipal Board Act, with the City Clerk.

The Council of the City of Kenora will have the opportunity to consider a decision at a future meeting of Council.

Herein the applicant will have the opportunity to speak on behalf of their application, and then the City Planner will provide a summation of her report and recommendation, after which anyone who wishes to speak either for or against the application, will be given the opportunity to do so, and a record will be kept of all comments.

Devon McCloskey, City Planner presented the planning report for the temporary zoning amendment application:

1. Introduction

An application for temporary use provision is proposed to change the regulated zoning of property specifically indicated on the key map, to temporarily allow for the property to be used for an Emergency Shelter for a period of two (2) years, in addition to uses permitted within the Institutional ("I") Zone.

The property is located at 210 First Street North, on the North side of the railroad tracks, and described as PLAN 3 BLK 3 LOT 52 TO 55.

2. Existing Conditions

The property is fronting on First Street North and also backing onto a laneway, accessible from Matheson Street North. The location is referred to as the "City View Building".

The property is developed with a large institutional building, previously used as a school, and is serviced by municipal water and waste water.

The space to be used for a temporary shelter location, would be the basement, which is assessable from street level, being the south facing side of the City View Building.

Figure1. Aerial image aside displays the location and approximate boundary of the subject property.

3. Description of Proposal

Whereas an Emergency Shelter is not currently a permitted use within the Institutional Zone, the applicants are requesting that the City allow for the property to be used temporarily for an Emergency Shelter.

The Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) is subletting space to the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) for up to two (2) years, to provide the community service of an Emergency Shelter, while a longer term plan is established for a new shelter location. The shelter will continue to be operated by the KDSB & the Nee-Chee Friendship Centre (NFC) in the shared City View building. The total floor area occupied by the shelter is 1,380 ft².

4. Background

Earlier in this year, City staff endeavored to amend Zoning By-law 101-2015 to expand the

permitted uses within Institutional and Commercial Zones, to allow for 'Emergency Shelters', the amendment was not approved by Council. This application is entirely separate, whereas it is proposed by the KDSB, applicable to a specific location, and subject a Temporary Use Provision.

This Planning Report is intended to examine those matters involving the specifics of the application as currently proposed. However, some of the data, materials, public comments, and research conducted previously by the City of Kenora for Emergency Shelters, is relevant. Only some information has been recaptured in this report, but the previous documents are available for additional reference.

5. Consistency with Legislated Policy and City Directives

a) Provincial Policy Statement (2014)

Several sections of the PPS provide direction and support for emergency management and housing. Reference to the following sections is provided to demonstrate where the PPS provides particular direction supporting development that is inclusive, and meets the needs to build healthy, liveable and safe communities.

As submitted and described by the applicant, "the application meets the standard set forward in the PPS and approval is essential to the protection of public health and safety for the most vulnerable citizens of the Kenora area.'

1.1 Managing and Directing Land Use to Achieve Efficient and Resilient Development and Land Use Patterns

1.21.1.1 Healthy, livable and safe communities are sustained by:

- a) promoting efficient development and land use patterns which sustain the financial well-being of the Province and municipalities over the long term;*
- b) b) accommodating an appropriate range and mix of residential (including second units, affordable housing and housing for older persons), employment (including industrial and commercial), institutional (including places of worship, cemeteries and long-term care homes), recreation, park and open space, and other uses to meet long-term needs;*

1.2.3 Planning authorities should coordinate emergency management and other economic, environmental and social planning considerations to support efficient and resilient communities.

b) City of Kenora Official Plan (2015)

The Land Use Designation of the property is Established Area, the designation indicates that there will be little change in the areas over the lifetime of the plan. Rationale for this is that the lands are already developed.

Section 4.1.1 provides further policy on the Established Area designation, describing that:

"Residential, commercial, industrial and institutional uses such as schools, places of worship, cemeteries, long-term care homes, hospitals and health care centres shall be permitted in the Established Area designation."

Section 1.1 of the OP states that in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Ontario Planning Act, R.S.O.1990, ch. 13, the City of Kenora, shall have regard to, among other matters, matters of provincial interest such as the:

- k) adequate provision of a full range of housing;*
- p) protection of public health and safety;*

The Plan also contains policies for its implementation, included within these is the provision for Temporary Uses, to which this application has been submitted in accordance with the following:

8.3.2 *Council may pass a By-law to allow the temporary use of lands that do not comply with*

the Land Use designations in this Plan provided that:

- a) the temporary use does not require major capital investment or alteration to the existing landscape;*
- b) the proposed use is compatible with surrounding land uses;*
- c) the proposed use does not require the extension of municipal services;*
- d) the developer has entered into an agreement with the municipality specifying the conditions under which the use may be permitted; and,*
- e) the By-law shall specify a maximum time period for which the use may be permitted.*

c) Zoning By-law No. 101-2015

“Emergency Shelter” is defined in Section 2 of the Zoning By-law as follows:

Emergency Shelter

An establishment providing temporary accommodation to individuals who are in immediate need of emergency accommodation and food, and may include ancillary health care, counselling and social support services.

Section 3.14 of the General Provisions section of the By-law regulates Emergency Shelters as follows:

Group homes and emergency shelters are permitted in the R1, R2, R3, RR, and RU zones subject to the following provisions:

- a) A group home or emergency shelter shall occupy a dwelling unit that is permitted in the zone;*
- b) When a residential use building is converted to a group home or emergency shelter, the group home or emergency shelter must occupy the whole of the building including all attached units within the building;*

Section 1.3.10 of the Zoning By-law provides for the ability to enact a Temporary Use By-law as follows:

Where a zone classification is followed by a dash (-) and the letter "T", this denotes a temporary use By-law pursuant to Section 39 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990. Details concerning the temporary use are listed at the end of the specific zone category and/or listed in the Exceptions Section of this Bylaw.

6. Results of Interdepartmental and Agency Circulation

Departments and Agencies Circulated	Comments Received
Municipal Engineer	No issues or concerns – December 6/16
Building Department	The Building Department has been working in conjunction with Fire and Emergency Services and the KDSB to ensure the safe and efficient operation as an emergency shelter authorized by a declared state emergency. Additionally the building department is convinced that the KDSB is taking the appropriate steps to ultimately be in a position to apply and obtain a Building Permit – December 7/16
Roads Department	No concerns – December 15/16
Water & Wastewater Department	There is no major issue with water and wastewater division. The only concern is whether the existing water/sewer service be adequate to accommodate couple of washrooms and laundry they are going to add – December 6/16
Kenora Hydro	Consultation regarding any upgrade to the electrical service or landscaping/fencing that will be near the existing pad mount transformer would be recommended- December 6/16
Kenora Fire & Emergency Services	We (Fire and Building Department) have been working closely with the Emergency Shelter over the past several months and I have no issues with the current proposal. The Fire Code has been addressed to the extent that it can in their current state and if the Zoning Approval is complete a formal Building Permit application will be submitted – December 9/16
Northwestern Health Unit	Property is serviced, comments not required

7. Public Comments

A public meeting is scheduled to be held by Council on January 10th, 2017. Notice of the application was given in accordance with Section 34 of the Planning Act, whereby it was circulated on December 8th to property owners within 120 metres, published in the Municipal Memo of the Newspaper on December 8th, and circulated to persons and public bodies as legislated. Together with staff, Council will have the opportunity to evaluate the proposal in lieu of public comments.

The notice also stated that the Planning Advisory Committee ('PAC') would have the opportunity to consider recommendation of the application to Council at their regular meeting on December 20th, 2016. The PAC resolved to recommend that Council approve the application, please refer to the resolution, Report to the PAC, and minutes of the meeting attached to this report.

As part of the application submission, the KDSB attached a document titled "Kenora Temporary Emergency Shelter Neighbourhood Impact Assessment". Through their own initiative, the KDSB, NeChee, and the NWHU, lead a Neighbourhood Impact Assessment to understand, address and manage the experience and concerns of neighbours within the vicinity of the City View Building.

The KDSB documented all of the comments received during the consultations, these are provided with the application. In summary, comments and concerns from neighboring property owners originated from perceived negative impacts, related to possible increase in foot traffic, loitering, and trespassing. Neighbours expressed that there were already safety concerns along Matheson Street hill, observe drug and alcohol use, violence, theft, and unwanted interactions.

Since the shelter opened at the new location on First Street North, and as a result of the circulation of notice, one set of public comments was received by the city, these are attached to this report. In summary, the concerns were submitted by a new resident of the neighbourhood who expressed concerns related to patrons loitering, personal safety, unwanted communication, trespassing, and drug abuse. The resident expressed that they did not feel an Emergency Shelter should be located in a residential area, and that they wanted to see more of a police and street patrol presence. These comments were shared with KDSB, the NeChee Friendship Centre and the NWHU.

On December 7th, 2016 the KDSB, NeChee Friendship Centre, and the NWHU, wrote and addressed a letter to neighbours in response to their concerns. The letter was intended to share information about the shelter operations, application status with the City, as well as security efforts that were underway. In addition, neighbours were informed that shelter organizations would be conducting door-to-door visits on December 12th at 5:30 pm. The City anticipates to hear of some of the results of the neighbours feedback.

No other public comments have been received as of the date of this report.

8. Evaluation

Whereas the property is currently zoned Institutional ('I'), approval of an application for temporary use, processed in accordance with the Planning Act, the Official Plan and Zoning By-law, would enable the property to be used on a temporary basis.

Whereas the Zoning By-law is explicit in listing the permitted uses within the Institutional Zone, and does not presently include "Emergency Shelter", both the Official Plan and the PPS do not restrict but rather provide for the use at this location since it is located within the Established Area.

The Official Plan allows for Temporary Uses that do not comply with designations of the Official Plan, however this proposal is compliant with the designation, being "Established Area" as provided for in the Official Plan. Meanwhile, the Official Plan lists several stipulations which have been addressed.

Under the authority of the State of Emergency, the Emergency Shelter was located within the basement level of an existing building, so there is no change to the existing landscape, while repairs and renovations were required to be made within the building, the space was ultimately improved, and would be able accommodate other uses permitted within the zone.

An Emergency Shelter, a use that is residential in nature, is compatible with surrounding uses, which include residential to the south and west, health services above, place of assembly to the east, and more residential beyond these to north and east.

Municipal services including roadways for access, sewer and water are currently provided to the property. If approved, a Council would enact a by-law that specifies the maximum time period for which the use may be permitted. Please refer to part 5 of this report for a further analysis of the matters addressed within the Official Plan and Zoning By-law.

Within the preamble of the Institutional zone, the following statement is provided in the Zoning By-law:

8.14.1 This zone allows for the development of public and privately owned facilities of an institutional or community service nature.

Use of an Emergency Shelter within the Institutional Zone, is clearly in keeping within the intent of the Zoning By-law, since it is public owned and operated, and is a community service.

Emergency Shelters provide accommodation which is a residential use. The Zoning By-law defines a dwelling as follows:

Dwelling

A building or part of a building occupied or capable of being occupied, in whole or in part as the home, residence or sleeping place of one or more persons either continuously, permanently, temporarily or seasonally, irrespective of tenure or ownership, but shall not include a seasonal dwelling, recreational vehicle, trailer or motor home.

The Institutional Zone currently permits the following uses which provide also provide accommodation more of less within a residential nature:

- Continuum care facility
- Correctional facility
- Group home
- Hospital
- Retirement home

The Emergency Shelter as proposed is open only for the evening to morning, as it provides overnight accommodation.

The facility is operated by a public organization (KDSB), as are Emergency Shelters across the province. Publically owned and operated facilities providing a community service, are located within institutional zones, as should the Emergency Shelter for the City of Kenora, be permitted to locate.

The proposal as submitted is clearly articulating that the use of the subject property will be temporary, for a duration of two (2) years. This will enable the City to lift the current State of Emergency, and provide KDSB with time to secure a permanent location for shelter operations within the City of Kenora.

The KDSB noted within their Neighbourhood Impact Assessment that they did not expect to be able to conclusively provide that the temporary presence of the shelter would have had an effect on matters including property values and neighbourhood vitality. The assessment also pointed out, that the community had been experiencing and viewing negative interactions, and activity with people already, such as loitering, trespassing, drug and alcohol abuse. This document has since been amended.

Comments received as a result of internal circulation, raised no concern with the Temporary Use Provision as proposed. Furthermore, both the building and location which is accessible for patrons, in walking distance of, and in close proximity to other community services, further supports the proposed location.

9. Recommendation

As the Planner for the City of Kenora, it is the recommendation that following a Public Meeting to hear submissions and public comments in regard to the Application for Temporary Use, File No. D14-16-05;

That Council accepts the recommendation of the Kenora Planning Advisory Committee, and further;

That Council, in lieu of public comments, gives three readings to a by-law to authorize approval of a Temporary Use Provision, to allow for the operation of an Emergency Shelter, in addition to permitted uses of the Institutional Zone, upon property located at 210 First Street North for two years, ending September 30th, 2018.

Mr. Henry Wall, Kenora District Services Board CAO (applicant) to review the temporary zoning amendment application:

The City did declare a state of emergency on June 28, 2016 due to the Kenora Fellowship Centre would be closing as of July 1, 2016.

The roll of the Kenora District Services Board for emergency shelters in the past was not part of their roll in the past and their previous roll was prevention. Their funding allocated to emergency shelters was for prevention. The shelter serves incredible need in Kenora and serves various individuals in the community. In 2015 the shelter saw 2,200 nightly

stays which is approximately 500 individuals. The community could not go without a shelter and stable supportive services are needed for these individuals. There are large housing gaps in the community and there needs to be supports and transition plans for these individuals with these needs. The KDSB sets the expectation of how the shelter will operate, but the Neechee Friendship Centre operates the day to day operation of the shelter. Both the Street Patrol program and the Emergency Shelter program worked hand in hand and it was a natural fit for the two programs to operate together.

The KDSB is making a short term application to allow for time to develop plans for a long term solution in the community. In reviewing properties available for a temporary location, there are not many that would meet all the needs required including accessibility. The process took place very quickly as they had a short time frame to make the new facility ready for the move from the temporary Knox United Church location. For the month of December they are seeing 14-16 individuals on any given night. It fits 18 comfortably but they have also had up to 20 individuals per night.

This is a learning curve for the NWHU, KDSB and NeChee Friendship Centre all of which is not their direct mandate. There is only 21 months left to find a permanent solution but will work hard in the next several months to find a permanent solution that the community can be proud of.

Mayor Canfield noted that any person may express his or her views of the amendment and a record will be kept of all comments.

Mayor Canfield questioned if there is anyone who wishes to speak in favour of the amendment?

Mr. Fred Wright - Keewatin

A short time ago, many people in our community rejoiced that a temporary two year home for the emergency shelter had been found and secured. This was a civic triumph. Renovations took place at the Northwestern Health Unit to accommodate this. Many stories and pictures were published in the news media. The time for dealing with zoning was then. The deed is done. If a rezoning is required to continue this great step forward to allow a temporary shelter for the next two years, then it must be granted. That will allow the necessary time to pursue the opportunity to achieve a more permanent solution.

It is understood that there may be complaints about the people who frequent emergency shelters. Many of them look scary. That is because most of them are scared and they do not have access to basic grooming most of the time. The emergency shelter is taking steps to alleviate this. They are scared about not eating. They are scared about not finding a reasonable place for shelter, especially in the winter. They are scared of being assaulted by other people on the street and/or being physically and emotionally assaulted by people in our community. They are scared that they won't find a washroom when they need it. They are scared of being treated like non-people. Mr. Wright has had the opportunity to meet some of these people while providing meals for people in need at St. Alban's Cathedral. Once you get to know them, they are not so scary at all. They are people and you see that when you treat them with common decency. Many suffer from mental problems and many suffer from substance abuse. Most of them need help to deal with their issues and to be accepted as

members of our society. We cannot and should not attempt to legislate them out of our society. If I had some neighbours who acted in an unruly manner and disturbed my peaceful enjoyment of my property, would I ask council to pass legislation to ban them from my neighbourhood? I believe my first step would be to call police if I could not convince them to be more respectful. Here are some thoughts for consideration going forward:

1. Those that are in charge of the operation of the shelter would consider:
 - a. Revisit the NeChee Street patrol or add a new patrol, perhaps utilising some help from some of the more advanced clients, to ensure the safety of everyone in the community, the clients of the shelter and the residents in the neighbourhood. The patrol should be trained in the proper disposal of sharps, how to effectively deal with people who become emotionally disturbed, litter control and any other gaps that may be identified.
 - b. Establish and publicise a mechanism for people in our community to register both complaints and accolades and then a mechanism to effectively deal with the input.
 - c. Help the emergency shelter clientele learn good habits. Help them to understand that they need to respect the rest of the community in order to keep a shelter and to hopefully gain some respect back. We could each say hello to people when we pass on the street, no matter who they are. It is quite amazing how effective this can be.

A copy of Mr. Wright's comments was left with the Clerk.

Patti Fairfield – NeChee Friendship Centre, Kenora

The shelter is crucial to the City. A shelter should be just an emergency shelter and should be accessed only when they need to, but the reality is that we have a housing issue and they are accessing the shelter for many reasons. There are many reasons why people are accessing the shelter. They even have some who are working but simply can't afford the rent in the City and simply don't have a home. The NeChee, as the operators of the shelter, respect the residents concerns and no one wants to have a shelter in their back yard, but we need one in our community and the current location makes sense.

Jen Carlson – Kenora Substance Abuse and Mental Health Task Force, Kenora

Ms. Carlson was here representing the Housing Pillar of the Kenora Substance Abuse and Mental Health Task Force (KSAMHTF). The Task Force is a collaborative of many service agencies, business representatives and community members. They operate in a 5-pillar approach - Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment, Enforcement and Housing.

Today there is an application for a temporary use zone provision to allow the continued operation of the Emergency Shelter to run out of the City View office location The Housing Pillar of the Task Force wholly supports this application.

On any given day in our community, we have people suffering from episodic, chronic, or hidden homelessness. Those experiencing homelessness have been proven to be more susceptible to physical, and mental health ailments and draw heavily on the criminal, health and social service sectors related to crisis intervention.

The Task Force published The Kenora Community Safety and Well Being Plan in November 2015 with the mission to enhance community well-being and safety for all through leadership, engagement and collaboration through community and agency consultations. The

Kenora Community Safety and Well-Being Plan was presented and endorsed by council on April 5, 2016. Within this document, the Task Force prioritized the inclusive provision of basic needs to all members of the community. Within this priority, it is important to advocate for the coordination of access to shelter that meets the needs of all members of the community, which include emergency, stabilization, temporary, transitional, supporting, permanent, safe and affordable housing. It is a big task but crucial for our community. The members of the Housing Pillar and the whole of the Task Force continue to educate, create initiatives, advocate and work towards actions that support our objectives. Within the housing continuum, it is necessary to have the provision for an emergency shelter. The potential loss of this important resource was alarming and the Task Force would like to extend our appreciation to all of the agencies and individuals who ensured that the shelter continued operating while solutions were and are currently being developed.

Moving forward, if we want to address and be responsive to our complex community homelessness needs and issues, it is imperative for us to switch the focus from managing crisis to finding innovative, creative strategies that will address housing related urgencies with long-term sustainable solutions. To allow the temporary zoning provision for the shelter to continue to operate in its current location will ensure the necessary time for our community and key stakeholders to work towards the development of a comprehensive long-term strategy for the prevention and management of homelessness in Kenora. A strategy that incorporates an operational shelter plan with collaborative, holistic approaches that are client centered, culturally safe, community driven, with well-integrated supportive services. The KSAMHTF are here today to support the current operations of the shelter, and to offer our collective expertise, including that of the Task Force membership, in developing and strengthening our local housing spectrum. They commit to helping make Kenora a place in which all people can live full, healthy lives within a safe community.

A copy of Ms. Carlson's presentation was left with the Clerk.

Dr. Kitt Young Hoon – Chief Medical Officer of Health, Northwestern Health Unit

Dr. Kitt Young Hoon summarized the Neighbourhood Impact Assessment that has been done in partnership with the Kenora District Services Board and the NeChee Friendship Centre. It is to help manage any potential concerns and impacts on the neighbourhood. The neighbourhood is approximately 25 houses around the direct neighbourhood or anyone else outside the geographical catchment. They defined their neighbours as any individuals, organizations, groups or businesses falling within the zone indicated on the map and who specifically contacted the NWHU with a request to be included in the consultation process. Combines input and information from previous shelter providers, neighbours, OPP and staff feedback. Some of the neutral/positive feedback included face-to-face visit was appreciated, some noticed no or very little change to the neighbourhood, had no specific complaints to offer, acknowledged the need for an emergency shelter in town and that individuals need a place to stay and that the neighbourhood appeared quieter in the colder weather.

Approximately five individuals have brought complaints during the neighbourhood consultation. Loitering outside the building especially between the hours of 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. when the shelter opens and smoking outside the building. Safety of self & others/unwanted interactions have been experienced and it is suggested that an increased

presence from both the street patrol and the OPP is needed. There appears to be an increased foot traffic and are especially concerned about this in the summer. It was suggested they need better signage for the patrons to locate the entrance to the shelter. There are concerns if the patrons are refused entry, what will they do. There were concerns that there was no consultation prior to opening of shelter in neighbourhood, found out through local news sources. There is a degree of litter and needles in the area and some feel there is a decrease in their property value. There is some confusion related to the hours and acceptance criteria with questions around if they get turned away.

The suggestions/steps taken include increased neighbourhood consultations monthly to address any issues. The Nechee Friendship street patrol starts and stops at the shelter now which increases presence. New signage is being ordered and designed so patrons know exactly when they open and where to enter the shelter. Cameras are being installed outside the NWHU building. They will be clarifying the hours of when they open as they don't want visitors to come too early and wait for it to open outside the building. With regards to the smoking outside the building, patrons are not allowed to leave the shelter to smoke and come back in. Staff need smoke breaks and are permitted to do so outside, so staff may be outside smoking, but these are not patrons of the shelter.

Moving forward the NWHU and NeChee Friendship Centre are trying to minimize the impacts as much as possible to the neighbourhood. The neighbours do recognize the value to the shelter and the need in the community, but want their concerns addressed. The NWHU staff have had some minor problems but overall staff feel proud that the NWHU have stepped up to this process and are proud to be part of this.

Consultations with neighbours is currently scheduled for monthly and any feedback related to the shelter should be directed to Delaney Smith, NeChee Friendship Centre at 468-5443 ext 233 or email streetpatrol@nechee.org.

Dr. Kitt Young Hoon noted that from a Public Health perspective as it relates to shelter, it is linked to mental health and social addiction issues. Those who use an emergency shelter are a subset of many issues that have occurred in their lives. Often the most vulnerable in our community and have nowhere else to go and it is for temporary shelter from the natural elements. It plays a role in linking individuals to social services links to get them out of homelessness. As the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Young Hoon fully supports the temporary application.

A copy of Dr. Kitt Young Hoon's presentation was left with the Clerk.

Dan Jorgensen, Co-chair, Making Kenora Home, Kenora

The year 2016 and the "emergency shelter crisis" that was such a distraction are behind us. Working in a wonderful spirit of collaboration the KDSB, NeChee Friendship Centre and the Northwestern Health Unit have temporarily resolved that crisis and are working on a permanent solution that promises to not only shelter the homeless, but to better address the issues that made them homeless in the first place. Council and the KDSB's repeated lobbying of government regarding the homeless situation in Kenora and council's declaration of a state of emergency finally got the attention of the provincial government and a substantial sum of money and commitment has been made to the KDSB to support a

permanent emergency shelter in Kenora. We are entering 2017 in a much better place.

Mr. Jorgensen calls the "emergency shelter crisis" a distraction because for much of 2016 it was a drain on time and energy that could better have been spent on implementing permanent solutions to homelessness. With the crisis averted we can now get back to the business of Housing First and things are finally coming together to make that happen. We have very capable people on the KDSB, very capable people at the City of Kenora, commitment on council and in the community in general. We are getting the ear of government, silos are coming down between agencies, formal and informal partnerships are being built and we are far ahead of where we were 10 years ago when Making Kenora Home was founded by some very insightful people who saw the possibility of a better community.

Mr. Jorgensen was not here today because he is worried that council might not pass the amendment in question. This is a community safety issue. Pass the amendment and we continue to make progress towards addressing the issue of homelessness, which is where council has said they want to go. Not passing the amendment would undo all the work done in 2016, force the KDSB and NeChee Centre to decide to either shut down the shelter or operate it illegally and render the declaration of a state of emergency hollow and hypocritical. We could also see the province, the NeChee Centre, KDSB, churches and community individually or collectively throw up their hands and walk away in frustration. With all that at stake he is not concerned about council not passing this amendment.

The real reason he is speaking is that he is concerned that some people might be opposed to the amendment and he wants council to know that Making Kenora Home stands behind them. This amendment is the right thing to do.

To anyone who is opposed to this amendment, he asked them to consider the consequences of not passing it. Do we really want to go back to where we were a year ago or perhaps an even worse situation where the homeless are forced to fend for themselves in the dead of winter? No one really wants that. Anyone opposed to this amendment please have patience and trust that we are moving forward and that the issue of homelessness can be addressed. Other communities have made great strides over the last two decades and we can too if we work together. More and more people are migrating to Kenora from other communities and some of them are going to end up living on the streets. The problem of homelessness isn't going to get better if we don't address it and an emergency shelter is an important component in an overall strategy to get people housed and address the issues that made them homeless in the first place.

If people want the emergency shelter to go away then the way to do it isn't to oppose every effort to have one. The way forward is to work with the people who are trying to build a shelter that goes beyond being a crisis management tool and gets people back into housing. We'll always need a shelter for people in a housing crisis and it has to go somewhere, but it needn't be the neighbourhood pariah. Instead, it can be the symbol of a community that truly cares for everyone within its boundaries and is making a difference for those who end up on the streets.

A copy of Mr. Jorgensen's presentation was left with the Clerk.

Mayor Canfield questioned if there was anyone who wishes to speak in opposition of the amendment?

There were none.

Mayor Canfield questioned if there were any questions?

Councillor Smith clarified that she is pleased to hear the parameters of responsibilities. She encouraged the public that if they have questions to reach out to each of the parties involved and ask the questions of concern. Hopefully the OPP will get more involved and that they have more of a presence to keep that neighbourhood safe.

Mayor Canfield thanked all of the presenters and feels that we have moved some tremendous milestones and believes we are making changes with funding from the province and the agencies all coming together to work together and make positive changes.

As there were no further questions, Mayor Canfield declared this public meeting CLOSED at 12:00 p.m.