



Committee Report

To:	Warden Milne and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	September 14, 2023
Subject / Report No:	CCR-CW-12-23
Title:	Inaugural Considerations
Prepared by:	Tara Warder, Clerk
Reviewed by:	Kim Wingrove, CAO
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	None
Status:	

Recommendation

1. That report CCR-CW-12-23 regarding inaugural considerations be received; and
2. That section 3.1 – Date of Inaugural Session of the County’s Procedural By-law 5134-22 be waived for the purposes of the election of the 2023-2024 Warden; and
3. That the Inaugural meeting for the 2023-2024 year be held at 5:00 PM Tuesday December 5, 2023; and
4. That staff be directed to include a proposed time of 5:00 PM for inaugural meetings in a future procedural by-law update.

Executive Summary

The County’s procedural by-law governs the calling, place and proceedings of meetings, including the inaugural meeting for the purposes of electing the Warden each year. The report proposes a change to the time that the inaugural meeting has historically been held.

Background and Discussion

Section 3.1 of Grey County’s Procedural By-law states that “Council will, in accordance with the By-law, hold its first meeting on the first Tuesday in December at 7:30 PM.” The Warden is elected annually at this meeting and the Inaugural meeting for the 2023-2024 year is scheduled for December 5, 2023.

Grey County inaugural meetings have been held beginning at 7:30 PM for a number of years. Since 2020 however, they have been held during the day at 11:00 AM. Initially this was done because of the pandemic and restrictions around public gatherings, but after restrictions were lifted, staff continued recommending a daytime meeting because of the benefits relating to resources and efficiencies. Following council orientation in fall of 2022 and the inaugural

meeting of the 2022-2026 Council, councillors completed a survey providing feedback on these events. There was consensus that the experience of the inaugural meeting could be improved upon. As such, staff are recommending that the inaugural meeting of Grey County Council go back to an evening meeting, however are proposing it be held at 5:00 PM. If there is support for that change for the 2023-2024 council year, a two-thirds vote is required to waive the subject section of the procedural by-law, which still notes a start time of 7:30 PM.

Grey County's Procedural By-law is due for an update and will be coming forward in 2023. Staff also recommend incorporating council's preferred time for the inaugural meeting into the by-law at this time if a change is supported. Though staff's recommendation is that the inaugural meeting begin at 5:00 PM, Council could decide on a different time, or choose to keep it at 7:30 PM.

A reception to follow the event to celebrate the election of the Warden is being planned.

The Inaugural session of Council is guided by the Procedural By-law 5134-22. Section 2.1 permits the suspension of any of the provisions of this by-law with a two-thirds vote of Council.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

There are none.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no additional financial costs associated with the recommended changes to the Inaugural meeting beyond what is included in the budget. Any expenses related to holding a celebration related to the election of the Warden would be covered through the existing Council operating budget.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal CAO
- External

Appendices and Attachments

None.