



Council Minutes

November 24, 2016

Bruce County Council and Grey County Council met at the call of the Warden on the above date at 10:00 AM at the Elmwood Community Centre. The meeting was called to order by Warden Alan Barfoot who Chaired the meeting in the absence of Bruce County Warden Mitch Twolan.

All Bruce County Councillors present with regrets received from Warden Mitch Twolan.

All Grey County Councillors present except Councillors John McKean and Paul McQueen.

Various staff from both Counties were in attendance for the meeting.

Introductions around the table were then made.

Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Paterson Seconded by: Councillor Smith

THAT the Joint County Council agenda dated November 24, 2016 be adopted as presented.

Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Discussion Items

Grey Bruce Public Health Unit

Healthy Communities Initiative Update

Lynda Bumstead, Jason Wepler and Amber Schieck from the Grey Bruce Public Health Unit provided an update on the Healthy Community Initiatives. Ms. Schieck spoke to the three components of healthy communities which include the built environment, natural environment and social environment. She identified an initiative of including health in the development of all policies.

Mr. Wepler then provided some local examples of healthy initiatives including the Above Standard Housing Policies, Breastfeeding Friendly Communities, Alcohol Outlet Density Mapping, transportation projects throughout both counties and the Community Conversations Project.

Ms. Bumstead provided an overview of the next steps which include the collaboration to identify and develop local rural solutions, integrate a health lens into policy development and to develop indicators to measure the collective impact.

Questions and comments then followed. Topics included screen time for children, alcohol advertising, impact of the provincial government's potential implementation of a living wage policy and its effect on healthy communities, healthy lunches in the school system, legalization of marijuana and official plan reviews.

Rural Schools

Bluewater District School Board-Joint Communications regarding Accommodation Review Committee

Bruce County CAO Kelley Coulter provided an update on Bruce County's process to have a third party undertake a peer review of the Watson Report within the context of the current Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) process and the effects on potential rural school closures in the area.

Questions and comments then followed related to:

- the potential for new information that is not included in the Watson report
- the advantages of a peer review
- forecasted growth within communities
- looking at rural schools as an individual rather than as part of the entire region
- the results of the recent ARC review of Owen Sound schools

- upcoming delegation at Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) on behalf of the Community School Alliance to discuss the ARC process related to the rural school formula
- cost sharing the peer review of the Watson report with Grey County
- broader use of schools for community use
- timeframe for completion of the peer review.

Moved by: Councillor Boddy

Seconded by: Councillor Eadie

Whereas rural schools are integral to the future of rural communities;

And Whereas the councils of the Counties of Bruce and Grey are deeply concerned that the current process to consider rural school closures is not inclusive and the timelines do not provide for adequate community input;

And Whereas it's critical that continued student achievement and well-being form part of reviews of schools;

Be It Resolved that the Councils of Bruce and Grey County urge the Minister of Education to rewrite the Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG) to take into consideration community and economic value considerations of rural communities and provide for a more democratic process;

And that until such time as PARG is rewritten that the Province place a moratorium on any more rural school closures;

And that this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, Minister of Education, MPPs Bill Walker, Jim Wilson and Lisa Thompson, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Western Ontario Warden's Caucus and the counties and regions of Ontario.

Carried

Equitable Education Funding

Discussion occurred on the inequitable funding for programming to individual schools. The Municipality of Meaford has circulated a resolution to other municipalities for consideration of support. There is a lack of opportunities for students in the rural schools due to the inequity of funding throughout the province. Currently, many rural students need to go on-line to complete a basic course in order to graduate high school.

Economic Development

Opportunities for Shared Initiatives

Economic Development and Innovation-Bruce Power Regional Project

Kara Van Myall, Manager of Corporate Policy and Economic Development, Bruce County and Stellina Williams, Business Investment Specialist, Energy Sector provided an update on the Economic Development Innovation-Bruce Power regional project. Ms. Van Myall spoke to the recently adopted Bruce County Economic Development Strategy. She noted that it is based on a collaborative approach between local leaders and local business owners. Long-term goals were also outlined including growth and business retention.

Ms. Williams spoke specifically to the nuclear investment strategy with Bruce Power. The initiative was launched in September 2016 with an Advisory Committee being established. There was a review of current initiatives and supplier interest when investing in the communities. Ms. Williams noted there is continuing work with the Advisory Committee. The next steps and timelines were then identified.

Western Ontario Warden's Caucus Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan

Grey County CAO Kim Wingrove provided an update on the initiative of the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus regarding the development of an economic development action plan for southwestern Ontario. An Advisory Committee has been formed and a Request For Proposal was released with MDB Insight as the successful consultant for the project. She provided an outline of the opportunities available for input into the plan.

Council recessed and reconvened with Warden Barfoot in the Chair.

Economic Development Continued

Tourism development-maps, cycling

Grey County Director of Transportation Services, Pat Hoy spoke about the Province-Wide Cycling Network. He noted that Grey County is also developing a cycling network. He provided a map to the members that outlined the proposed options for cycling routes which includes a large number of trails. The Ministry of Transportation is now looking for feedback on the proposed options including barriers and tourist spots for the cycling routes. At this time, there has been no indication of funding coming from the Province to assist in the implementation of the proposed cycling routes.

Questions and comments then followed.

Bruce County Director of Planning and Development Chris LaForest spoke to the sharing of data between the counties. He noted that the Grey Bruce Map has not been produced in the past few years as Bruce County has been working on leveraging the partnership with RTO7 to bring tourism to the region. He noted that it would be beneficial to have a Bruce Grey Simcoe Map funded by RTO7 and will take this issue forward to RTO7. He spoke to the numerous projects that have been a partnership between the counties including two successful Ride Grey Bruce maps.

Emergency Services Review Final Report

Presentation of Key Findings

Grey County Director of Paramedic Services Mike Muir, and Acting Director of Paramedic Services, Bruce County Ray Lux, provided an overview of the recently completed Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Review to look at the option of shared services. Mr. Muir noted some key points within the review including the comparable provision of services, response times, and lean administration. There was substantial peer review completed which noted that both counties are very representative with other EMS service providers in the province.

Mr. Lux outlined the financial component identified within the review. He noted that areas such as fleet maintenance and shared training are currently being explored.

Good News and Celebrations

Warden Barfoot provided an update on the Alvanley intersection.

Thanks were provided to all members in appreciation of the opportunity for the joint council session.

It was requested that the Scone intersection be discussed by both councils in the future.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillor Burley, Council adjourned at 1:15 PM to the call of the Warden.

Council closed with the singing of O Canada.

Alan Barfoot, Warden, Grey County

Sharon Vokes, County Clerk, Grey County

Bettyanne Cobean, Director of
Corporate Services, Bruce County