

Committee of the Whole

May 14, 2020

Grey County Council met on the above date at 9:58 AM through electronic means. Warden Paul McQueen assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order with all members present.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Business Arising From the Minutes

Main Motion

Moved by: Councillor Desai

Seconded by: Councillor Burley

Whereas the Township of Mapleton has passed a resolution requesting that the Province conduct a review of the Farm Property Tax Class Rate Program to determine

- i. the appropriateness of the burden of cost**
- ii. the adequacy of funding being provided to rural municipalities to offset the costs of the program**
- iii. economic competitiveness concerns between rural and urban residents**
- iv. other methods to deliver the program resulting in the cost being shared by all Ontario taxpayers;**

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the County of Grey support the resolution from the Township of Mapleton requesting the Province to conduct a review of the structure of the Farm Property Tax Class Rate Program; and

That staff be directed to forward this resolution to:

- Minister Ernie Hardeman - Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs**
- Bruce – Grey – Owen Sound MPP Bill Walker**
- Simcoe – Grey MPP Jim Wilson**
- Huron - Bruce MPP Lisa Thompson**

prior to County Council's endorsement as per Section 25.6 of Procedural By-law 5003-18.

Moved by: Councillor Robinson Seconded by: Councillor Hutchinson

That the motion be deferred until the May 28th, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting in order for the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Grey County Federation of Agriculture to consider the resolution in order to provide a stakeholder perspective on the Farm Property Tax Class Rate Program.

Councillor Robinson withdrew the above motion.

Amendment

CW83-20 Moved by: Councillor Desai Seconded by: Councillor Burley

That the motion be amended to include that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Grey County Federation of Agriculture, the National Farmers Union and the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario be circulated on the resolution.

Carried

Main Motion as Amended

CW84-20 Moved by: Councillor Desai Seconded by: Councillor Burley

Whereas the Township of Mapleton has passed a resolution requesting that the Province conduct a review of the Farm Property Tax Class Rate Program to determine

- **the appropriateness of the burden of cost**
- **the adequacy of funding being provided to rural municipalities to offset the costs of the program**
- **economic competitiveness concerns between rural and urban residents**
- **other methods to deliver the program resulting in the cost being shared by all Ontario taxpayers;**

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the County of Grey support the resolution from the Township of Mapleton requesting the Province to conduct a review of the structure of the Farm Property Tax Class Rate Program; and

That staff be directed to forward this resolution to:

- **Minister Ernie Hardeman - Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs**
- **Bruce – Grey – Owen Sound MPP Bill Walker**
- **Simcoe – Grey MPP Jim Wilson**
- **Huron - Bruce MPP Lisa Thompson**

prior to County Council's endorsement as per Section 25.6 of Procedural By-law 5003-18; and

That the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Grey County Federation of

Agriculture, the National Farmers Union and the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario be circulated on the resolution.

Carried

Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

The following items were requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda and moved under Items for Discussion: f. and h.

Consent Agenda

CW85-20 Moved by: Councillor Paterson Seconded by: Councillor Carleton

That the following Consent Agenda items be received; and

That staff be authorized to take the actions necessary to give effect to the recommendations in the staff reports; and

That the correspondence be supported or received for information as recommended in the consent agenda.

- a. **That the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal List (LPAT) be received for information.**
- b. **That the correspondence from the Grey County Federation of Agriculture regarding the change in the farm property tax ratio be received for information.**
- c. **That the County of Grey supports the resolution from the Township of Armour regarding high speed internet connectivity in rural Ontario.**
- d. **That the County of Grey supports the resolution from the Municipality of Grey Highlands regarding data overage charges.**
- e. **That PDR-CW-20-20 regarding the Saugeen Cedar Heights East-Redline Revision – 42T-2018-09 be received, and**

That all written and oral submissions received on the proposed redline revisions to plan of subdivision 42T-2018-09 were considered which helped to make an informed recommendation and decision; and

That in consideration of the revised draft plan of subdivision 42T-2018-09, and the matters to have regard for under Subsection 51(24) of the Planning Act, the County of Grey Committee of the Whole hereby approves the revised plan of subdivision on lands described as Part of Lots 11, 12, 13, and 14, Concession 1 NDR, Town of Hanover, geographic Township of Bentinck.

- f. **That Report FR-CW-13-20 regarding the 2019 Investment Report be received for information.**

- g. **That Report PDR-CW-24-20 regarding the Elder Lane Agreement be received; and**

That the agreement with Township of Chatsworth for the purposes of allowing use of a portion of the County's CP Rail Trail as a temporary access for emergency service and Township of Chatsworth vehicles to facilitate a Township bridge construction project on Elder Lane be executed; and

That subject to the approval of the agreement by the Township of Chatsworth Council, a by-law to adopt the Agreement be prepared for consideration by County Council.

Carried

Items for Direction and Discussion

Councillor O'Leary left the meeting at 10:45 AM.

CAOR-CW-06-20 SWIFT Request for Loan Guarantee

CW86-20 Moved by: Councillor Keaveney Seconded by: Councillor Desai

That Report CAOR-CW-06-20 Request from SWIFT for Loan Guarantee be received; and

That in accordance with Section 25.6 of the Procedural By-law, Council direct the Warden and Clerk to sign the attached non-binding Letter of Intent (LOI) providing SWIFT (Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology Inc.) with Grey County's intent to guarantee the loan in amount of \$2,929,000 described in the LOI ahead of Council approval; and

That a by-law be brought forward for Council's consideration authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute the guarantee agreement and any other related documentation contemplated by the LOI or otherwise reasonably required in order to provide the guarantee described above provided that the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Legal Services – County Solicitor are satisfied that such documents are substantially in compliance with the terms of the LOI and are in a form acceptable to the County.

Carried

Committee recessed briefly, then reconvened.

HDR-CW-04-20 Social Services Relief Fund and COVID related Housing Initiatives

CW87-20 Moved by: Councillor Mackey Seconded by: Councillor Woodbury

That report HDR-CW-04-20 regarding an update on the Social Services Relief Funds and COVID 19 related housing initiatives be received for information.

Carried

PDR-CW-21-20 Overview of Planning Act Changes and Processing Applications During the Pandemic

CW88-20 Moved by: Councillor Mackey Seconded by: Councillor Hicks

That Report PDR-CW-21-20 be received which provides an overview of the recent changes to the Planning Act and the proposed process to be utilized to continue to review and process new or active planning applications during the Pandemic.

Carried

FR-CW-12-20 Lease Financing Report as of December 31, 2019

CW89-20 Moved by: Councillor Desai Seconded by: Councillor Carleton

That Report FR-CW-12-20 regarding the 2019 Lease Financing Report be received for information.

Carried

FR-CW-14-20 2019 Development Charges Reserve Fund Statement

CW90-20 Moved by: Councillor Robinson Seconded by: Councillor Burley

That Report FR-CW-14-20 regarding the 2019 Development Charges Reserve Fund Statement be received; and

That Council accepts the Treasurer's declaration that the County is in compliance with the reporting requirements of the *Development Charges Act, 1997* and any additional reporting requirements identified by the *Smart Growth for our Communities Act, 2015 (Bill 73)*; and

That Report FR-CW-14-20 and related attachments be made available on the County's website or upon request.

Carried

Closed Meeting Matters

CW91-20 Moved by: Councillor Burley Seconded by: Councillor Milne

That Committee of the Whole does now go into closed session pursuant to Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended to discuss:

- i. Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals affecting the municipality or local board (*Land claim*)**
- ii. Advice subject to solicitor – client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose (*Land claim*)**

That the following staff remain in attendance: Kim Wingrove, Heather Morrison, Michael Letourneau, Randy Scherzer, Kevin Weppler Rob Hatten and Tara Warder.

Carried

Council proceeded into closed session at 12:07 PM.

Council returned to open session at 12:40 PM.

The Warden confirmed that only the items stated in the resolution to move into closed session were discussed.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Notice of Motion

Councillor Robinson provided a notice of motion regarding Grey County advocating to the Provincial and Federal governments to improve and enhance broadband infrastructure in Grey County.

Councillor Soever provided a notice of motion regarding Grey County issuing a letter reminding all residents, full and part time, that we are in this pandemic together and to follow public health recommendations including social distancing and self-isolation rules.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillors Burley and Mackey, Committee of the Whole adjourned at 12:47 PM to the call of the Chair.

Paul McQueen, Warden

Heather Morrison, Clerk