



Committee Minutes

Health Care Funding Roles and Responsibilities Task Force

November 22, 2021 – 9:30 AM

The Health Care Funding Roles and Responsibilities Task Force met on the above date through electronic means with the following members in attendance:

Present: Warden Selwyn Hicks; Councillors Barb Clumpus, Tom Hutchinson, Brian Milne, and Paul McQueen

Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Mary Lou Spicer, Director of Finance; Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO; Rob Hatten Communications Manager, Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator, and Heather Morrison, Clerk

Call to Order

In the absence of Chair Hicks, Vice Chair Milne called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Stakeholder Delegation

Saugeen Hospice

Carl Kuhnke and Brenda Campbell

Carl Kuhnke spoke to the Task Force regarding the Saugeen Hospice Inc. He explained the different types of palliative care in Ontario including hospitals, long-term care facilities, home care and residential hospice. He noted that acute care and long-term care are approximately three to five times more expensive than hospice care. Hospices receive funding from the provincial government at a rate of \$200,000 per bed for capital and \$105,000 per bed for operating costs.

Mr. Kuhnke then provided an overview of the Saugeen Hospice. He noted that it was incorporated in 2021 and has a Board of 12 composed of members with a variety of backgrounds. Saugeen Hospice will provide residential hospice services for southern Grey and Bruce Counties, noting that the next closest hospice is Chapman House in Owen Sound.

Mr. Kuhnke stated that the Saugeen Hospice is seeking to raise \$1 million for a six-bed hospice which will require a minimum of \$400,000 annually to operate. He then outlined several ongoing initiatives and fund-raising events. He provided an overview of the current status of the funding noting that the Residential Hospice of Grey Bruce (Chapman House) holds the accounts for the Saugeen Hospice. He also indicated that formal talks with the Ministry of Health, local MPPs and senior officials are ongoing.

Mr. Kuhnke indicated that Saugeen Hospice is looking to Grey County to provide start-up capital funds in the amount of \$10,000 for 2022. He also spoke to potential upcoming changes to hospice funding.

Vice Chair Milne thanked the delegation for their time.

Report

CAOR-HCF-14-21 Health Care Funding Policy Report

Kim Wingrove provided an overview of the proposed Health Care Funding Policy. She indicated that through delegations from a variety of stakeholders, the Task Force heard the consistent need for fund raising beyond provincial budget allocations, aging infrastructure concerns and a growing and aging population.

Ms. Wingrove spoke to the Simcoe County Hospital Alliance as a model that Grey County might want to consider using some aspects of within its own policy. She highlighted that some of the key Simcoe County principles are included in the draft Grey County policy including 20% of in-patient services delivered to Grey residents, funding provided to provincially approved capital projects, consultation with healthcare sectors. Simcoe's policy only pays on incurred costs, but Grey's proposed policy lacks that specification. It is often critical to provide front end support to get fundraising started rather than upon the completion of the project.

Ms. Wingrove noted that healthcare providers in rural communities have a limited capacity to raise the required funds to support capital infrastructure costs. Currently Grey County puts 1/2 of 1% of own levy into a healthcare funding reserve. Staff are recommending that starting in 2022, this be increased to 3/4 of 1% to recognize the growing demand for services. Outlined 3 principles to the policy. Ms. Wingrove noted that for 2021, the contribution to the healthcare reserve was \$299,100.

Ms. Wingrove then outlined the project eligibility criteria proposed by staff including funding capital requirements which have been provincially approved, create significant service improvements, are periodic and located in Grey County or where Grey County residents represent at least 20% of surgical and inpatient population served.

Questions around the proposed policy were then discussed related to funding requests related to future projects. CAO Wingrove noted that if requests are going to come to Grey County for funding, the same request should not be sent to the lower tier municipalities prior to the County making a decision. The Task Force requested that this be included in the Health Care Funding Policy.

Discussion also took place on what the 20% of Grey County residents was comprised of. Parts of Grey County see an influx of visitors staying in resort communities for periods of time and this creates a significant demand for health care services. CAO Wingrove noted that she would like to go back to Collingwood Hospital for updated patient numbers and identify the portion of those who are Grey County residents. She noted she will also speak to the Grey County Paramedic Services related to transfers from Blue Mountains within or outside of Grey County.

Ms. Wingrove then outlined the outstanding funding requests received by the Health Care Funding Roles and Responsibilities Task Force and staff's recommendations for each request. The Task Force members recommended that the Saugeen Hospice come back with further information once approval by the Ministry of Health is achieved.

Warden Hicks joined the meeting.

Main Motion

Moved by: Councillor Clumpus Seconded by: Councillor Hutchinson

That Report CAOR-HCF-14-21 be received; and

That the proposed Grey County's healthcare funding policy reflecting the eligibility principles as outlined in the report be approved; and

That the annual contribution to reserve for health care funding be increased to three quarters of 1% of County levy as resources are available to do so; and

That staff recommendations for resolution of the outstanding funding requests be approved; and

That upon final endorsement by County Council of the changes relative to health care funding, the Health Care Funding Roles and Responsibilities Task Force be dissolved.

Amendment

HCF02-21 Moved by: Councillor Clumpus Seconded by: Councillor Hutchinson

That the Healthcare Funding Policy be amended to include the recommendation that requests coming forward to Grey County Council for healthcare funding not be brought forward to any lower tier municipality in Grey County.

Carried

Main Motion as Amended

HCF03-21 Moved by: Councillor Clumpus Seconded by: Councillor Hutchinson

That Report CAOR-HCF-14-21 be received; and

That the proposed Grey County's healthcare funding policy reflecting the eligibility principles as outlined in the report be approved as amended; and

That the annual contribution to reserve for health care funding be increased to three quarters of 1% of County levy as resources are available to do so; and

That staff recommendations for resolution of the outstanding funding requests be approved; and

That upon final endorsement by County Council of the changes relative to health care funding, the Health Care Funding Roles and Responsibilities Task Force be dissolved.

Carried

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Dates

Upon endorsement of the policy, the Health Care Funding Task Force will be dissolved.

On motion by Councillors Hutchinson and McQueen, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 AM.

Brian Milne, Vice Chair