

## Committee of the Whole

April 8, 2021

Grey County Council met on the above date at 10:35 AM through electronic means. Warden Selwyn Hicks assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order with all members present except Councillor O'Leary. Alternate Councillor Thomas attended on behalf of Councillor O'Leary.

### Declaration of Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

### Delegations

#### Business Enterprise Centre Update and Program Launch – Courtney Miller, Business Enterprise Centre Manager; Taylor Corfield, Business Enterprise Coordinator

Courtney Miller and Taylor Corfield reported on how the Business Enterprise Centre has adapted to changing needs resulting from the COVID pandemic and outlined the services provided to support new and existing businesses. Ms. Miller highlighted both the Starter Company Plus and the Summer Company and outlined the past success of each of these programs and the 2021 launch of each program.

#### Municipal Tax Equity Tax Policy Updates – Peter Frise, Vice President, Corporate and Client Services

Kevin Wepler introduced Peter Frise who provided a presentation on tax policy updates focusing on 2020/2021 tax policy, growth, treatment of vacant and excess land and 2021 tax modelling. Mr. Frise spoke about assessment and revenue growth. He highlighted property classes and tax ratios relative to various property classes.

Mr. Frise provided an overview of a new small business subclass and outlined challenges related to the potential implementation of such a policy.

Questions and comments followed including changes in property tax both current and future.

With Council's permission, Council then considered report FR-CW-12-21 2021 Tax Policy.

Councillor Milne then left the meeting.

## Items for Direction and Discussion

### FR-CW-12-21 2021 Tax Policy

Moved by: Councillor Robinson

Seconded by: Councillor Carleton

**That Report FR-CW-12-21 regarding 2021 property tax policies be received; and**

**That County Council eliminate the Commercial and Industrial vacant and excess subclass discounts with corresponding tax ratio reductions to the Commercial and Industrial class to maintain the class-by-class balance as outlined in Report FR-CW-12-21; and**

**That County Council adopt the remaining current 2020 tax ratios and the tax reductions for 2021 taxation year; and**

**That in the absence of Provincial Regulations for the new Small Business Property Subclass, and the financial impact analysis required, that the new Small Business Property Subclass be considered in a future budget year; and**

**That the necessary By-laws be drafted for Council's consideration and approval.**

*CW69-21*

Moved by: Councillor Robinson

Seconded by: Councillor McQueen

**That FR-CW-12-21 Tax Policy motion be deferred to the April 22, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting to provide for further review.**

Carried

Councillor Milne rejoined the meeting.

Council then recessed for a short break and then resumed.

## Delegations continued

**Asset Management Strategy - Israr Ahmed, Senior Consultant and Project Lead; Jordan Gonda, P. Eng-Consultant Asset Management and John Murray, General Manager, Asset Management Strategy and Performance-Public Sector Digest**

Amanda Brooks introduced Israr Ahmed, Jordan Gonda, and John Murray who presented Grey County's asset management strategy, noting the difference between an asset management strategy and an asset management plan.

The project's objective was to create an asset management strategy. In order to achieve this, Public Sector Digest undertook an asset management policy review, conducted a current state assessment, prepared a data gap analysis, and assessed infrastructure.

Expected outcomes were to improve Grey County's asset management program by improving data, forecasting, planning and decision making to provide options for balanced affordable service delivery.

Public Sector Digest recommends setting aside a tax increase of a minimum of 1.2% each year to prepare for future replacement.

Councillor Thomas left the meeting during the presentation and then returned.

Questions followed including factors that affect changes to forecasts, timelines, amortization and replacement costs, and funding options to achieve optimal results across the board for municipal assets. The benefit of communicating asset management strategies to the community was also mentioned.

With Council's permission, Report FR-CW-11-21 was then considered.

## Items for Direction and Discussion continued

### FR-CW-11-21 Grey County Asset Management Strategy

*CW70-21* Moved by: Councillor Gamble Seconded by: Councillor Robinson

**That Report FR-CW-11-21 regarding the Grey County Asset Management Strategy be received for information; and**

**That the Grey County Asset Management Strategy be approved as presented; and**

**That staff be directed to implement the recommendations/action items identified in the Strategy within the timeframes indicated, subject to annual budget approval.**

Carried

## Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

No items were requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda and moved under Items for Discussion.

## Consent Agenda

*CW71-21* Moved by: Councillor Paterson Seconded by: Councillor Robinson

**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. That the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee dated March 18, 2021 be adopted as presented.**
- b. That the letter from the NeighbourWoods North group dated March 18, 2021 regarding tree-planting at the Grey County Administration Building be received for information**
- c. That all written and oral submissions received on the proposed redline revisions to plan of subdivision 42T-2017-01 were considered which helped to make an informed recommendation and decision; and**

**That PDR-CW-12-21 be received, and that in consideration of the draft plan of subdivision 42T-2017-01, and the matters to have regard for under Subsection 51(24) of the Planning Act, the County of Grey Committee of the Whole hereby approves the revised plan of subdivision on lands described as Part of Lot 28, Concession 7 (geographic Township of Collingwood) in the Town of The Blue Mountains, subject to the revised conditions set out in the Notice of Decision.**

- d. That Report HDR-CW-07-21 be received; and**

**That the additional \$1,770,258 in unbudgeted Social Services Relief Fund Phase 3 funds be approved for use in 2021, including grants to be made to outside organizations, in accordance with the SSRF Phase 3 program guidelines.**

- e. That Report TR-CW-12-21 containing the tender results for RFT-TS-03-21 Grey Road 40 Resurfacing be received; and**

**That Harold Sutherland Construction Ltd. be awarded the Tender for a total amount of \$627,605.80 excluding HST.**

Carried

Council recessed briefly and then resumed.

## **EDTC-CW-10-21 Local Immigration Partnership Strategy**

*CW72-21* Moved by: Councillor Burley                      Seconded by: Councillor Robinson

**That That Report EDTC-CW-10-21 regarding the Local Immigration Partnership Strategy be received; and**

**That the Settlement Strategy be endorsed, and the action plan be developed through the Partnership Council and brought back to Council annually for information.**

Carried

## TR-CW-01-21 Grey County Urban Road/Connecting Link Options

CW73-21 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor Keaveney

**That Report TR-CW-01-21 regarding urban road/connecting link options be received; and**

**That staff prepare for a workshop with municipal staff and councillors to be completed before the summer of 2021 to discuss strategies and timelines for potential transfers and road exchanges; and**

**That staff continue to develop various financial assessments and potential action plans should transferring become the recommended option.**

Carried

Councillor Milne left the meeting during the presentation on TR-CW-01-21.

## SSR-CW-01-21 Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship

CW74-21 Moved by: Councillor Hutchinson Seconded by: Councillor McQueen

**That Report That Report SSR-CW-01-21 be received; and**

**That Grey County Council authorize the Warden and the Clerk to sign, along with the M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre, the joint Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres' Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friends and Addendum, as adapted, on behalf of Grey County; and**

**That staff be directed to work with the M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre for the signing of the declaration and all actions contained within the declaration itself; and**

**That Grey County and the M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre work together to advance the commitments of the joint Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship.**

Carried

## Closed Meeting Matters

CW75-21 Moved by: Councillor Keaveney Seconded by: Councillor Carleton

**That Committee of the Whole does now go into closed session at 2:58 PM to discuss:**

- i. **Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees pursuant to Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, regarding appointment of a Treasurer; and**
- ii. **That the following staff remain in attendance: Kim Wingrove and Heather Morrison.**

Carried

Committee of the Whole returned to open session at 3:09 PM. Warden Hicks confirmed that only that matter identified was discussed in closed session.

## Other Business

There was none.

## Notice of Motion

There were none.

## Adjournment

On motion of Councillors Burley and Paterson, Committee of the Whole adjourned at 3:11 PM to the call of the Chair.

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Selwyn Hicks, Warden

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Heather Morrison, Clerk