



Committee Report

To:	Warden McQueen and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	February 13, 2020
Subject / Report No:	CAOR-CW-02-20
Title:	Blue Mountain Taskforce Review and Direction
Prepared by:	Kim Wingrove and Heather Morrison
Reviewed by:	
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	Town of the Blue Mountains
Status:	

Recommendation

- 1. That Report CAOR-CW-02-20 regarding the future of the Grey County – The Blue Mountains Task Force be received; and**
- 2. That Council support the 2020 workplan as outlined; and**
- 3. That the Taskforce be concluded and future issues and requests from the Town of the Blue Mountains, be brought to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.**

Executive Summary

The Grey County-Blue Mountains Task Force was established in 2017. It was struck in response to a request from the Town of the Blue Mountains to find solutions to resolve existing disagreement between the Town and the County regarding the Town's share of the County's annual levy. While the ability to make changes to the apportionment of the levy or implementation of tax capping at a municipality level was confirmed to be a provincial matter, other items of shared interest have been addressed to date.

Recently, potential taskforce agenda items have been deemed to be more appropriately brought to the Committee of the Whole, as they are of interest to all member municipalities. At the December 12, 2019 meeting, a motion was supported requesting a staff report on the future of the Task Force.

Background and Discussion

At the meeting held December 12, 2019, Grey County Committee of the Whole passed a resolution that requested staff bring forward a staff report in early 2020 regarding the future of the Grey County – Blue Mountains Task Force, and appointed Councillors Keaveney, Desai, Mackey and the Warden to the Task Force for 2020.

This joint task force between Grey County and the Town of the Blue Mountains was established in 2017 as per report [CAOR-CW-08-17](#) and resolution CW-63-17 which stated “That staff be directed to work with the Town of the Blue Mountains to develop a terms of reference for a Task Force comprised of elected officials and staff to have dialogue which examines issues”.

To date, the Task Force has met approximately 9 times. The Warden and Mayor of the Blue Mountains alternate Chairing the meetings.

Subjects, Discussions and Resolutions to Date

Subdivision Approvals	Staff provided information regarding the current practices and status quo was supported by the Task Force
Paved Shoulders	Transportation Services paves all shoulders when construction is completed on County roads within the Blue Mountains
Grey County Services in The Blue Mountains	Service summary document prepared and reviewed Grey County Services in The Blue Mountains
Weighted Votes at Grey County	Provided rationale for weighted votes based on County of Grey Act
Forest Management By-law	Discussion referred to Grey County Council. County By-law is currently being updated
Grey County Community Improvement Plan Value for Money assessment	Program to be evaluated after first year
Closure of Simcoe Road 91	Various letters sent from Grey County Council not supporting the closure
Drainage issues on Grey Roads 19 and 21	Both the Town and County received National Disaster Mitigation funding to collect elevation data to identify best practices to mitigate stormwater management/drainage risks
Physician Recruitment and Support for Collingwood GMH Hospital Funding	Health Care Funding Task Force established in 2019 Health Care Funding Task Force Terms of Reference

Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) billing	Confirmed billing is as governed by the Assessment Act. MPAC attended a County Council meeting to provide updated information on its role and assessment practices
Affordable Community Transportation	County undertook significant advocacy work to secure funding for community transportation along Highway 26 servicing Blue Mountains with an anticipated commencement in 2020.
Directing Development Charges collected from the Blue Mountains to projects in the Blue Mountains	Staff confirmed the process for collection of development charges

2020 Grey-TBM Workplan

Joint initiatives proposed to be undertaken this year include:

- Grey providing financial support to The Blue Mountains attainable housing project via 2019 Blue Mountains supplemental assessment and \$20,000 under the Community Improvement Plan
- Completion of a drainage master plan by the Town, County and Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
- Collaboration with Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Niagara Escarpment Commission, Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry in review of Tree Preservation/Tree Cutting By-law(s)
- Advocacy with the MTO regarding the completion of a highway 26 transportation sub-master plan
- Collaboration in the development of the 2020 Transportation Master Plan that is being initiated The Blue Mountains
- Collaboration with The Blue Mountains, Collingwood, Simcoe and Blue Mountain Resort on the completion of the planning work for the roundabout at Grey Road 19 and Simcoe Road 21.

Moving Discussions to Committee of the Whole

By definition, a taskforce is a temporary arrangement struck to deal with an issue. Over the past three years, the taskforce members have had meaningful discussions on many items, however the question of fairness continues to be raised by some groups and individuals. Moving any future negotiations toward successful resolution will require an agreement among the parties. Bringing matters to the Committee of the Whole would facilitate this process by providing the opportunity for all of Grey County Council to

participate in the discussion, thereby building understanding and awareness among all parties.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

None with this report.

Financial and Resource Implications

Staff time, mileage and per diems are required for meetings scheduled outside of regularly scheduled County meetings. Staff continue to accommodate meetings on days when most councillors are in the office already to alleviate extra costs.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal – Grey County senior management
- External – Shawn Everitt, CAO, The Blue Mountains

Appendices and Attachments

[CAOR-CW-08-17 – Grey County / The Blue Mountains Task Force Terms of Reference](#)
[Terms of Reference](#)