

Report FR-CS-12-16

To: Chair Pringle and the Members of the Corporate Services Committee
From: Kevin Wepler, Director of Finance
Meeting Date: February 9, 2016
Subject: **Cost Sharing by Population - Grey Bruce Health Unit and Provincial Offences Operations**
Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CS25-16; Endorsed by County Council March 1, 2016 per Resolution CC33-16;

Recommendation(s)

WHEREAS Grey and Bruce Counties share in the expenses of the operations of the Grey Bruce Health Unit and Provincial Offences Operations;

AND WHEREAS the share paid by Grey and Bruce shall be calculated as the percentage of the population that each of Grey and Bruce have as a proportion of the total population of Grey and Bruce combined;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT Report FR-CS-12-16 regarding Grey and Bruce Counties cost sharing by population for the Grey Bruce Health Unit and the Provincial Offences be received;

AND THAT the population of Grey and Bruce be based on the latest population data as published by Statistics Canada rather than the less accurate Municipal Directory data;

AND THAT the cost sharing of expenses of the Health Unit and Provincial Offences operations utilize the latest Statistics Canada population data and that this commence for the 2017 budget year upon the approval of Grey and Bruce County Councils;

AND FURTHER THAT the necessary By-law and Agreement be drafted for Council's consideration and approval.

Background

The Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound Health Unit was established by agreement dated the 1st day of June 1989. With the City of Owen Sound rejoining the County of Grey, this agreement was rescinded with a new agreement being entered into by Grey and Bruce Counties.

This agreement, that became effective January 1st, 2001, provided for the consideration of a number of items. One of the items agreed to by the parties was that Grey and Bruce shall pay to the Board of Health for the Grey Bruce Health Unit monthly, in advance, its share of the expenses of the Unit. The share of Grey and Bruce shall be on an amount equal to the percentage of the total budget of the Board of Health for the Grey Bruce Health Unit as approved by Grey and Bruce and the Ministry of Health, and that the population of each of Grey and Bruce bears to the combined population of Grey and Bruce.

The population stated in the agreement shall be the population listed in the yearly Municipal Directory of the previous year. This directory that is published each year contains information on each municipality including population counts. These population counts are provided by each municipality. This cost sharing arrangement by population was also used as the basis to cost share in the net expenses of the Provincial Offences operation.

Similarly, the County of Grey and the County of Bruce entered into an Intermunicipal Service Agreement that provided that the net revenue/expense shall be allocated/charged to the Municipal Partners on the basis of population.

Historically these population numbers had been those population numbers as provided to each municipality by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and were based on their Ontario Population Report (OPR) and produced upon conclusion of each municipal enumeration.

In comparison to Statistics Canada, and according to MPAC, MPAC typically under-reports population numbers for Ontario, primarily in the under 20 to 25 year-old range. The reasons for this are:

- ♣ There is no legislated requirement for owners of rental properties with fewer than seven units to supply MPAC with tenant names.
- ♣ Although approximately 50% of owners respond to Occupancy Questionnaires, compliance for tenants is only about 20%.
- ♣ When in receipt of properly documented information, MPAC is obliged to change its database accordingly which usually requires the removal of existing names from a property record and replacing them with the new name(s). The process of removing

names automatically includes any children or other occupants currently listed at the identified address. These names are recovered, only if they reappear at a future point through other source data/data-matching.

- ♣ Under instructions from Ontario's Deputy Registrar, municipal clerks no longer send MPAC the names of newborns. The cumulative effect since the early 90's has been the slow degradation of OPR numbers, particularly those under the age of 20.

As well, depending on the staff member who provides the population data each year for the Municipal Directory, the population count can vary from year to year as different data sources could be used for the Municipal Directory and therefore there is a risk that there is no consistency in these population numbers. To illustrate this lack of consistency, the following chart has been provided:

Illustration of Inconsistent Population Counts from Ontario Municipal Directory

	Ontario Municipal Directory – Population Counts*			
Bruce County	2012	2013	2014	2015
Arran-Elderslie	6,230	6,230	6,230	6,810
Brockton	9,351	9,351	9,351	9,432
Huron-Kinloss	6,515	6,542	6,542	6,542
Kincardine	11,170	10,763	10,763	10,763
Northern Bruce Peninsula	3,850	3,625	3,950	3,950
Saugeen Shores	11,207	11,207	11,207	11,207
South Bruce	5,974	6,116	5,685	5,675
South Bruce Peninsula	7,285	7,285	7,285	7,285
Total	61,582	61,119	61,013	61,664
Grey County				
Chatsworth	5,983	6,420	6,420	7,000
Georgian Bluffs	11,257	10,404	10,404	10,404
Grey Highlands	8,383	9,520	9,520	8,198
Hanover	7,100	7,490	7,490	7,490
Meaford	9,941	9,941	9,941	9,941
Owen Sound	19,306	21,688	21,688	21,688
Southgate	6,907	7,000	7,000	6,188
Blue Mountains	6,116	6,453	6,453	6,453
West Grey	12,193	11,740	12,286	12,286
Total	87,186	90,656	91,202	89,648

* Population Counts are based on the Year Directory was published.

The most accurate municipal population numbers are produced by Statistics Canada based on the most recent census.

Census data is considered the official data record for the government. Since MPAC's information is collected and provided voluntary in nature to MPAC it has an impact on the accuracy of these numbers.

Therefore since the most accurate municipal population numbers are produced by Statistics Canada based on the most recent census, it is being recommended that the cost sharing of expenses of the Health Unit and Provincial Offences operations utilize the latest Statistics Canada population data and that this commence for the 2017 budget year upon the approval of the Grey and Bruce County Councils.

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology

Considerations

Utilizing the 2014 Municipal Directory population counts in conjunction with the 2015 Ministry Approved Budget for the Health Unit's mandatory programs and the 2015 approved Provincial Offences budget, as compared to Statistics Canada population counts, the total cost sharing impact would be a net decrease of \$22,953 to the County of Grey.

If the 2015 Municipal Directory population counts were utilized in conjunction with the 2015 Ministry Approved Budget for the Health Unit's mandatory programs and the 2015 approved Provincial Offences budget, as compared to Statistics Canada population counts, the total cost sharing impact would be a net decrease of \$8,456 to the County of Grey.

While Grey County will benefit by utilizing the current 2011 Statistics Canada population numbers, as compared to Bruce County, the recommendation is being made to help provide a more consistent and accurate number to the cost sharing calculation for these operations.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

Communications is a key value to the County's Strategic Plan. This report provides information to the Corporate Services Committee and to Council in regards to the cost sharing of expenses of the Health Unit and Provincial Offences operations based on population and the use of the yearly Municipal Directory.

Attachments

Attachment to FR-CS-12-16 Cost Sharing by Population - Grey Burce Health Unit and Provincial Offences - Financial Impact Comparison

Respectfully submitted by,

Kevin Wepler
Director of Finance