Agenda

Committee of the Whole
October 11, 2018 – Following Council
Council Chambers, Grey County Administration Building

1. Call to Order
2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
3. Delegations
   10:00 AM Amanda Healy, Health and Safety Manager, Grey County
   Corporate Wellness Program
4. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion
5. Consent Agenda
   That the following Consent Agenda items be received; and
   That staff be authorized to take the actions necessary to give effect to the
   recommendations in the staff reports; and
   That the correspondence be supported or received for information as
   recommended in the consent agenda.
   a. Public Meeting minutes dated September 24, 2018 - OPA 143 - Meaford
      That the minutes of the Public Meeting dated September 24, 2018 regarding
      OPA 143 be adopted as presented.
6. Items For Direction and Discussion
   a. CAOR-CW-21-18 Council Video Recording Improvements
      That staff include $30,000 in the 2019 budget for the procurement of video and
      audio recording solutions for Council and Committee of the Whole meetings.
   b. CAOR-CW-22-18 Corporate Strategic Plan 2017-2019 Progress Report
      That Report CAOR-CW-22-18 Corporate Strategic Plan 2017-2019 Progress
      Report be received for information.
   c. CCR-CW-11-18 One-Third Taxable Income Changes
      That Report CCR-CW-11-18 be received and that council salary be adjusted to
      reflect the removal of the one-third taxable allowance by keeping the net
salary the same as it would have been with the one-third taxable allowance effective January 1, 2019 pending approval of the 2019 budget.

d. SSR-CW-14-18 Community Based Capital Project – Dundalk Arena

That SSR-CW-14-18 regarding the EarlyON Community Based Capital Project proposed within the Dundalk Arena be received for information; and

That staff be directed to develop an agreement with the Township of Southgate to facilitate the funding of a renovation and retrofit capital project that will create a community-based EarlyON child and family centre project within the Dundalk Arena.

e. PDR-CW-34-18 Georgian Bluffs Comprehensive Zoning By-law 2018-084

That Report PDR-CW-34-18 be received;

That the County submit an appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal on the Township of Georgian Bluffs Zoning By-law 2018-084 with respect to the twenty (20) hectare minimum lot area provision in Table 7.2 of the by-law; and

That staff be directed to work with the Township to resolve this matter, with the goal of avoiding a hearing on the matter.

f. Verbal Update on Grey County Quarry

g. E-blast Item Requested to be pulled by Council Member-Flesherton Advance Article

That the Flesherton Advance Article regarding the Flesherton all-candidates meeting be received for information.

7. Closed Meeting Matters

a. That Committee of the Whole does now go into closed session pursuant to Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 to discuss:

i. the security of the property of the municipality or local board (infrastructure).

8. Other Business

9. Notice of Motion

10. Adjournment

Council photograph to occur at noon
A Grey County public meeting was held at the Municipality of Meaford Council Chambers, Meaford, Ontario with the following members in attendance:

Municipal Council Members Present: Mayor/Chair Barb Clumpus, Deputy Mayor Harley Greenfield; Councillors Shirley Keaveney, Tony Bell, Jaden Calvert, Steve Bartley, and Mike Poetker

Municipal Staff Present: Liz Buckton, Matt Smith

County Staff Present: Stephanie Lacey-Avon, Intermediate Planner; Hiba Hussain, Planner; and Monica Scribner, Recording Secretary

Also present: Krystin Rennie, Applicants Consultant, Dan Merley, CC Tatum Associates and Jason Miller, Applicant

Proposed County Official Plan Amendment, Local Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment on lands described as Part Lot 1 & 2, Concession 1, in the Municipality of Meaford (Geographic Township of St. Vincent) County file number 42-10-480-OPA-143.

Call to Order

Chair Clumpus called the public meeting to order then welcomed everyone on behalf of the County. Introductions then followed.

Stephanie Lacey-Avon read the regulations.

The proposed County Official Plan Amendment, Local Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law amendment affect those lands described as Concession 1, Part Lot 1 & 2, known locally as 357038 The Blue Mountains-Meaford Townline in the geographic Township of St. Vincent now in the Municipality of Meaford.

This development requires three applications, a County of Grey Official Plan Amendment, a Local Official Plan Amendment, and a Municipality of Meaford Zoning By-law Amendment. In order for the development to move forward, approvals are
needed on all of the applications. The County makes the decision on the County
Official Plan Amendment application and the Municipality makes the decision on the
Local Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment application. If the Local
Official Plan Amendment is adopted by the Municipality it is then sent to the County for
final approval.

The lands are designated as ‘Rural’ and ‘Hazard Lands’ in the County Official Plan and
as ‘Rural’ and ‘Environmental Protection’ in the Municipality of Meaford Official Plan.
The proposed County Official Plan Amendment would consider exceptions to the small
scale commercial and industrial use definition to allow for a larger winery facility. The
subject property is 60.6 hectares. The proposed winery building is 25,000 square feet
(2,322 square metres) in size, including 6,600 square feet (613 square metres) for
agricultural uses, 12,000 square feet (1,114 square metres) for agricultural related uses,
and 6,400 square feet (594 square metres) for on-farm diversified uses. An additional
10,328 square feet (959 square metres) of commercial space is requested by the
applicant, whereas 8,072 square feet (750 square metres) is permitted as of right.

The proposed Municipal Official Plan Amendment would create a site-specific exception
to Sections B2.3.3 (Permitted Uses), B2.1.4.7 (Small Scale Commercial & Industrial
Uses) & B2.1.4.9 (Wineries) of the Official Plan to permit a restaurant on-site and to
allow on-farm diversified uses up to 6,400 square feet.

The Zoning By-law amendment would increase the maximum permitted gross floor area
for the retail and tasting space within the winery and amend Table 8.1 Use Permissions
to include a restaurant as a permitted use within the winery.

As required by Section 17 and 34 of the Planning Act RSO 1990, as amended, Council
shall ensure that at least one public meeting is held, notice of which shall be given in the
manner and to the persons and public bodies containing the prescribed information.

In accordance with the Planning Act and the implementing Regulations the County of
Grey gave notice of this Public Meeting, by individual prepaid first class mail to persons
within 120 metres based on the most recent assessment information provided by MPAC
(Municipal Property Assessment Corporation), and to an extensive list of agencies as
set out in the regulations. A sign was also posted on the property. The public meeting
notice is located on the County web site at www.grey.ca.

It is imperative to note that:

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the
County of Grey, in reference to the official plan amendment, to the Local Planning
Appeal Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a
public meeting or make written submissions to Grey County before the plan amendment is decided upon, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the County of Grey in reference to the official plan amendment, before the plan amendment is decided upon, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the proposed Official Plan Amendment you must make a written request to the County of Grey at 595 9th Ave. East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 3E3. This can be mailed to the County or deposited with the Administrative Assistant, Monica Scribner this evening. We have business cards here today if you need the contact information.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Local Official Plan Amendment or Zoning By-law Amendment, please make a written request to the Municipality of Meaford at 21 Trowbridge Street West, Meaford, Ontario N4L 1A1. This can be mailed to the Municipality of Meaford or can be deposited with the Clerk, this evening.

If there are any comments, questions or concerns for those in attendance this evening please address the Chair and give your name and Lot and Concession, or civic address, for the record.

**Comments were received from the following:**

**Historic Saugeen Metis (HSM), dated August 22, 2018**

The Historic Saugeen Metis have no objection or opposition to the application. If the proposed future development involves an undisturbed or previously undeveloped site, we would like to be informed about any archaeological studies that may become available.

**Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GCCA), dated September 13, 2018**

GSCA reviewed the file and have the following comments:

1. That the changes to the Hazard Area outlined on the attached map be appropriately identified as Environmental Protection (EP) in the site-specific Zoning By-Law Amendment.
2. All development must be located outside of the areas identified on the attached mapping as hazard areas. This includes the reconfiguration of the proposed septic location and shifting of the southeast parking lot.
If the proponent wishes to encroach within areas mapped as natural hazard, we would require the completion of an appropriate engineering study to support a reduced setback. In addition, if a reduced setback is requested for hazards associated with the watercourse features, we would require the completion of an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) to address sections 2.1.6 and 2.1.8 of the PPS.

Permits are required from this office for the development and site alterations within the areas regulated under Ontario Regulation 151/06.

Gail Whitbeck of Lot 1, Concession 1 Meaford, dated September 16, 2018

Ms. Whitbeck lives to the south of the proposed winery. Her five main concerns are music volumes, general noise in the evening disturbing the peaceful atmosphere, odours from the restaurant, wildlife attraction to the restaurant, and garbage in the ravine.

COMMENTS FROM THE APPLICANTS CONSULTANT

Krystin Rennie of Georgian Planning Solutions presented information on the proposed winery application. The applicant currently owns another vineyard in the area and is excited to open a winery that is proposed to include a wine tasting area, sales area and a restaurant. On site would be farm supplies, parking, grapevines, and an area for grape storage and crushing. She explained the winery falls in line with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and would be a great addition to Grey County.

COMMENTS FROM THE MUNICIPAL STAFF/COUNCIL

Chair Clumpus asked for comments from council and staff; at the time there were none.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The following individuals spoke at the public meeting:

John Ardiel, Clarksburg
Alar Soever, Thornbury
John White, Town of The Blue Mountains
Mark Skinner, Meaford
Sheryl Mercer, Blue Mtns/Meaford Townline
Andrea Matrosovs, Clarksburg
Anthony Belcher, Grey Highlands
Joint Public Meeting Minutes – OPA 143 Meaford Winery
September 24, 2018

Peter Crozier, Meaford
Elizabeth Bennett, Meaford
Melanie Robison, Meaford
Grant Mackey, Meaford
Joanne Flewwelling, Meaford
Peter Weiler, Thornbury

Public supportive comments were:

- Excited for what this new winery can provide for the area
- In favour of the winery as long as the concerns raised are addressed
- In favour of agri-tourism

Public concerns are:

- Increased traffic - need of traffic study, and broaden the scope of review to extend beyond Meaford municipal boundaries
- Difficult area to get to and has a large hill and weepy trees
- Gully impassible and can be dangerous
- Concerns the roads are not built to withstand a significant increase in traffic flow
- Existing traffic pressure in the area, as evidenced by the possibility of a five lane highway
- Regulating traffic speeds
- Traffic impact on Foster street for staff and/or delivery vehicle access
- Clarksburg Heritage Bridge:
  - Ability to handle the heavy traffic load?
  - Is often not maintained
  - Often closed in winter
  - Very steep
  - In need of major upgrades
- Possible stormwater issues
- Will there be tour buses
- Increased foot traffic on the hiking trails
- Music
- Environmental and noise pollution
- No natural pond on the subject property
- Peace and beauty may be disrupted
- Concerns with possible odour, sludge ponds and wastewater
o Safety concerns for walkers, drivers and cyclists due to the possible increase of impaired drivers
o Night sky requirements to minimize light pollution
o Inappropriate to have a restaurant in that area
o Need for a hydrogeological study to calculate the water usage for the guests, staff, pond fill-up, gardens and grapevine watering that could impact the neighbouring wells
o Need to make sure both neighbouring municipalities (Town of The Blue Mountains and Grey Highlands) are well informed
o Possibility that The Town of The Blue Mountains could help with upkeep of road maintenance
o Not neighbourly to build a large project in that location
o Concern for how the neighbour relationship will be
o Some members in attendance did not receive notification
o Concern that Town of The Blue Mountains staff were unaware of the proposal

CLARIFICATION TO ADDRESS CONCERNS RAISED

Meaford Municipal Planner, Rob Armstrong

o Both municipalities – Grey Highlands and Town of The Blue Mountains were circulated
o A traffic study was completed and can be found on both the County of Grey and Municipality of Meaford websites. Peer review of this study will take place.
o As per the Planning Act, anyone within 120 meters were sent notification of the meeting. Anyone living outside of that perimeter would not have received the mailout.

Applicant, Jason Miller

o In the attempt to be neighbourly and informative, they visited the neighbours to discuss their concerns and in doing so, they resituated the main access road further north on the subject property.
o Although not originally planted by the current owner, the grapes have been growing on the land since 2011.
o Maximum of 178 guests capacity

Applicants Consultant, Krystin Rennie

o Night sky is looked at during the site plan approval stage and they will use night sky compliant lighting
o There will be no customer traffic using the Foster Street access
o The grapes storage and crushing will happen inside the building, therefore there should be no displeasing odour

Project Engineer, Dan Hurley
- A traffic study was completed that did look at the restaurant and road capacity. Concerns with which way traffic will proceed will be looked at further. A Peer Review will include the Town of The Blue Mountains staff.
- Wastewater will be determined during review and approval from the Ministry.
- Usage of water per day will be quite low and would not require a permit since it is not of significant depth.
- Willing to work with the Municipality on any concerns.

Following the question and comment period, Chair Clumpus assured the public they would be notified of the next steps and that the three municipalities (Meaford, Grey Highlands, and The Town of The Blue Mountains) will work together. She then thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the public meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Planning Chair Barb Clumpus
Recommendation

1. That staff include $30,000 in the 2019 budget for the procurement of video and audio recording solutions for Council and Committee of the Whole meetings.

Executive Summary

Grey County has been recording County Council and Committee of the Whole meetings since April 2018. Viewership is increasing over time; however viewers are only watching small portions of the video. Overall, the recordings are of a low quality and significant improvements could be made with a moderate investment. Improving the quality of our recordings will support the County’s commitment to excellence in governance and service and will help grow our audience.

Background and Discussion

County staff began recording Council and Committee of the Whole meetings in the spring of 2018. Following Council’s direction to test a proof of concept, little has been invested in the recordings which require a 1080p webcam and digital recording software.

A webcam mounted on the wall captures video while a cable connects the recording laptop to the Council Chamber sound system which records the microphones in the room.

Overall, quality of the videos is low. The webcam records in high definition but isn’t designed to capture the large room in detail. Audio is inconsistent as it varies based on each speaker’s proximity to their microphone. This low quality comes at a very low cost, but it has a direct impact on viewership.
Our Current Process

The Grey County Communications Manager records meetings with occasional back up from other staff. Recordings need to be turned on and off and all slides projected onto the main screens of the Council Chamber need to be manually imported into the video and transitioned along with the live presentation.

Following the meeting, recordings are uploaded to the Grey County YouTube channel, typically the same day as the meeting depending on file size. The Communications Manager time stamps direct discussions from the agenda and links them in the video description to make it easier for viewers to jump to specific discussions of interest.

Within 24 hours the YouTube auto captions are applied to the video. These captions are passable but risky as misinterpretations could range from inconsequential to embarrassing or offensive.

Pros of the current system

- Affordable
- Captures audio and video
- YouTube is a free, publicly accessible platform

Cons of the current system

- Poor video quality and subpar audio make videos difficult to watch
- Time consuming and distracting for staff to produce.
- Difficult to identify speakers could be considered poor transparency
- Insufficient equipment
- Errors in captions make them difficult to follow
- Recordings aren’t tied to an agenda

Recording Analytics

Council meeting

Average views per video: 20 (max 26 on May 10)
Average length of video: 42:00
Average length of view: 3:15

Committee of the Whole meeting

Average views per video: 122 (max 500 on June 28)
Average length of video: 128 minutes
Average length of view: 2:00 minutes

Engagement on post has been virtually non-existent, with no relevant comments and few “likes” or “dislikes” of videos.
What this tells us

People are watching. We can’t tell specifically who (public, staff, media), but it appears many people are interested in viewing discussions of interest to them. Viewers are not watching the whole meeting.

What are others doing?

Most Ontario municipalities who are recording meetings are using services that integrate live streaming and recording with agenda management. There are multiple service providers who each offer a range of services. For example, Civic Web provides a complete web portal for managing agendas, minutes, videos and live streams. Other services, like Sliq, have the ability to timecode in detail every time an individual speaks making it is easy for viewers to sort by both agenda topics and by speakers.

There are multiple other services providers in the market, including other solutions that maybe found locally, and each have their individual pros and cons.

Recommended next steps

Grey County can make council recordings more attractive and retain viewers for longer by following the example of other municipalities and contracting an appropriate service. Staff recommend an RFP be issued outlining our specific needs for our recording services. Some of the deliverables to be included on the RFP are:

- Live streaming
- Full HD video from multiple angles (capturing at a minimum, all councillors, the podium and the front dais)
- Ability to display the live council TV monitors in recordings
- Ability to identify speakers
- Captioning to meet AODA requirements
- Videos hosted on an external server with full back up capabilities
- Other requirements as recommended by staff in IT and Communications

Legal and Legislated Requirements

There is no legal requirement to video record council meetings.

Financial and Resource Implications

Staff are recommending Council consider $30,000 in the 2019 budget. Up to $15,000 of these funds could be realized through the projected surplus in the 2018 Communications budget.

If an appropriate solution can be procured, there will be recurring annual costs for services or licensing.

The recommended funding also comprises investments in improving the sound system in the Council Chambers, including funding for an assisted listening system to improve accessibility.
The assisted listening system costs maybe be revered through an Enabling Accessibility Grant application submitted earlier this year.

Relevant Consultation

_ X _ Communication Staff, IT Staff,
_ X _ Multiple vendors

Appendices and Attachments

none
Recommendation


Executive Summary

Progress has been made towards each of the three goals (Growing the Economy, Supporting Healthy Connected Communities, Excellence in Governance and Service) in the Grey County strategic plan over the 2017-2019 period. The plan will require updating in 2019. Establishing service levels and performance measures to enable enhanced communication with stakeholders is recommended.

Background and Discussion

Grey County initiated a Corporate Strategic Planning process in 2012. During 2016, Council, the senior management team, councils of our nine member municipalities and our staff had the opportunity to provide input into the content of a renewed plan.

Based on the information and feedback received, the updated Corporate Strategic Plan aligned the County’s efforts around three goals; Growing the Economy, Supporting Healthy Connected Communities and Excellence in Governance and Service. The initiatives selected to demonstrate progress toward those three goals were informed by departmental strategic planning work and public outreach as summarized below:

- Recolour Grey – consultations at 18 events and workshops around the County
- Green in Grey Natural Heritage Systems Study
- Tourism Destination Development Action Plan
- Communications Strategic Plan
- Grey Roots Museum Strategic Plan
- Employee Engagement Survey
- Future of Childcare Services
- Information Technology Strategic Plan
- Housing and Homelessness Annual Report
- Grey Bruce Paramedic Services Review

In addition, Grey County staff work collaboratively with other municipal colleagues and agency stakeholders on an ongoing basis. Active participation at these tables supports alignment between service providers, reveals opportunities for sharing resources and joint problem solving leading to innovation and improved outcomes for clients. The various working groups are listed by focus area below:

**Housing**
- Ontario Non Profit Housing Association (ONPHA)
- Homelessness Forum (provincial)
- Housing Strategic Steering Committee (OMSSA)
- Housing and Homelessness Data Forum
- Service Manager Housing Network
- Bruce Grey Y Housing (meet every other month)

**Social Services**
- Strategic Management Group (Southwestern Area) (housing, OW and Childcare)
- Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force (meet monthly, plus 7 Action groups with staff from front line Bruce, Grey and other SS agencies—Affordable Housing, Food Equity, Income Equity, Transportation, Health Equity, Bridges out of Poverty, Community Voices)
- Coordinated Care Planning (front line staff from Bruce and Grey OW meeting with health reps, 2x/month)
- SS Sector Meeting (Bruce, Grey, Min of MCCSS Program Supervisor, Nawash and Saugeen Reserve OW staff; meet 2x/yr)

**Children’s Services**
- Bruce Grey Children’s Alliance (meet monthly)
- Early Learning Planning Network (Children’s Services leads, 3 Boards of Ed Early Learning Leads, PHU; meet quarterly)
- Quality Assurance Network (Children’s Service Operations Staff, meet quarterly)

**Employment/Labour Force/Economy**
- Four County Labour Market Planning Board
- GBEC-Grey Bruce Employment Committee (Bruce and Grey OW, Employment Ontario, VPI, etc meet quarterly)
- SWERT-Southwest Employment Regional Table (southwest region OW employment staff, meet 2x/yr)
- WOWC economic development subcommittee

Community Health
- Alcohol Strategy Leadership Network (multi-sector; meet every other month while steering committee meets more regularly)
- Healthy Communities Partnership (multi-sector agencies in Bruce and Grey, meet monthly at PHU)
- Community Drug and Giwe Sharing Circle
- South Georgian Bay Transportation Task Force (teleconference lead by Town of Blue, Simcoe, Collingwood; monthly call)

Data Sharing and Emergency Planning
- BGDisc
- Regional Interoperability Optimization Group
- Source water protection property tracking system with Bruce and GSCA
- One HSN project
- Senior Mgmt Group (southwest region SS Directors; meet 3x/yr)
- Healthy Communities PLAN (post-disaster long-term assistance network, local emergency response agencies in Bruce and Grey; meet quarterly)

Progress Made to Date

The goals and their priority outcomes are summarized in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growing the Economy</th>
<th>Supporting Healthy Connected Communities</th>
<th>Excellence in Governance and Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enhance and diversify economic opportunities by becoming investment ready and promoting Grey County’s exceptional assets.</td>
<td>Improve the physical, operational and virtual connections between Grey County’s municipalities and areas beyond to strengthen communities and improve the quality of life for residents.</td>
<td>Serve the needs of a large County spanning nine unique municipalities by fostering a culture of inclusive decision making and excellence in public service.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Priority Outcomes
- Updated County Official Plan and supporting policies
- Growth in business innovation and access to broadband
- Partnerships with key stakeholders to provide coordinated support for

Priority Outcomes
- Improved health and well-being of our residents
- Improved sustainability of services and service delivery for Grey County communities.

Priority Outcomes
- Enhanced asset management and long term financial planning
- Implementation of a County communications strategy
- Governance model for
### Growing the Economy
- Economic development and tourism
  - Improved Prosperity and Quality of Life
  - Population and Assessment Growth

### Supporting Healthy Connected Communities
- Ongoing Rural Transportation Pilot, successful application to Community Transportation Grant project
  - Long term care managed services agreement to enhance service delivery to residents and achieve accreditation
  - GIS mapping of ambulance response to support strategic planning
  - Enhancements to Community Paramedicine and funding to March 2019
  - CHAPS clinics at social housing sites
  - Support for the development of additional licensed childcare sites and spaces, wage enhancement for registered staff.
  - Agri-food asset map
  - Grey Roots collections plan and gallery refresh strategy
  - Paramedic Services SAVE and e-notification projects

### Excellence in Governance and Service
- Administration Building Renovation completed on time and on budget
- Recruited Manager, Asset Management and evaluation of asset management software solution ongoing
- Council meetings now online via Grey YouTube
- Launched new intranet site, refreshed VisitGrey.ca
- Employee recognition program to be launched Fall 2018.
- Succession planning and leadership development program launched
- Bruce Grey Information Data Sharing Collaborative
- Enhanced public GIS site with improved functionality and new maps
- Updated POA dashboard application with new features
- Committee of the Whole governance model formally adopted
- In house legal counsel, preparation for in-house

### Progress to Date
- Final draft of new OP presented to Council Sept 2018. Comments received from Province August 2018.
- Community Hub project partnership with school boards, Georgian College, City of Owen Sound. Property secured Oct 2018.
- Economic Development Working Group working collaboratively to produce Made in Grey magazine, launch MadeinGrey.ca site.
- ThinkCanada project supporting investment attraction.
- Municipal Partnership fund launched, CIP Program under development
- Service Enhancements to Business Enterprise Centre
- Agriculture BR+E project
- New to Grey and Newcomer Integration Projects
- Unemployment lowest in Ontario at 3%
- Bruce Power supplier investment in Owen Sound
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• #1 Intelligent Community in 50-100,000 population category by ICF</td>
<td>• New Chatsworth ambulance base under construction</td>
<td>• POA prosecution</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Starter Company accelerates 16 new businesses</td>
<td>• Collaboration with the GB Health Unit i.e. Age-Friendly Communities, Healthy Community Checklist, World Town Planning Day</td>
<td>• Initiated regular meetings with HR, Communications staff across the County.</td>
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<td>• Established Young Professionals Network</td>
<td>• 42 units of much needed purpose built rental housing is complete or under development. 36 units are affordable.</td>
<td>• Initiating County-wide Accessibility Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>• Growth in planning applications across the County.</td>
<td>• 33 families received down payment support through home ownership program.</td>
<td>• Improvements to IT infrastructure to enhance security and performance.</td>
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<td>• Bruce Power Supplier investments in Owen Sound.</td>
<td>• Sixteen bridges repaired, repair on two rail trail bridges, repair on Owen Sound retaining wall on 10th St. completed.</td>
<td>• Established CAO Performance Evaluation Committee</td>
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<td>• 60km of road construction in 2018</td>
<td>• Consolidated real estate services in-house, providing significant decrease in legal costs and time to close transactions.</td>
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<td>• Implemented municipal511.ca</td>
<td>• Increased capital planning and budgeting timeframe to 10 years from 5.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Updated building condition assessments for all facilities.</td>
<td>• Introduced tablets into Transportation field operations to upload winter weather and road conditions to grey.ca, track service requests, GPS coordinates of assets and control inventory.</td>
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<td>• Updated asset management plan.</td>
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**What’s Next**

The new provincial government has signaled their intent to make changes to programs and funding sources. The next version of the strategic plan will be expected to respond to those changes. As well, early in their term, the incoming County Council should have the opportunity to review and provide direction on priorities for 2019-2023.
Strategic plans are most valuable when staff, Council and the community receive frequent, relevant communication regarding progress towards meeting the plans goals and objectives. Work on updating the plan should include establishing service levels and key performance indicators for each department’s work as well as identifying 3-6 key metrics for the overall plan.

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology Considerations

The strategic plan itself does not entail financial, staffing, legal or information technology commitments. Individual initiatives within the departmental work plans may include financial, staffing, legal and/or information technology considerations. These are approved on a case by case basis as each proceeds through the budget and Council approval process.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Wingrove
Chief Administrative Officer
Recommendation

That Report CCR-CW-11-18 be received and that council salary be adjusted to reflect the removal of the one-third taxable allowance by keeping the net salary the same as it would have been with the one-third taxable allowance effective January 1, 2019 pending approval of the 2019 budget.

Executive Summary

Changes in federal legislation effective January 2019 to eliminate the one-third tax free exemption currently in place for municipal elected official’s salaries will reduce council net compensation. The recommendations in report CCR-CW-08-18 were not approved at the June 28, 2018 meeting and staff was directed to bring back a report on the costings on the removal of the one-third allowance.

Background and Discussion

As outlined in Report CCR-CW-08-18 council members currently receive a salary that covers all council and committee of the whole meetings and all related work associated with these meetings as well as the social obligations associated with being a county councillor.

In March 2017, the federal government announced the elimination of the one-third tax free exemption for municipal officials beginning January 1, 2019.

Councillors’ salary will be reduced by the increased taxation. As well, there will be additional costs to councillors and the County for CPP, OMERS and Employer Health Tax contributions. Staff has completed a comparison of net salaries with Table 1 showing the required increases to the Warden and Councillor salaries to bring the current salaries up to the same net salary and
Table 1-Salary Impacts

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Head of Council</th>
<th>Current Councillor</th>
<th>Option 1: Do Nothing Loss of 1/3 tax free allowance Head of Council</th>
<th>Option 1: Do Nothing Loss of 1/3 tax free allowance Councillor</th>
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<td>$19,106.43</td>
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* 2017 Treasurer Statement figures used and amended as follows:
- remuneration for outgoing and incoming Warden was adjusted so that all Warden compensation is reported under Warden column
- base Councillor salary was used for Councillor Jack due to LOA in 2017
- added $50 tech allowance paid to Grey figures $7,800.00 (averaged over 18 councillors/warden) or 433.33 per person
- removed provincial association earnings
* Salary and per diem only - taxable mileage and other allowances not included
2017 tax tables used to calculate net pay
Option 2 is approximate same net pay
Legal and Legislated Requirements

In 2017 the federal budget removed the one-third taxable income exemption for elected officials which requires changes to the way County Council members are paid in order to maintain council compensation at the current levels.

Financial and Resource Implications

The removal of the one-third taxable income exemption will create a significant financial impact to Grey County in order to continue to provide a competitive salary for councillors. Starting in 2019, the impact of the change to the same net pay will be approximately $99,400. Should the report be endorsed, the 2019 Warden’s salary will be $77,339.72 and the councillor salary for 2019 will be $20,225.25. These changes would be effective January 1, 2019 but would be paid retroactively pending the approval of the 2019 budget.

Relevant Consultation

__X__ Internal CAO, Director of Corporate Services, Human Resources

___ External
Appendices and Attachments

CCR-CW-08-18 Council Compensation
To:  Warden Halliday and Members of Grey County Council  
Committee Date: October 11, 2018  
Subject / Report No: SSR-CW-14-18  
Title: EarlyON Community Based Capital Project – Dundalk Arena  
Prepared by: Barbara Arbuckle  
Reviewed by: Barb Fedy  
Lower Tier(s) Affected: Township of Southgate  
Status:  

Recommendation

1. That SSR-CW-14-18 regarding the EarlyON Community Based Capital Project proposed within the Dundalk Arena be received for information; and

2. That staff be directed to develop an agreement with the Township of Southgate to facilitate the funding of a renovation and retrofit capital project that will create a community-based EarlyON child and family centre project within the Dundalk Arena.

Executive Summary

The timeline of events for the Community Based Capital Projects (CBCP) initiated by the Ministry of Education (MEDU) are as follows:

November 16, 2017  MEDU released a memorandum outlining a Request for Community-Based Early Years and Child Care Capital Program (CBCP) Funding Submissions.

December 2017 and January 2018  Grey County EarlyON and Child Care Centre licensees were informed about the CBCP capital opportunity. Meetings were held with all interested Grey County licensees.

January 19, 2018  Grey County Children’s Services submitted the CBCP request to MEDU

April 5, 2018  Grey County received a memo from the MEDU approving CBCP funds for a new EarlyON Centre at the Dundalk Arena
Grey Council’s approval of the CBCP – Dundalk Arena EarlyON project will result in the following:

- A total of $302,500 ($262,500 capital funds plus $40,000 for unique site costs) for the renovation and retrofit of the Dundalk Arena to create a new EarlyON site
- This project is 100% funded by MEDU
- A partnership with Southgate in supporting the creation of a new community-based EarlyON Child and Family Centre at the Dundalk Arena

Once the project is completed, the EarlyON Centre in Dundalk currently operated by Kids & Us Community Childcare and Family Education Centres will be moved from the Old Town Hall to the new location at the Dundalk Arena.

Background and Discussion

CMSM Responsibilities

Grey County Children’s Services is the designated Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) for planning and managing licensed child care services throughout the County. This is accomplished through a local service planning process that reflects current child care legislation, regulations, policies, provincial guidelines, and engagement with local licensees. In addition to managing child care services, Grey County Children’s Services is also responsible for the local management of all ministry-funded child and family programs. This responsibility is part of the Ontario government’s plan to integrate existing child and family programs into a cohesive system of services and supports known as EarlyON Child and Family Centres.

Similar to other initiatives within the provincial framework, CMSMs have the ability to prioritize local projects within the scope of their overall EarlyON and licensed child care system. To do this, CMSMs must consider a range of factors in the selection of new or current community based projects. These factors include local child care plans, accommodation pressures/service gaps and demand, cost effectiveness, location, available operating funding, capacity of program to access funds through other means, child care licensing history, current licensed and operational capacity, age groups, long term viability, and investment in quality programming.

Community Based Capital Projects (CBCP) – Dundalk Arena

On November 16, 2017, the Ministry of Education released a memorandum outlining a Request for Community-Based Early Years and Child Care Capital Program (CBCP) Funding Submissions. This funding opportunity is intended to support greater access to licensed child care, and support the government’s efforts to create 100 new child and family program locations (now branded as EarlyON centres). Specific to child care, the CBCP program supports new construction, renovations, retrofits and additions in order to create new licensed child care spaces. Specific to EarlyON, the program supports renovations, retrofits, and additions to create new space for EarlyON initiatives.
On January 19, 2018, the County of Grey as the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) submitted the initial requirements to the Ministry of Education CBCP request. Considerable efforts were taken by the County leading up to the January 19, 2018 deadline to inform local EarlyON and Child Care Centre licensees regarding the CBCP capital opportunity as well as to discuss a range of potential project scenarios. Meetings were held with all interested Grey County licensees in December 2017 and January 2018. For the final submission to the Ministry of Education, the County of Grey CMSM:

1. Utilized project proposals from local licensees,
2. Conducted data analysis including demographic, child care availability, and current service allocation across the County; and
3. Made decisions regarding the final ranking of proposed projects.

On April 5, 2018 the County of Grey (as the Consolidated CMSM) received a memo from the Ministry of Education approving CBCP funds for a new EarlyON Centre at the Dundalk Arena. Funds in the amount of $262,500 and an additional $40,000 for unique site costs for a total of $302,500 were approved for the project.

Grey County has received 66% of the overall Dundalk Arena EarlyON project funding. This upfront funding was provided to recognize the need to undertake planning, preliminary design and design development.

The overall project funding is to renovate and retrofit the space to create an EarlyON Centre area within the Dundalk Arena.

The funding approved from this application is $262,500, with an additional $40,000 in contingency funds for site accessible work. Between this funding and the anticipated Enabling Accessibility Fund for Small projects application funds (EAF), that was successfully submitted by the Township of Southgate, this would provide the arena with a significant second floor upgrade including a fully functional EarlyON Centre operated by Kids & Us, and the potential for increased future use options such as sports, recreation and special events.

On September 24, 2018 Grey County and Southgate staff met with a contractor to review the project requirements and determine an estimated budget for the work required to upgrade the Arena Auditorium for an EarlyON Child and Family Centre. The elevator lift project is estimated at be $100,000 to $120,000. The remaining work without detailed calculations is estimated at $250,000 to $300,000, excluding furnishing costs estimated at $30,000.00.

Southgate Partnership

Southgate Council will be receiving a similar report on October 3, 2018 for the CBCP EarlyON project at the Dundalk Arena. As a result of the lame duck status of Southgate Council, and this being the final Council meeting of this term, the Southgate Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) provided an information report to confirm support for developing an agreement with Grey County and to facilitate the utilizing of $262,500 in provincial funding, plus a maximum of $40,000 in special site cost dollars to address accessibility issues, for the creation of a community-based EarlyON Centre project within the Dundalk Arena.

Also, important to note is the possibility of additional funding that has been applied for by Southgate to complement the Dundalk Arena EarlyON project. The Enabling Accessibility Fund for Small Projects
funding opportunity presented itself through Employment and Social Development Canada and an application was submitted on July 26, 2018. The Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) provides funding for eligible capital projects that increase accessibility for people with disabilities in Canadian communities and workplaces, creating more opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in community activities, programs and services, or access employment opportunities. The small projects component provides grant funding of up to $100,000 per project, to support small scale construction, renovation or retrofit projects that increase accessibility in communities or workplaces.

Specifically, as it applies to the project, EAF funding is intended to fund an elevator lift and washroom upgrades for the Dundalk Community Centre Auditorium. This specific application is for a project costing $175,000, with Enabling Accessibility Funding being $100,000.00 and the Southgate funding requirement is $75,000. If the Township of Southgate’s submission is successful, they will need to consider the best funding options in its 2019 budget.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

The Ministry of Education provides funding to Grey County Social Services under the legislative authority of the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014.

A future report will be presented to Council that will include a draft agreement with the Township of Southgate to facilitate the funding of a renovation and retrofit capital project that will create a community-based EarlyON child and family centre located within the Dundalk Arena.

Financial and Resource Implications

The CBCP – Dundalk Arena EarlyON funds approved by MEDU are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CBCP EarlyON Funds</th>
<th>$ 262,500</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unique Site Costs</td>
<td>$ 40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total CBCP Funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 302,500</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

The proposed CBCP capital opportunity may overlap with other community projects whereby partnerships and cost sharing could take place. The CBCP capital program will not include any increases to the Grey County levy and will not have any additional impacts beyond what was approved in the 2018 Children’s Services budget.

County staff resources will be required for the CBCP Capital program. This may include but is not limited to activities for accounting, project management, and administration in order to coordinate capital funding from the province.

Potential Risk

The remaining 34% of the project funds for this EarlyON capital project will be provided by the province upon the tendering of the project before March 1, 2019. If the County does not meet the conditions as contained in the Community Based Capital Program for this capital project by March 1, 2019, then the
subsequent cash flow to the County of Grey will be forfeited, and the ministry will recover the initial cash flow.

The project costs for the Dundalk Arena Auditorium upgrades, which are outside of the EarlyON project, will need to be addressed in Southgate’s 2019 capital budget approval process.

Relevant Consultation

☑️ Internal

- Grey County Finance Department
- Grey County Planning Department (Planning Data Analysis Coordinator)

☑️ External

- Township of Southgate
- Licensed child care centres in Grey County
- EarlyON Centres in Grey County

Attachments

* County of Grey CBCP Allocation Letter dated April 5, 2018

Respectfully submitted by,

Barb Fedy, Barb Fedy,  
Director of Social Services  
Barbara Arbuckle,  
Children’s Services Manager
Recommendation

1. That Report PDR-CW-34-18 be received;

2. That the County submit an appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal on the Township of Georgian Bluffs Zoning By-law 2018-084 with respect to the twenty (20) hectare minimum lot area provision in Table 7.2 of the by-law; and

3. That staff be directed to work with the Township to resolve this matter, with the goal of avoiding a hearing on the matter.

Executive Summary

On September 19, 2018 the Township of Georgian Bluffs passed a new Comprehensive Zoning By-law. Prior to passing the by-law, the Township undertook a robust public and agency consultation process. Grey County staff commented on three drafts of the by-law before the final version was passed. The Township made a number of changes to the by-law in response to public and agency comments. There is one outstanding lot area provision in the by-law at Table 7.2 that does not conform to the County’s Official Plan. County and Township staff have discussed this matter, and Township staff will be recommending a change to the by-law to Township Council on October 10, 2018. The last date for appeal of the by-law is also October 10th (the deadline will lapse prior to the Council meeting). County staff recommend filing an appeal of the by-law to ensure that this provision can be changed accordingly. Under the provisions of the Planning Act, this change can be made, if supported by Township Council, without the need for a Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) hearing.

Background and Discussion
The Township of Georgian Bluffs recently passed their new comprehensive zoning by-law 2018-084 to replace by-law 6-2003. The last date of appeal for this by-law is October 10, 2018. Grey County, in addition to a number of landowners and other agencies, commented on three drafts of the by-law throughout the public process. Township staff, their consulting team, and Township Council were very accommodating to the comments received and the by-law has been amended accordingly.

In reviewing the approved by-law, there is one provision which still represents a conformity concern with respect to the County Official Plan. More specifically Table 7.2 provides for a 20 hectare minimum lot area in the Agricultural, Rural, and Restricted Rural zones. This 20 hectare minimum size provision is appropriate for the Rural and Restricted Rural zones, but represents a conflict in the Agricultural zone, where the County Plan requires a 40 hectare lot. Under the Planning Act zoning by-laws need to conform to the applicable Official Plans.

County and Township staff have spoken on this matter, and Township staff noted that this was an oversight. Township staff are supportive of this change, and will be recommending as such to Township Council on October 10th.

However, because the appeal deadline is also on October 10th, it’s necessary for the County to appeal the by-law to preserve the ability to make this change. In accordance with the County’s appeal protocol (see Attachments section), County staff are recommending an appeal to the by-law. Based on some recent changes to the Planning Act, this appeal could be dealt with by the Township before needing to send the appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. In the event that other appeals are received as well, staff are confident that minutes of settlement could be reached very quickly.

Analysis of Planning Issues

When rendering a land use planning decision, planning authorities must have regard to matters of Provincial Interest under the Planning Act, be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) 2014, and conform to any Provincial Plans or Municipal Official Plans that govern the subject lands. The Niagara Escarpment Plan covers portions of the Township; however, the zoned agricultural areas in question would be outside of the Niagara Escarpment Plan area boundaries. The Township of Georgian Bluffs Official Plan only pertains to their settlement areas, and therefore is not applicable to agricultural lot size provisions of their zoning by-law. The County Official Plan is applicable to this section of the Township’s zoning by-law.

Provincial Policy and Legislation

Both the Planning Act and the PPS speak to the protection of agricultural resources across the Province. The Planning Act under section 2(b), and the PPS under section 2.3 emphasize the need for such protection. Section 2.3.4.1 of the PPS requires lot creation in agricultural areas to be “of a size appropriate for the type of agricultural use(s) common in the area and are sufficiently large to maintain flexibility for future changes in the type or size of agricultural operations.”

Through working with Provincial staff, the recognized farm lot size, outside of specialty crop areas, has been determined to be 40 hectares in area.
County Official Plan

The County Official Plan contains similar protections to the Planning Act and the PPS. Section 2.1.3 of the County Plan states:

“In the Agricultural designation newly created farm lots should generally be 40 hectares (100 acres) in order to discourage the unwarranted fragmentation of farmland. It is not intended to prevent the creation of smaller farm parcels where they are of a size appropriate for the type of agricultural use(s) common in the area and are sufficiently large to maintain flexibility for future changes in the type or size of agricultural operation. Local Municipalities will be encouraged to establish minimum farm parcel sizes appropriate to the agricultural area in the Local Municipal Official Plan and/or Secondary Plan.

In order to determine if a proposed farm parcel is sufficiently large enough to maintain flexibility for future changes the applicant shall demonstrate that similar continuously active farm operations exist in the area which are of a comparable size and type. Where the original Township lot is less than 40 hectares, in no case shall the severed or retained lots be smaller than the original Township lot.”

The consent policies under section 2.1.4 of the Plan further reiterate the 40 hectare farm lot provisions.

With the Township by-law being approved using a 20 hectare minimum lot area for the Agricultural zone, this would represent a conflict with the County Official Plan. To avoid any conflict and to be consistent with other zoning by-laws across the County, staff are recommending that the by-law be appealed so that Georgian Bluffs can make this change.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

Based on the provisions of the Planning Act, if the by-law is not appealed, then it will come into force and effect and be considered applicable law. To change the by-law after it comes into force and effect would require a by-law amendment, with a new notification and public process. Having a by-law which does not conform to the County Official Plan could lead to confusion, and inconsistent land use decisions compared to other municipalities across the County.

Based on the provisions of the Planning Act section 34(20.1), dispute resolution techniques may be used to resolve the appeal, which would avoid the need for a LPAT hearing. Both County and Township staff have already agreed in principle on the resolution to this matter. Should Township Council approve the recommended solution, then this matter can be resolved quickly and efficiently. Staff are hopeful that the matter can be resolved such that the Township does not have to process the appeal to LPAT, and the County can withdraw their appeal. The Planning Act under section 34(23.3) states:

“If all appeals to the Tribunal under subsection (19) are withdrawn within 15 days after the last day for filing a notice of appeal, the decision of the council is final and binding.”

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no significant anticipated financial, staffing or legal considerations associated with the
proposed appeal at either the County or Township level. There is a $300.00 appeal fee payable by the County, however if the matter can be resolved prior to needing to submit the appeal to LPAT, then this fee may not be needed. Should the appeal be submitted to LPAT, then limited staff time may be needed to resolve the matter. Legal resources, if any, will also be minimal and may only be needed to execute minutes of settlement, or should someone object to the proposed change.

Relevant Consultation
☒ Internal: Planning, Finance and CAO
☒ External: Township of Georgian Bluffs

Appendices and Attachments
PDR-PCD-08-13 Ontario Municipal Board Attendance
Standing-room only at Flesherston all-candidates meeting

(by Don Crosby)

There’s a great interest among voters for information about candidates in the upcoming Grey Highlands municipal election, as evidenced by a standing-room only crowd at the latest all-candidates meeting in Flesherton.
The high interest also shows in numerous all-candidate meetings for Lake Eugenia and Brewster’s Lake; Flesherton, Markdale and Kimberley, and a meet-and-greet planned for Saturday at the Flesherton Farmer’s Market.

Much of the discussion last Wednesday was about tourism and economic development. The meeting was sponsored by the Grey Highlands Chamber of Commerce, which posed the first four questions to be answered by all candidates on those topics.

There was almost unanimous agreement on what kind of tourism would be good for Grey Highlands. Everyone agreed that accommodations were badly needed.

(Mayoral candidates will be marked as M and Deputy-Mayor as DM, all the remaining are candidates for council)

Paul Allen said those that promote health and wellness, such as hiking and cycling, as well a business and conference centre would be welcome.

Having operated a business in Eugenia for several years Stewart Halliday (DM) would like to see more entrepreneurs. Aakash Desai (DM) favours adventure-based businesses.

Terry Mokriy (M) wants more tourism-related businesses and for council to work more closely with the tourism industry.

Paul McQueen (M) also thinks more accommodation is needed for both residents and visitors.

Danielle Valiquette would like to see more agri-tourism and heritage tourism.

Lynn Silverton said more should be done to help Talisman, which will be a huge anchor business, as well as heritage tourism to work more closely with First Nations.

Dane Nielsen agrees with promoting adventure tourism and the need for more accommodation to keep people visiting the area to remain longer.

Cathy Little would like to see more night life and entertainment, as well as eco-tourism and adventure tourism.

Libby Howell favours more tourism related businesses.

For Wayne Balon the answer is accommodation for tourists.

Tom Allwood favours more accommodation, agri-tourism and business development of new businesses like microbreweries.

On the question of “what is more important building new homes or rehabilitating older existing ones?” there was consensus that both are important for different reasons.

What was more relevant was the need for a variety of accommodation, said Nielson. There are advantages to both said McQueen (M) and economic development relies on both.

Desai (DM) favours new homes and the revitalization of existing homes and store fronts. Halliday (DM) said council just approved construction of 526 new homes. What’s needed now are more shoppers and more retail stores.
Paul Allen favours new homes. Wayne Balon said there is a need to spruce up downtown Markdale which would encourage visitors to the area to stop and shop.

The question of how the chamber of commerce and the municipality should work together brought a variety of responses: from a closer partnership between the two to listen more closely to the chamber.

Desia (DM) said the chamber of commerce plays an advisory role. Valiquette said it’s important to build a strong relationship between the two, and to encourage the chamber to promote new businesses.

Lynn Silverton said she has seen big improvements since the amalgamation of the two local chambers a few years ago, which as also resulted in a closer relationship with the municipality. Nielsen said it’s important that the two work together. Cathy Little said collaboration between the municipality and the chamber of commerce would promote economic development.

Howell said they should work together to promote new ideas. Balon said they have a municipal relationship in bringing new businesses to the municipality.

The question of what businesses are missing from the downtown core resulted in a variety of responses, from more eating places to more retail stores.

Desai (DM) said there is a need to improve the atmosphere for all businesses.

Balon mentioned businesses that promote local food and camping stores. For Howell, it’s more retail stores and agri-businesses.

Cathy Little supports the idea of an anchor business like Sobey’s. Nielsen commented that if he knew the answer, he would have started it already. Silverton named accommodation, transportation and trying to keep a florist in town.

Valiquette said businesses that support tourism like camping stores were needed as well as more office space.

McQueen (M) said there was a need to create definite business hours and that adventure businesses are important. Mokriy (M) said it’s the responsibility of municipality to support businesses and not tell them what to do.

There was a question about why residents should trust politicians.

We have to trust staff members who have worked to promote economic growth said Lynn Silverton. Allwood recommended people ask candidates about what their track record is like. People must be given credit for running, Cathy Little said.

Allen said he had bought a business with one tenant and now it has seven and another one to come – that’s economic development.

Halliday (DM) said he helped promote economic development in Eugenia.

Desai (DM) said that investment in time by the candidates and councillors is key to judging their commitment.
Mokriy (M) said he understands the skepticism, but his reason for running for mayor is to give back to the community that treated him and his wife so well when they arrived in Grey Highlands. “My word is my bond,” he said.

Balon said he considered that now is the time to stand up and be one municipality. Desai (DM) said we need to trust and not to build walls around communities.

On the question of affordable housing, McQueen (M) said it’s time to encourage more diversity such as garden suites for aging parents. He recognized the need to review planning policy to allow houses to be built that are smaller than the current minimum, and said that the Grey County OP is looking into that.

Mokriy (M) said there is a need to review zoning bylaw to make it user friendly and easier.

Nielsen said it’s important to make sure housing is available for everyone.

Candidates were asked what could be done to encourage young people to stay in the area.

Valiquette said better WiFi would aid in companies operating and providing jobs in the area. Allwood said Markdale has high-speed internet. He doesn’t want Grey Highlands to become a bedroom community. He said there is a need to create affordable housing. He suggested being innovative with development charges. Balon suggested asking the youth what they want.

McQueen (M) said that there are jobs out there if young people want to work.

Halliday (DM) said that Grey County has the lowest unemployment rate in the province, yet there are 800 jobs nobody wants. Desai (DM) said youth are being unfairly targeted for being not ambitious.

The Grey County Federation of Agriculture wanted to know what place candidates though that agriculture will play in the future of Grey Highlands.

Several candidates said the future of farming is micro-farming. Lots of people can’t afford to get a start with traditional farming which has become too costly.

Little wants changes to the OP to encourage on-farm diversification.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture wants changes to the property tax system for farmers, because soaring land values mean that farmers are shouldering more of the municipal tax burden percentage-wise.

Allwood said the proposed plan ‘A Place to Grow’ includes plans to encourage small scale farming. He said the agri-food business in Ontario is bigger than the auto industry.

Balon noted that youth can’t afford to get into farming due to high start-up costs. He’d like to see the cost of farmland come down. One young farmer said that would devalue current owner’s land.

Issue of long-term care was raised. McQueen (M) noted that the province has promised 15,000 new beds. All Rockwood Terrace needs is 28 more beds, he said.

Mokriy (M) said Grey Highlands had been outmanoeuvered by Grey County. Forget county council and go directly to Ministry of health he said. Involve local MPs. Don’t ask but demand.
Halliday (DM) said he was totally disgusted with Grey council. He wants a change to the weighted voting system to take away the stronghold by Owen Sound.

Residents had a lot of food for thought after the meeting.

Gary Gingras, a former owner of a tourism resort on Lake Eugenia, commented that Grey Highlands is not market-ready with needed accommodations.

“Many of our businesses are not friendly. People feel that,” he said, claiming that a call to four of the accommodations in the area will get voicemail.

“Accommodations are important but people don’t come for accommodation they come for experience. And if it’s a great experience they will want to stay. The goal is to get people to visit and then move here,” he said.

“If we fix up our downtown that locals want to use, then travellers will want to stop. They are just not going to want to stop just because we have more hotels,” Gingras said.

Tex Brown said the meeting was informative and has helped him decide how he’ll vote.

He said nothing was said about infrastructure, and commented that sidewalks in Flesherton are badly in need of repair.