

Corporate Services Committee

January 14, 2014 – 10:00 AM

The Corporate Services Committee met on the above date at the County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

Present: Vice Chair Harley Greenfield; Councillors Dwight Burley, Wayne Fitzgerald, Bob White, Arlene Wright, Ellen Anderson and Kevin Eccles; and Councillor Terry McKay on behalf of Councillor Bob Pringle

Regrets: Chair Bob Pringle, Councillor Norman Jack and Warden Brian Milne

Staff

Present: Lance Thurston, Chief Administrative Officer; Sharon Vokes, County Clerk / Director of Council Services; Kevin Weppler, Director of Finance; Grant McLevy, Director of Human Resources; Rod Wyatt, Director of Housing; Geoff Hogan, Director of Information Technology; Sandra Shipley, Human Resources Manager; Doug Johnstone, Financial Analyst and Tara Warder, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Vice Chair Greenfield called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There was none.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Corporate Services Committee minutes dated December 10, 2013

These minutes are for information only as they were adopted as presented by Grey County Council on January 9, 2014.

Reports – Finance

FR-CS-12-14 Tax Policy Items

Kevin Wepler presented the above report to establish the 2014 tax policies, noting that staff recommend the policies remain unchanged from 2013. Mr. Wepler provided details on each of the policies and how they determine the distribution of tax burdens across property classes.

The Committee discussed the City of Owen Sound's tax ratios as well as farm tax ratios and revenue neutral tax rates.

Mr. Wepler stated that the 2014 tax rate by-law will be prepared based on the returned roll. The actual 2014 tax rate increase will be 1.21% as the assessment growth was slightly less than anticipated.

CS11-14 Moved by: Councillor White Seconded by: Councillor Eccles

WHEREAS the County of Grey has in place established tax policies;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report FR-CS-12-14 regarding 2014 property tax policies be received;

AND THAT the 2014 tax policies remain the same for 2014 for:

- Tax Ratios
- Tax Reductions for Mandated Subclasses of Vacant Lands
- Tax Reductions for Farmland Awaiting Development Subclasses
- Lower Limit for New Construction Properties
- Optional Classes of Property
- Tax Capping

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

Carried

Reports - Clerk

CCR-CS-04-14 Request for Financial Support for Legion Military Service Recognition Book

Sharon Vokes addressed the Committee on the above report, recommending that the

County not purchase an advertisement in the Military Service Recognition Book on the basis that the County undertakes many efforts to support military history and provides property tax relief to legions. Mrs. Vokes noted that it is difficult to choose between the various worthy causes.

The Committee discussed the merits of purchasing an advertisement as well as the amount of support that exists through various programming.

CS12-14 Moved by: Councillor Wright Seconded by: Councillor Eccles

WHEREAS the Township of Chatsworth has requested that the County of Grey consider a request to fund an advertisement in a Military Service Recognition Book being developed by the Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command;

AND WHEREAS the funds will support printing of the book with any additional funds to go towards legion initiatives and assisting the branches to remain viable community partners;

AND WHEREAS the County of Grey through programming and collections at Grey Roots ensures that the importance of veterans, and in particular the stories relevant to Grey County are preserved and celebrated;

AND WHEREAS the County of Grey currently supports legions within the County through property tax rebates;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report CCR-CS-04-14 be received;

AND THAT the County of Grey not purchase an advertisement in the Military Service Recognition Book being developed by the Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command.

Carried

Reports – Human Resources

HRR-CS-01-14 Group Benefit Insurance Renewal

Sandra Shipley presented the above report, recommending that the insurance policies with AIG Commercial Insurance and Sun Life Financial be renewed.

Mrs. Shipley noted that the increases are for long term disability, basic life and short term disability. There is no increases to accidental death and dismemberment.

CS13-14 Moved by: Councillor Burley Seconded by: Councillor McKay

THAT Report HRR-CS-01-14 regarding the 2014 Employee Group Benefit Insurance Renewal be received;

AND THAT the insurance policies with AIG Commercial Insurance and Sun Life Financial be renewed for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2014.

Carried

HRR-CS-02-14 2014 Workplace Safety Insurance Board Insurance Coverage Renewal

Sandra Shipley addressed the Committee on the above report regarding Workplace Safety Insurance Board insurance coverage renewal, noting that two levels of insurance exist, both with Chubb Insurance Company. The first is occupational accident insurance which covers work related death and permanent disability up to \$500,000. The second is excess indemnity, covering expenses exceeding \$500,000.

The increase in premiums has been accounted for in the 2014 budget.

CS14-14 Moved by: Councillor White Seconded by: Councillor Anderson

THAT Report HRR-CS-02-14 regarding Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB) insurance be received;

AND THAT the following insurance policies through Jardine Lloyd Thompson of Canada be approved for 2014:

- **Chubb Insurance Company for occupational accident insurance at a premium of \$74,014.56 including provincial sales tax, and**
- **Chubb Insurance Company for excess indemnity at a premium of \$153,856.80 including provincial sales tax.**

Carried

Closed Meeting Matters

There were none.

Correspondence

*Municipality of East Ferris – 2013 Small, Rural and Northern Municipal
Infrastructure Fund*

The Committee considered the above correspondence.

CS15-14 Moved by: Councillor Eccles Seconded by: Councillor Wright

THAT the correspondence from the Municipality of East Ferris regarding the distribution of the 2013 Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund be supported;

AND THAT a letter of support be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Minister of Rural Affairs, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Transportation and the Ontario Good Roads Association.

Carried

Grey Bruce Health Services – Support for the Hospital Campaign

CS16-14 Moved by: Councillor McKay Seconded by: Councillor Burley

THAT the correspondence received from Grey Bruce Health Services regarding the County of Grey's support for the Hospital Campaign be received for information.

Carried

*Collingwood General and Marine Hospital – Request for Letter of
Support for Funding from the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)*

Collingwood General and Marine hospital is requesting a letter of support for its request to the Local Health Integration Network for funding to move the hospital redevelopment project forward.

CS17-14 Moved by: Councillor Anderson Seconded by: Councillor Fitzgerald

THAT the County of Grey send a letter of support to the Collingwood General and Marine Hospital for its request to the Local Health Integration Network for funding in order to proceed with the redevelopment of the Collingwood General and Marine hospital.

Carried

Township of Mulmur – Prior Years' Assessing of Properties

The Committee considered the above correspondence.

CS18-14 Moved by: Councillor White Seconded by: Councillor Burley

THAT the correspondence from the Township of Mulmur regarding the prior year's assessing of properties be received for information.

Carried

Other Business

CS19-14 Moved by: Councillor Eccles Seconded by: Councillor Fitzgerald

THAT a delegation request be submitted for the Warden and appropriate members to speak with the Ministry of Finance at the upcoming Ontario Good Roads Association conference regarding the need for the Province to implement legislative changes requiring the use of revenue neutral tax rates so residents are informed of actual budget changes.

Carried

Councillor Anderson addressed the Committee on the issue of perceived lack of value of services provided by the County compared to the amount of tax revenue generated by individual lower tier municipalities. She noted that the issue has been raised by some residents in the Town of the Blue Mountains. Ms. Anderson inquired on whether there would be interest in seeking to have county data separated and reported on by municipality and whether the capacity exists to proceed with a data program that can measure this information.

Discussion ensued where it was noted that for many of the County's services it would be difficult or impossible to separate data by individual municipalities.

Geoff Hogan gave an overview of what would be required in the re-engineering of the County's systems. He also noted that the County is tied in with provincial systems for services such as Ontario Works and the County has no ability to change provincial systems.

Mr. Weppler indicated that 47% of the levy is related to social costs and that it would be difficult to subjectively and accurately present this information.

Lance Thurston noted the importance of communicating the services that Grey County provides to the public.

CS20-14 Moved by: Councillor Anderson Seconded by: Councillor Eccles

THAT due to the lack of staffing, the volume of research, and the need to purchase additional software, the County of Grey not proceed with the purchase/development of a software program demonstrating how services and tax dollars are distributed within Grey County.

Carried

Next Meeting Dates

February 11, 2014 at the Grey County Administration Building

On motion by Councillor Anderson, the meeting adjourned at 11:41 AM.

Harley Greenfield, Vice Chair