



Committee Minutes

Grey County – The Blue Mountains Task Force

May 16, 2018 – 1:00 PM

The Task Force met on the above date at the Grey County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

Present: Grey County Warden Selwyn Hicks; Grey County Councillors Ian Boddy, and Shirley Keaveney; The Blue Mountains Mayor Alar Soever, Deputy Mayor Odette Bartnicki, and Councillor Rob Sampson

Regrets: Councillor Paul McQueen

Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Grey County Chief Administrative Officer; Kevin Wepler, Director of Corporate Services; Heather Morrison, Clerk; Jacquelyn Morrison, Deputy Clerk/ Legislative Coordinator; and Ruth Prince, Director of Finance, Town of the Blue Mountains

Call to Order

Warden Hicks called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

The individuals present introduced themselves.

Items for Direction and Discussion

Review of Terms of Reference

Kim Wingrove received proposed changes to the Terms of Reference from Shawn Everitt, Interim CAO of the Town of the Blue Mountains, on behalf of the Town of the Blue Mountains members. She reviewed the proposed changes.

Mayor Soever addressed the jurisdiction of the Task Force. The Clerk noted that the Task Force follows the County's Procedural By-law. Discussion occurred on possible reporting and recommendation conflicts. It was noted that the Task Force does not make decisions and has an advisory role.

The Task Force amended the proposed draft Terms of Reference relating to the schedule of meetings, the review of the Task Force, the quorum required, and the reporting relationship.

Election of the Vice Chair

The Chair called for nominations of a Vice Chair of the Task Force.

TBM01-19 Moved by: Councillor Bartnicki Seconded by: Councillor Keaveney

That Mayor Soever be nominated as Vice Chair of the Grey County – The Blue Mountains Task Force for 2019.

TBM02-19 Moved by: Councillor Boddy Seconded by: Councillor Bartnicki

That the nominations for Vice Chair of the Grey County – The Blue Mountains Task Force be closed.

Carried

Mayor Soever accepted and was acclaimed as the Vice Chair of the Grey County – The Blue Mountains Task Force.

Issues for Investigation and Discussion

Current Financial Situation – Mayor Soever

Mayor Soever discussed the current financial situation and noted that the Town of the Blue Mountains contributes a higher percentage of taxes than other local municipalities to Grey County. He noted the higher property values in the Town. He reviewed local, County, and education tax levies across the local municipalities in the County.

Mayor Soever provided comparison information on areas of spending across the local municipalities, highlighting general government services, protection services, transportation services, and environmental services. The Task Force discussed fire services, physician recruitment, and recreation services. It was noted that many property owners in the Town are not permanent residents but may be considering retiring to the area and require additional services.

Mayor Soever stated that less money sent to the County would allow for more capital projects in the Town. He discussed the asset sustainability ratio. It was noted that there are factors that may impact this information, including older infrastructure that has been in use well past its end of life, urban/rural differences, and Owen Sound's wastewater treatment plant. Councillor Boddy also noted that Owen Sound supports services for people who live outside the city but work in the city, recreation for other municipalities, court services for all Grey County, etc.

The Task Force discussed healthcare and hospital funding. Deputy Mayor Bartnicki discussed challenges with physician recruitment for the Town and noted Simcoe County's contributions to healthcare. It was noted that Simcoe County is four times the size of Grey County and operates with a hospital alliance.

Mayor Soever suggested that the current taxation system is not sustainable, but finding a solution is challenging. Deputy Mayor Bartnicki stated that there is a disconnect between what the Town contributes to the County and what they receive in return. The Task Force discussed shared service delivery options to bring down costs for all municipalities. Ms. Wingrove provided information on services that the County provides to the Town. A review of services can be undertaken by the County to identify possible areas for partnerships and efficiencies. Warden Hicks noted the challenge of paying less to the County but wanting the County to take on more services. Mr. Wepler noted that provincial changes are affecting municipal budgets right now and that a service delivery review may be beneficial at this time. The County can catalog services to show the cost, contracts, requirements, etc.

Councillor Sampson noted that property assessments are also a concern and raised the issue of fairness. He suggested advocating to the provincial government to expand the "tool box" relating to assessments. The Task Force discussed that at least half of the Town's tax base resides in the Craigeleith area. The Task Force discussed assessment values and process. It was noted that each property owner is paying the same amount of County tax for every \$100,000 of assessed value across the County. Mayor Soever noted that the value of land is different across the municipalities. Deputy Mayor Bartnicki noted that the province has committed to reviewing the property assessment process and considering this issue may be proactive if the province seeks feedback.

Ms. Wingrove advised that Mr. Weppler is bringing a report to County Council on May 23rd regarding the provincial changes and relating financial impacts. She expects more information to come from the province on funding changes in the next four – six weeks. In the meantime, she suggested that County Council consider strategic planning priorities and that a service review could be a part of said planning. She noted that a service delivery review would need to benefit all member municipalities in the County.

Citizen's Forum Correspondence Dated April 30, 2019

Kim Wingrove advised that the Warden received a letter inviting him to speak at the Citizen's Forum. Mayor Soever provided information on the group. Mayor Soever advised that the appearance would be beneficial and Deputy Mayor Bartnicki suggested speaking about the services provided by the County.

The Warden will accept the invitation to attend an upcoming Citizen's Forum meeting.

Other Business

Schedule of Future Meetings

The Task Force set two future meeting dates:

June 20, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the Town of the Blue Mountains Town Hall; and

July 11th following County Council at the Grey County Administration Building.

The Town of Blue Mountains Resolutions

Mayor Soever provided three resolutions passed by the Town regarding physician recruitment, Simcoe Road 91 and Nottawasaga Sideroad 26/27, and MPAC assessments. The Task Force discussed the appropriate process to introduce the resolutions to County Council.

Councillor Boddy left the meeting.

Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be held on June 20th in the Town of the Blue Mountains.

On motion by Councillors Sampson and Mayor Soever, the meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM.

Warden Selwyn Hicks, Chair



Terms of Reference

Grey County/Town of The Blue Mountains Task Force

Purpose

To examine issues of concern to the Town of The Blue Mountains and Grey County and bring forward recommendations to address these concerns. The Task Force serves as a forum for information sharing between the Town of The Blue Mountains and Grey County in an effort to reach a consensus regarding solutions.

Membership

Voting Members

- Grey County Warden
- 3 elected officials selected by the Town of The Blue Mountains from the Town of The Blue Mountains' Council.
- 3 elected officials selected by Grey County from Grey County Council.

Non-Voting Members

Town of The Blue Mountains and County staff, resources as required.

Chair & Vice Chair

The Warden and the Vice Chair shall alternate chairing the meetings with the Warden chairing meetings hosted by Grey County and the Vice Chair chairing meetings are hosted by The Town of The Blue Mountains. The Chair hosting the meeting shall set the agenda of that meeting.

The Chair hosting the meeting shall set the agenda for the respective meeting.

All members of the Task Force may submit Agenda items to the Chair.

The Vice Chair shall be elected at the first meeting.

Meetings

Meetings occur at the call of the Chair or by mutual agreement of the majority of the Task Force.

A schedule of meetings shall be set at the first Task Force meeting in a new Term of Council and subsequently at the first meeting of the Task Force in September of each year.

Meetings will occur on a monthly basis or more frequently as determined by the Task Force.

Progress and efficacy of the Task Force will be reviewed annually in January.

Agenda items will be put forward by any member of the Task Force to the Chair for the meeting, and will be circulated to members of the Task Force, and appropriate staff, in advance of the meeting. Adopted Minutes of the Task Force meetings will be considered as noted below. Non-voting members may be invited to the Task Force meetings to present or provide advice.

The format of meetings will be a combination of small group discussions, presentations by members and staff as required. Meeting structure is to be open discussion and informal structure with minimal votes taken. Any decisions will be made as recommendations to the respective councils.

Quorum

A quorum shall consist of the majority of members from each of Town of The Blue Mountains and Grey County.

Statutory Authority

The Task Force is guided by the County's Procedural By-Law and the *Municipal Act*. The Task Force is an advisory Group with no decision-making authority.

Reporting Relationship

The Task Force is a County Committee, and reports to Grey County Council

The Task Force will approve meeting minutes at its next Task Force Meeting and the approved minutes shall be forwarded to respective Councils.

Lead Staff

Grey County CAO, Town of The Blue Mountains' CAO, and other staff as required.

The Grey County Clerk's Department and the Town of The Blue Mountains Clerk's Department will alternate preparation and circulation of agendas and minutes.

Terms of Reference – May 2017, revised May 2019
Grey County/The Blue Mountains Task Force