
2015 Warden's Forum

May 7, 2015, 4:10 p.m.

Elmwood Community Centre

Present: Warden Kevin Eccles, Ian Duff, Councillors Paul McQueen, Stewart Haliday, Ian Boddy, Alan Barfoot, Dwight Burley, Jim Frew, Harley Greenfiled, Barb Clumpus, Selwyn Hicks, Scott Mackey, Sue Paterson, John McKean, Cathy Little, Liz Thompson, Lynne Silverton, Anna Marie Fosbrooke, Peggy Arris, Carol Barfoot, Barbara Dobreen, Arlene Wright, John McGee, Peter Hambly, Carol Lawrence, Hazel Pratt-Paige, John Bell; Staff members Larry Adams, Philly Markowitz, Sharon Vokes, Heather Morrison, Grant McLevy, Barb Fedy, Don Tedford, Rob Hatten, Anne Marie Shaw, Meredith Bowers, Wayne Ritchie, Kevin Weppler, Mike Kelly, Bryan Plumstead, Dennise Morrisey, Geoff Hogan, Randy Scherzer, Troy Speck, Reg Russworm, Jim Ellis, Holly Morrison, Dave Milliner, Raylene Martell, Christine Gordon, Savanna Schaus, Sue Carleton, Rob Armstrong, Stephen Murray, Reg Russworm and Penny Colton – Recording Secretary

Opening Remarks

Warden Eccles welcomed everyone to the meeting. Warden Eccles introduced Mr. Ian Duff of McSweeney and Associates.

Municipal Council's Roles and Responsibilities in Economic Development

Mr. Duff provided a presentation on the roles of municipal elected officials and staff in economic development.

Mr. Duff's key message advised that elected officials and staff must work hard to make an environment where businesses can thrive. Businesses generate jobs and taxes; elected officials can help provide leadership, and staff will work to eliminate barriers to growth. Be supportive of your neighbours, economic development will flourish with open borders and working together. Communication with all parties is essential; public, municipalities and businesses.

Sustainability is the key pillar of the community. How sustainable is your community? When industry does not thrive, the community will not survive.

There are three elements required to build an economic development strategic plan;

1. Data gathering – understanding, data, assets, maps
2. Strategize – understanding strengths and where community wants to go. This is the key role for municipal leaders.
3. Put the plan into action – implementation.

Following the presentation there was an opportunity for the group to ask questions

Councillor Wright – who should be on an economic development committee?

Mr. Duff explained that personality is key, someone who is knowledgeable in your economy and business community and you can work with, a good blend of community and political leaders. He indicated that political leaders can be intimidating to community, cautioned to be careful. It's all about keeping up the energy.

Communicate your aspirations around your community. Keep reinforcing the message. You need to be prepared, communicate vision to planners and staff to make sure regulations will allow the development you want, and also the proper regulations for the type of development you don't want. Your message needs to be clear, and be very aware of your message.

Councillor Fosbrooke – requested examples of taking risks

Mr. Duff – an example would be taking a risk with an investor to move forward in a process, finding another answer other rather than no.

Strategies need to be doable in order to work. Staff and council need to come together to make it work.

Larry Adams – What are some of the tricks of the trade on how to get people to work together?

Mr. Duff – patience and perseverance and kicking and screaming, need to make some tough decisions on who you can work with. Keep your actions small and tight. Pick something that is achievable that can be made to work. Get to know each other on a personal level.
Elected Officials – Ask positive questions, if you don't understand

the project staff are presenting, ask them to explain so you do understand.

Don Tedford – what are some examples of negotiations that are available to improve system?

Mr. Duff – you need realistic development charges. If developer can't sufficiently support their own ways, you may not want them. Don't give them the land; defer costs. Communities that are collecting fees and spending them to improve their community are further ahead. Be very strategic in how you would reduce your fees. Hold the line on development for the vision you have, as the first development will determine the remaining development. Be strategic in how you develop your fees.

Denyse Morrissey – Development Charges collection is necessary to pay for future growth. Growth should not be on the backs of the tax payers.

Mr. Duff – staff are your ambassadors of your economic plan.

Warden Eccles – our regulations are not barriers, they should be goals to get the project to move forward; communication is key.

South West Integrated Fibre Technology Update

Mr. Hogan provided an update on the recent activities and accomplishments of the steering committee. He also provided a presentation advising of what broadband means for all residents and businesses in southwestern Ontario. A more thorough presentation is attached.

Transportation Master Plan Update

Randy Scherzer provided an update on the process and comments to date from various resources including public meetings and municipal comments. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Municipal Roundtable Item

Chatsworth – Councillor Mackey – building permits are up from previous years. Personally he is supportive of the Transportation Master Plan and stated the road rationalization plan has merit. He suggested the County hire a Bridge Engineer for all municipalities to work with.

Georgian Bluffs – Councillor Barfoot – highlighted the significant turn over in councils, and recommends not rushing the Transportation Master Plan through, it is a huge project, needs to be done right.

Grey Highlands – Councillor McQueen – council is busy, moving into priority setting. Eager to work with Grey County on the Economic Development plan for the county.

Hanover – Councillor Paterson- advised that the new Youth and Tech Centre will be opening in the former Ford dealership on main street. She also advised of two new subdivisions, new roads, and advised Hanover is open to connecting links.

Meaford – Councillor Clumpus – Meaford council has had an extremely busy five months. Working on priority setting and team building exercises. Excited about the Economic Development plan and moving forward with Grey County. New builds and resale are up.

Owen Sound – Councillor Boddy – encouraged at the County's work on Economic Development.

Southgate – Councillor Fosbrooke – advised that roads were identified in Southgate's Community Action plan, and looking at how to manage the potential new growth.

The Blue Mountains– Councillor McKean – advised that the municipality had received the Silver Award for the Share the Road, Bicycle Friendly Community Awards. Thanked neighbouring municipalities for participating and coordination of the event. Building permits are up again this year. Looking forward to working with the County on the Transportation Master Plan and also advised there are new wineries coming into the area.

West Grey – Warden Eccles – advised of upcoming staffing challenges and appreciates working with Grey Highlands to resolve and partnering.

Warden thanked staff of Grey County for support tonight.

Adjourned 8:10 P.M.

Attachments:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B9bR_QGFs7UQeW1jMkoxV1hEQkE&authuser=0

[Wardens Forum Presentation - Transportation Master Plan Update](#)