

Report CAOR-CC-04-14

To: Warden Milne and Members of County Council
From: Lance Thurston, Chief Administrative Officer
Meeting Date: March 4, 2014
Subject: **Centre Grey Hospital Brief to Minister Matthews**
Status: Recommendation adopted as amended by County Council March 4, 2014 See Resolution CC36-14;

Recommendation

THAT Grey County Council hereby endorses the Brief to the Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-term Care, entitled Centre Grey Hospital Replacement, dated March 4, 2014 and requests the Minister to approve the long-promised replacement of the aging Centre Grey Hospital in Markdale with a new facility designed to meet the current and emerging rural health care needs of the region, and direct her staff to expedite completion of the project in association with Grey Bruce Health Services.

Background

County Council requested a meeting with Minister of Health and Long-term Care, Deb Matthews, at the recent Ontario Good Roads Association/Rural Ontario Municipal Conference to advocate for the replacement of the Centre Grey Hospital in Markdale. Such meetings, also known as Minister delegations, are a staple of the conference and provide an opportunity for municipal officials to meet with Ministers and their senior staff to discuss topical issues. Unfortunately the County was not successful in obtaining a meeting with the Minister.

In anticipation of a delegation, County staff prepared a brief. Click the following link to view a copy of the brief. [Addendum to CAOR-CC-04-14 Centre Grey Hospital Brief to Minister](#)

Summary

The central themes of the brief are:

1. The urgent need to replace the Centre Grey Hospital in Markdale with a modern, cost effective, appropriately sized and designed facility in order to continue providing necessary health care services to the people of south central Grey County and beyond;
2. The vital role of the hospital facility in Markdale as an integrated rural service hub within the regional health care system in Grey and Bruce counties;
3. The significant value to the regional economy of a health care facility in Markdale; and finally,
4. The unwavering support of the people of central Grey County to the Markdale Hospital and the magnitude of the ongoing community support for the long-promised new facility

The proposal by Grey Bruce Health Services to replace the aging Centre Grey Hospital with a new facility:

- Recognizes the demographic changes and challenges with an aging rural population
- Supports the concept of a Local Health Hub, providing a “one-stop shop” for the health care needs of a rural Ontario community
- Maintains vital access to health care services in rural communities, specifically access to 24 hour emergency care
- Can be mobilized very quickly to address the continuing deterioration of the infrastructure of the current hospital
- Addresses the increasing frustration and fear of the community that their \$12 million financial commitment to a new hospital for their community will not be realized
- Will increase future fund raising which is negatively impacted currently with the absence of approval for the project
- Represents a time-proven model for the ongoing role of small hospitals in Ontario
- Nurtures and enhances current strong linkages with primary care and long term care

- Is consistent with approaches in other provinces that have recognized the need to maintain access to health care services in rural communities, particularly access to 24 hour emergency care

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology

Considerations

In light of the work that went into its preparation and given the importance of the issue, it is recommended that County Council endorse the brief and send it to the Minister. In addition, it is suggested that the brief be sent to the local councils of Chatsworth, West Grey, Grey Highlands and Southgate with a request for support, to add strength to the Grey County voice.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

Through its policies, programs, services and actions, Grey County is striving to create and sustain healthy communities. Healthy communities can be defined as those that provide a safe environment, encourage community involvement, and have diverse economies, sustainable ecosystems and accessible health services. In pursuing this agenda the County is seeking to:

1. Enable Economic Opportunity and Growth

Wealth generation and the creation of work are the basic building blocks for livable, healthy communities where human initiative and stable families can flourish. Opportunities for entrepreneurial initiative, business expansion and training for jobs that offer upward mobility are critical to this success.

2. Foster Community Sustainability

A community that is vibrant, strong and offers hope to its residents is a community in which neighbourhoods are safe, the environment is clean, housing is affordable, health care, social support services and cultural/recreational opportunities are accessible and where civic spirit is nurtured by participatory decision-making, innovative design and celebration.

3. Strengthen Community Partnerships

Economic opportunity and social/cultural development rely on broad community participation, both at the individual level and at the institutional level. Engaged individuals, governments and the private and not-for-profit sectors working together to provide relevant, accessible and coordinated programs and services that build towards the community's strategic direction.

The renewal of the Centre Grey Hospital addresses every aspect of Grey County's strategic plan for sustainable development, and also supports the Province's health care transformation agenda and Action Plan for Health. This is a project that has local and county support, and warrants Provincial support.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lance Thurston, CAO