
Committee of the Whole

September 12, 2019

Grey County Council met on the above date at 11:12 AM at the County Administration Building. Warden Selwyn Hicks assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order with all members present except Councillors Aakash Desai and John Woodbury. Alternate Councillors Cathy Little and Barbara Dobreen were in attendance on behalf of Councillors Desai and Woodbury respectively. Alternate Councillor Ross Kentner was in attendance until Councillor Shirley Keaveney entered the meeting.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Consent Agenda

CW174-19 Moved by: Councillor Burley Seconded by: Councillor Milne

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.

- 1. That the Grey Bruce Health Service correspondence dated August 26, 2019 regarding support for Georgian College to offer the Bachelor of Science Nursing program in Owen Sound be received for information.**

Carried

Delegations

Janice Atwood-Petkovski, Principles Integrity – Code of Conduct

Janice Atwood-Petkovski from Principles Integrity addressed County Council on the proposed new Code of Conduct. The updated Code includes more clarity in the definition section and contains examples and commentary to guide members of Council. It was noted that the preferred method is informal resolution where possible. Formal complaints result in a public report to Council.

Ms. Atwood-Petkovski provided highlights on the Rules within the Code and further details on Avoidance of Conflicts of Interest and Media Communication.

She spoke to the practice of making transparency disclosures where members do not have a conflict of interest, but making the disclosure clarifies the matter for transparency purposes.

Conflicts of interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act are generally pecuniary in nature and include deemed and indirect conflicts. Examples of each of these were noted. Further discussion occurred on the common law recognition of conflicts of interest as well where a sibling or other close relationship may also create a conflict.

The rule on Media Communication speaks to accurately communicating decisions of Council even if a member disagrees.

Ms. Atwood-Petkovski outlined the Complaint Protocol.

Questions from Committee were addressed including those surrounding open and closed meeting provisions and how they are addressed under the Municipal Act and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

Ms. Atwood Petkovski spoke to the differences between a non-disqualifying interest involving an organization to which a member belongs, and a disqualifying interest which should be disclosed at the beginning of every meeting that the matter is considered.

Further discussion occurred on service clubs and the fact that the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act does not create an exemption for membership in a service club.

It was requested that the Committee and alternates participate in a workshop on the updated Code of Conduct if endorsed.

There was a question on Rule 15 regarding decisions at the upper tier that would impact the lower tier in a way that is not desired by the lower tier. It would be useful to have clarity around how to approach this situation. Ms. Petkovski noted that there could be a point of clarification in the commentary.

Items for Direction and Discussion

CCR-CW-17-19 Updated Code of Conduct for Council Members

CC77-19 on September 26, 2019 deferred Resolution CW175-19 as follows:

That Resolution CW175-19 regarding endorsement of the Code of Conduct, be deferred until such time as Council has received training on the Code.

CW175-19 Moved by: Councillor O'Leary Seconded by: Councillor Boddy

That Report CCR-CW-17-19 regarding the updated Code of Conduct for Members of Council be received; and

That the updated Code of Conduct for Grey County Council be endorsed, and a by-law be brought forward for Council's consideration.

Carried

Councillor Kentner then left the meeting.

Integrity Commissioner's Annual Report – January 1, 2018- August 31, 2019

CW176-19 Moved by: Councillor Bartnicki Seconded by: Councillor Milne

That the Integrity Commissioner's Annual Report for the period of January 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 be received for information.

Carried

Ed Voogt, Engine Brake Signs in Singhampton

Ed Voogt attended the Committee of the Whole meeting to speak to engine brake signage in Grey County. It was noted that his understanding of why engine brake signs were removed was because of insurance purposes. Mr. Voogt would like to see this signage return to the roadways in Grey County.

Mr. Hoy noted that engine brake signs are not a regulatory warning sign in the Ontario Traffic Manual and are not enforceable. There is a cost to maintain the signs and it is difficult for Grey County to dictate how a driver uses their brakes.

Mr. Voogt would like the signage back as a courtesy, understanding that it is not enforceable.

Staff noted that enforcing noise by-laws are another tool to assist with noise and that problems with engine brake noise on modern trucks is often a result of modifications to the exhaust.

It was recommended that a trial be undertaken in Singhampton, as it may be considered to be a unique circumstance.

CAOR-CW-12-19 Enhanced Fire Communications Report and Recommendations

CW177-19 Moved by: Councillor O'Leary Seconded by: Councillor Robinson

Councillor Keaveney entered the meeting at this point.

That Council receive report CAOR-CW-12-19 Enhanced Fire Communications Report and Recommendations; and

That the project proceeds to the RFP phase for Solution 3 as recommended in consultant's report; and

That staff be directed to extend the single-source contract with Dan Perlstein to support Phase Two of the project; and

That prior to any RFP award, staff bring back a report on project costing and resourcing for Council consideration.

Carried

The Committee recessed and reconvened.

LSR-CW-02-19 Legal Services Update

CW178-19 Moved by: Councillor Burley Seconded by: Councillor Mackey

That Report LSR-CW-02-19 which provides a legal services update be received for information.

Carried

TR-CW-20-19 Closure of Bicycle Lanes on Grey Roads By-law

CW179-19 Moved by: Councillor Boddy Seconded by: Councillor Robinson

That Report TR-CW-20-19 regarding the closure of bike lanes on Grey County Roads be received; and

That a By-Law to Authorize the Annual Closure of Bicycle Lanes on Roadways in the County of Grey from October 15th to April 15th be brought forward for Council's consideration.

Carried

PDR-CW-36-19 Town of the Blue Mountains Official Plan Short Term Accommodations

CC76-19 on September 26, 2019 amended CW180-19 as follows:

That Report PDR-CW-36-19 be received; and that the County hereby approves section B2.5 of the Town of the Blue Mountains Official Plan,

subject to the modifications attached to Report PDR-CW-38-19 as Schedule 1 dated September 12, 2019 including the insertion of Section B3.7.6.14.

CW180-19 Moved by: Councillor Keaveney Seconded by: Councillor Hutchinson

That Report PDR-CW-36-19 be received, and

That the County hereby approves sections B2.5 and B3.7.6.14 of the Town of The Blue Mountains Official Plan, subject to the following modifications attached to Report PRD-CW-36-19 as Schedule 1 dated September 12, 2019.

Carried

PDR-CW-38-19 Potential Appeal of B25.2019 – Grey Highlands

Moved by: Councillor Carleton Seconded by: Councillor Milne

That Report PDR-CW-38-19 be received which provides an overview of Consent Application B25.2019 in the Municipality of Grey Highlands; and

That staff be directed to continue the appeal of Consent Application B25.2019 as the conditional approval did not include the road widening as requested by County Transportation Services and therefore does not conform to the County Official Plan or the County's Sale and Acquisition of Land Policy and Procedure; and

That staff be directed to work with the Applicant and the Municipality to explore options for settling this matter without having to proceed to a Local Planning Appeals Tribunal Hearing if possible; and

That staff be authorized to proceed prior to County Council approval as per Section 25.6(b) of Procedural By-law 5003-18.

Staff noted that the Municipality of Grey Highlands Committee of Adjustment has since revised their decision and added in the condition that requires road widening to be provided on both the severed and retained parcels.

CW181-19 Moved by: Councillor Carleton Seconded by: Councillor Clumpus

That the above motion be withdrawn based on the road widening issue in Consent Application B25.2019 in the Municipality of Grey Highlands being resolved to the County's satisfaction.

Carried

Other Business

There was no other business.

Notice of Motion

Councillor Soever provided a notice of motion regarding encouraging lower tiers to maximize their supplementary assessments.

Councillor McQueen provided a notice of motion requesting staff to bring forward a report on opportunities to look at tiny homes, smaller lots sizes, and pocket developments to help achieve attainable housing.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillors Burley and Councillor Little, Committee of the Whole adjourned at 2:08 PM to the call of the Chair.

Selwyn Hicks, Warden

Heather Morrison, Clerk