



Minutes

Grey County – The Blue Mountains Task Force

Meeting Date: June 20, 2019
Meeting Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON
Prepared by Krista Royal, Deputy Clerk

A. Call to Order

The Blue Mountains Mayor Alar Soever called the meeting to order with Task Force members present, including The Blue Mountains Councillor Rob Sampson, Grey County Warden Selwyn Hicks, and Grey County Councillors Shirley Keaveney and Paul McQueen. Absent from the meeting, The Blue Mountains Deputy Mayor Odette Bartnicki and Grey County Councillor Ian Boddy.

Also in attendance The Blue Mountains Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt, County of Grey Director of Corporate Services Kevin Wepler and Director of Planning Randy Scherzer. Absent from the meeting Grey County Chief Administrative Officer Kim Wingrove.

- **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Paul McQueen Seconded by: Shirley Keaveney

THAT the Agenda of June 20, 2019, be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda, Carried.

- **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof**

None

▪ **Previous Minutes**

Moved by: Selwyn Hicks Seconded by: Shirley Keaveney

THAT the Grey County – The Blue Mountains Task Force minutes of May 16, 2019 be adopted as amended to include the revised Grey County – The Blue Mountains Task Force Terms of Reference;

AND THAT the Terms of Reference be included as an attachment to the approved May 16, 2019 minutes, Carried.

B. Agenda Topics

B.1 Progress on the issue of the Closure of Simcoe County Road 91

Mayor Alar Soever noted both he and Councillor Rob Sampson met with the Ministry at Queen’s Park to discuss the closure of Simcoe County Road 91. Alar reviewed with the committee current issues, solutions and requests in regards to the closure of Simcoe County Road 91.

Current Issues & Background Information:

- Clearview Township has agreed to close a section of County Road 91, between County Road 31 and the 10th Concession and transfer ownership of the road to Walker Aggregates to facilitate the expansion of the Duntroon Quarry, as the quarry intersects County Road 91.
- Pending the closure of County Road 91, Clearview Township has filed an application with the Niagara Escarpment Commission to upgrade the 26/27 Sideroad from a seasonal road to a year-round road.
- Traffic counts were conducted on County Road 31 north and south of County Road 91. The data shows that at an absolute minimum the average daily volume on County Road 91 is 1,265 vehicles per day.
- The Niagara Escarpment Plan requires that roads in the more sensitive area designations must be considered essential roads and the plan defines essential as “that which is deemed necessary to the public interest after all alternatives have been considered.”
- The Town of The Blue Mountains and the County of Grey have formally expressed concerns that the closure of County Road 91 will significantly impact regional traffic.

Solutions & Requests:

The Town of The Blue Mountains requests that the Province consider the following items:

- That the Province orders the bump up of the 26/27 Sideroad application to the Niagara Escarpment Commission from a Class A+ Environmental Assessment to a Class C Environmental Assessment, which would include a comprehensive and up-to-date traffic study.

- That the Province acknowledges County Road 91 is an existing regional traffic corridor over the Niagara Escarpment; and that the Province considers the installation of signage to encourage traffic diversion from Highway 26 onto the existing county road network.
- That the Province acknowledges that maintaining County Road 91 is a significantly less investment than the planned and budgeted investment into the Highway 26 bypass.

Committee discussed various items regarding the closure of County Road 91, including the importance of alternate routes, Highway 26 challenges related to costing, drainage issues, environmental issues, the letter of support sent to Warden Hicks from Township of Clearview regarding reducing red-tape with Niagara Escarpment, working collectively with the County of Grey/Simcoe to have a joint submission, sharing of the roads and shouldering for cycling lanes.

Warden Selwyn Hicks noted he struggled with the agenda items, and questioned how these items reflect the Terms of Reference and the intention of the Task Force. Warden Selwyn Hicks advised all of the issues on the agenda should be addressed by County Council and belong at County Council. Mayor Alar Soever replied these are issues within The Blue Mountains that also affect the municipalities of Grey Highlands and Meaford, and therefore need to be addressed by the Task Force and also at the County level as well.

Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt advised that he spoke with Chief Administrative Officer Kim Wingrove in advance of the meeting regarding the agenda items and noting in the Terms of Reference it does reference that the Chair will set the agenda for the respective meeting.

B.2 Motion on Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) billing at Grey County

Mayor Soever presented the following motion to the Committee:

WHEREAS the Town of the Blue Mountains Council on April 24, 2019 unanimously passed a resolution THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains request that Grey County remove the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (“MPAC”) charges from general taxation and invoice each Lower Tier municipality individually for MPAC’s services using the same Cost Recovery Formula used by MPAC; and,

WHEREAS MPAC prepares an individual assessment roll for each lower tier municipality; and,

WHEREAS MPAC bills Grey county for its services using the Legislated Cost Recovery Formula under the MPAC Act of $((A+B)/2) \times C$, where A is the percentage of Ontario wide assessment in Grey County, B is the percentage of total Ontario properties in Grey County, and C is the Total Cost to be recovered by MPAC; and,

WHEREAS by including the MPAC annual payment of services in the general rating by-law, The Blue Mountains share of this service is \$484,732; and,

WHEREAS The Blue Mountains actual share using the MPAC formula is \$361,105; and,

WHEREAS sections 311(4) and 326 of the Municipal Act, 2001 allows for Special Levies;

AND WHEREAS the MPAC services are being provided or undertaken almost entirely directly to the Lower Tier municipalities, and that this results in the services being provided or undertaken at different levels or in a different manner in different parts of the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The County of Grey recover the cost of the MPAC services as a “special service” under 326 (2)(b) of the Municipal Act, and the lower tier municipalities be billed in that manner with each lower tier municipality being billed the actual amount they would have been billed if MPAC billed them directly under the legislated MPAC formula.

Mayor Alar Soever noted that to date in 2019 the omitted supplementary revenue found by The Blue Mountains totals \$658,000 which will benefit the County and the other 8 municipalities.

Councillor Rob Sampson expressed his concerns with the fairness of the 26% charge to The Blue Mountains and noted the importance for the County to recognize it is unfair and to give back to The Blue Mountains’ taxpayers 100% of the funds instead of just 26%.

The committee reviewed the motion and requested that Staff bring forward a report to have an education component at an upcoming County Council meeting to understand the MPAC formula for taxation on assessment.

Director of Corporate Services Kevin Weppler advised that MPAC will be attending an upcoming meeting at County Council in July.

B.3 Grant Portion of Community Improvement Plan

Director of Planning Randy Scherzer spoke noting the Community Improvement Plan grant funding will benefit all across the County, which will then grow the assessment base. Randy noted there are incentives to having the plan in place including: tax incentives, surplus land, attainable housing, development charge exemptions, downtown improvements, and over time, better value and increased assessment.

Mayor Alar Soever provided to the committee a cost summary of the 9 municipalities within the County of Grey relating to funding of the Community Improvement Plan (“CIP”). Alar noted The Blue Mountains costs to fund the CIP at the 26% rate would cost The Blue Mountains \$47,000 with only receiving \$20,000 in return. Alar further noted there is the benefit in having the plan in place, but suggested The Blue Mountains manage the grant to enable the Town to keep the full \$47,000 within the community, rather than the funds being distributed at the County Level. CAO Shawn Everitt suggested that simple projects like the CIP be divided in 9 equal shares for fairness as it will cost The Blue Mountains more than what it gets back.

Councillor Shirley Keaveney noted her appreciation of the numbers prepared by Mayor Alar Soever, and further noted the Municipality of Meaford was successful in receiving CIP funding in 2017. Councillor Shirley Keaveney noted her hope that other municipalities see advantages for lower tier municipalities to grow their assessment base. Randy noted the funding use must meet 5 key priority areas with the local municipalities approving the incentives and further noted his hope that municipalities will match the County grant funding to encourage development. Randy further noted a report will be provided back to County Council outlining the success stories from the use of the grant funds.

B.4 Community Safety and Well-Being Planning

Director of Planning Randy Scherzer advised that CAO Kim Wingrove will be preparing a report to the July 11, 2019 County Council meeting which will include Bruce and Grey County municipalities.

B.5 Warden's Visit to Citizens' Forum

Warden Selwyn Hicks advised that he enjoyed attending the Citizen's Forum meeting and hopes to be invited again.

C. New Business

Councillor Paul McQueen advised there is an upcoming Transportation meeting and noted that Blue Mountain Resorts is struggling with affordable transportation for their employees. Paul noted that Chapmans in the municipality of Grey Highlands is having the same transportation issues as well.

Director of Corporate Services Kevin Wepler advised that he will provide the committee an update on transportation.

D. Notice of Meeting Dates

July 11, 2019, Heritage Room, Grey County Administration Building

August meeting date – to be determined

Committee concurred to cancel the August meeting as it conflicts with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference and reschedule the next meeting in September.

E. Adjournment

Moved by: Paul McQueen Seconded by: Shirley Keaveney

THAT this Committee does now adjourn at 3:40 p.m., Carried.