



Committee Minutes

Grey County – The Blue Mountains Task Force

September 19, 2019 – 2:30 PM

The Task Force met on the above date at the Grey County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

Present: Grey County Warden Selwyn Hicks; Grey County Councillors Ian Boddy, and Shirley Keaveney; The Blue Mountains Mayor Alar Soever, Deputy Mayor Odette Bartnicki, and Councillor Rob Sampson

Regrets: Councillor Paul McQueen

Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Grey County Chief Administrative Officer; Shawn Everitt, Town of the Blue Mountains Chief Administrative Officer; Heather Morrison, Clerk; Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk/ Legislative Coordinator;

Call to Order

Warden Hicks called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Adoption of Minutes

TBM03-19 Moved by: Councillor Keaveney Seconded by: Councillor Sampson

That the Grey County – The Blue Mountains Task Force minutes dated June 20, 2019 be adopted as presented.

Carried

Items for Direction and Discussion

Update on Grey County Services and Funding in the Blue Mountains

Kim Wingrove reviewed the updated document on Grey County services and funding in the Blue Mountains. Ms. Wingrove spoke to the projects, activities and improvements made in the Municipality in Transportation Services, Social Services, Housing and Children's Services, Planning and Development, Information Technology and Paramedic Services.

It was noted that staff try to take advantage of efficiencies and economies of scale where there are opportunities to do so.

Councillor Soever requested that the Town of the Blue Mountains staff be provided with access to necessary information from Grey County in order to undertake an assessment and break down of the sources of Grey County's funds and spending. Development charges, taxation and grants, among other sources would be the focus of the assessment. Statistics Canada notes that income in the Town of the Blue Mountains is the highest of all the Grey County municipalities. Councillor Soever then provided a breakdown on the amount of tax dollars that are flowed to the County from the Blue Mountains and noted that the Town's ability to provide services is being impacted by the amount of taxation that is dispersed elsewhere.

It is important to highlight what services are concentrated in the Blue Mountains, such as Paramedic Services and Tourism.

Discussion occurred on the child care shortage. There are licensed spaces available, but there is difficulty with opening those spaces because of a shortage of Early Childhood Educators. The County is working with the local colleges towards providing more childcare educators in the area.

Changes in regulations from the government have contributed to a significant decline in the number of home daycare providers.

There was an inquiry surrounding timelines for reviewing the property assessment system. Staff will follow up on this item.

Councillor Boddy spoke to the services and the contributions the City makes, including the full cost of security services to the provincial court which services all of Grey County.

Community Improvement Plan Update

Kim Wingrove provided additional background information on the Community Improvement Plan (CIP). It was noted that it is difficult to speak to any results of the

program at this point, as it was just recently implemented and has not been adopted by all member municipalities.

Without the CIP in place, the County can't offer any incentives to the development community as that would be considered bonusing.

Staff encourage the lower tiers to update or create their respective CIPs. The Municipality of Grey Highlands is the only one that has used the County's template to create a CIP.

The concern from the Town of the Blue Mountains is not with the CIP, but rather with how the grant was administered. The Town would prefer to keep the portion of the funds they have contributed for the CIP and administer them to maximize the benefit locally.

It was noted that the program will be evaluated in the future once the plans have been implemented.

Co-Funding for the Blue Mountains Attainable Housing

Councillor Sampson provided information on the Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation. The Corporation was established in 2014 with the goal of facilitating the supply of healthy, attainable and sustainable rental and ownership housing units and to create more housing opportunities for those living in the Blue Mountains.

The Corporation has recently had its business plan approved by the Board. The Plan has been modeled after Whistler's Housing Corporation.

Councillor Sampson outlined the short and medium term goals for the organization, as well as targeted attainable rent levels.

The Corporation has initiated the process to go to market for information on how to achieve the targets. There is currently no Chief Executive Officer for the Corporation. The Housing Corporation would technically own the housing stock, as this is the only way to mitigate rate increases, etc.

Councillor Boddy left the meeting at this time.

It was noted that the Corporation will be bringing forward a future request to Grey County to contribute to the project. Contributions may include surplus land, assisting with new site acquisitions, the waiving of development fees and accelerating any approvals. Other contributions will be discussed as well.

Other Business

A matter was raised regarding conflicting issues of enforcement surrounding the Forestry By-law. The hope is that the County and the Town can be consistent with their philosophy when it comes to how contraventions are dealt with.

Ms. Wingrove noted that more conversations need to happen to ensure that both the municipalities are on the same page.

Next Meeting Dates

To be determined.

On motion by Councillors Sampson and Bartnicki, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Warden Selwyn Hicks, Chair