

December 5, 2013

Sharon Vokes, Clerk
County of Grey
595 9th Avenue East
OWEN SOUND, ON N4K 3E3

Dear Sharon:

Re: Municipal Restructuring

The City of Owen Sound recently sent correspondence to the Honourable Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, inquiring as to whether the Ministry would be honouring its commitment made in 2001 to revisit discussions respecting municipal restructuring, including amalgamations. A copy of the City's letter to Minister Jeffrey is attached.

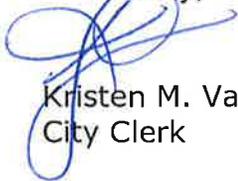
The City received a response from Minister Jeffrey on November 14, 2013 and discussed her response at the regular Council meeting held on Monday, December 2, 2013. Council also discussed the possibility of Grey County having an interest in opening discussions respecting municipal restructuring.

The following Resolution R-131202-006 was adopted:

"THAT City Council direct staff to send a letter to Grey County to inquire as to whether there is a willingness on their part to open discussions on municipal restructuring."

Please present this Resolution to County Council for their consideration and response. Reply correspondence can be directed to the undersigned.

Yours truly,



Kristen M. Van Alphen, B.A. (Hons.), LL.B., M.P.A.
City Clerk

kva/hw

The Office of The Mayor
Deborah Haswell
City Hall
808 2nd Avenue East
OWEN SOUND, ON N4K 2H4



Clerk's file

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September 3, 2013

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
TORONTO, ON M7A 1A1

The Honourable Linda Jeffrey
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
TORONTO, ON M5G 2E5

Dear Premier Wynne and Minister Jeffrey:

Re: 10-Year Review of Amalgamations in Ontario

During 2001 the Province of Ontario experienced numerous amalgamations of rural/urban Townships, Villages, Towns and Cities across the Province into bigger "one-stop-shopping" municipalities, with the intention of reducing the number of similar services provided by individual municipalities and thus reducing the cost of providing municipal services.

The Province made a commitment in 2001 that after 10 years the Province would review the amalgamations that took place. The Council of the City of Owen Sound adopted the following motion on August 26, 2013 with respect to this commitment:

"THAT City Council hereby directs staff to send a letter to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs reminding them of their commitment to conduct a review of amalgamations that took place in the Province in 2001."

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Please advise if a review of the impact on residents and municipalities affected by amalgamation in the Province is being considered in the near future, as per the Province's commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah A. Haswell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Deborah A. Haswell, Mayor

DAH:hw

Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing

Office of the Minister

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Your Worship
Mayor Deborah Haswell
City Hall
808 2nd Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4

Dear Mayor Haswell:

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding Owen Sound Council's motion on municipal amalgamations in 2001. I appreciate your interest in links between amalgamations and service provision and related costs.

Municipal restructuring, including amalgamation, is based on locally developed proposals and follows a process under the *Municipal Act, 2001* (sections 171 to 186). Municipalities submit a proposal with the majority support of local councils for implementation by Minister's order. I am aware that the same process was used in the late 1990s, although a Commissioner-developed proposal and order process was used for some municipalities.

Like all municipalities, those that have restructured have both broad and specific powers that enable them to address their concerns and make decisions that serve the needs of their community within their jurisdiction. For example, the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides that municipalities may pass by-laws regarding the governance structure of the municipality and local boards.

The decision to change municipal structures is a very complex undertaking. It is important that municipalities across the province are financially sustainable and capable of delivering services the public deserves.

Restructuring municipalities is not a priority for this government. Our government has a strong record of supporting and working with municipalities to modernize services and invest in infrastructure.

Once again, thank you for sharing this matter with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Jeffrey".

Linda Jeffrey
Minister