
Special Meeting - Committee of the Whole

Strategic Planning Session

October 15, 2019

Grey County Committee of the Whole met on the above date at 8:58 AM at the Beaver Valley Ski Club, 100 Pioneer Drive, Markdale for a Strategic Planning Session. Warden Selwyn Hicks assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order with all members present, except Councillor Woodbury. Councillor Woodbury joined the meeting at 12:10 PM.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

CAO and Director Overview Discussion

Warden Hicks welcomed all councillors and staff in attendance. CAO Kim Wingrove provided an outline of the day's activities. She highlighted the current goals within the Strategic Plan. She outlined the questions to be considered during the breakout table discussions including the County's biggest challenges, changes or improvements to look at over the next 5 years as well as anything that has been missed from the current strategic plan that needs to be prioritized.

Ms. Wingrove indicated that healthy communities and people are an important factor to consider during the discussions today and key to a community's wellbeing. She spoke about the demand and supply of services that are provided by the County. Some of the factors that drive the supply and demand of services include our geography, household income, shelter and childcare costs, demographics and increasing addiction and mental health issues.

Grey County's assessment base is mainly residential, some farm, commercial and a limited industrial base. There are upcoming changes to funding based on provincial funding announcements in several areas. There are many areas that impact the supply of services including the shifting health care funding to property owners, construction regulations, rising construction prices, workforce and assessment management of infrastructure and the uncertainty of mandated services.

Ms. Wingrove spoke about the current financial picture for Grey County. She spoke about the County's current reserve level, the low debt level, aging infrastructure and the upcoming significant investment in long term care. She highlighted social housing opportunities and long-term care comparisons and financial impacts.

Ms. Wingrove spoke about the use of a balanced scorecard which highlights financial impacts, public goals, process goals, and people.

Committee of the Whole recessed briefly, then reconvened.

Breakout Sessions

Committee of the Whole reconvened in break out tables touching on three topics, being governance, healthy communities and economic development.

Committee of the Whole recessed and reconvened.

Review, Priority Setting, Next Steps

CAO Wingrove provided an overview of the discussions and key points that arose at each table regarding governance, healthy communities and economic development.

- Climate change/environmental lens was indicated as an important goal. There have been things that the County has done to assist with this.
- Vision and purpose - Kim reviewed these with the Committee and asked if they were still relevant. The general discussion was positive.
- Corporate values - leadership, teamwork, communication, respect and fiscal responsibility. There was discussion around changing “honest” to “open” under communication. It was noted that the values need to be displayed and visible for all to see.
- A report summarizing the day’s discussion and outlining next steps will be prepared for Council ‘s consideration and direction.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillors Burley and Boddy, Committee of the Whole adjourned at 1:53 PM to the call of the Chair.

Selwyn Hicks, Warden

Heather Morrison, Clerk