

January 22, 2021

RE: Insurance Rates Resolution

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands, at its meeting held January 20, 2021, passed the following resolution:

2021-39

Moved by Tom Allwood, Seconded by Aakash Desai

Whereas the cost of municipal insurance in the Province of Ontario has continued to increase – with especially large increases going into 2021; and

Whereas Joint and Several Liability continues to ask property taxpayers to carry the lion’s share of a damage award when a municipality is found at minimum fault; and

Whereas these increases are unsustainable and unfair and eat at critical municipal services; and

Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario outlined seven recommendations to address insurance issues including:

- 1. The provincial government adopt a model of full proportionate liability to replace joint and several liability.**
- 2. Implement enhancements to the existing limitations period including the continued applicability of the existing 10-day rule on slip and fall cases given recent judicial interpretations and whether a 1 year limitation period may be beneficial.**
- 3. Implement a cap for economic loss awards.**
- 4. Increase the catastrophic impairment default benefit limit to \$2 million and increase the third-party liability coverage to \$2 million in government regulated automobile insurance plans.**
- 5. Assess and implement additional measures which would support lower premiums or alternatives to the provision of insurance services by other entities such as nonprofit insurance reciprocals.**
- 6. Compel the insurance industry to supply all necessary financial evidence including premiums, claims and deductible limit changes which support its own and municipal arguments**

**as to the fiscal impact of joint and several liability.
7. Establish a provincial and municipal working group to consider the above and put forward recommendations to the Attorney General;**

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Municipality of Grey Highlands call on the Province of Ontario to immediately review these recommendations and to investigate the unethical practice of preferred vendors who are paid substantial amounts over industry standards, despite COVID 19 delays, as insurance premiums will soon be out of reach for many communities and

**Be it further resolved that this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario, the Honourable Bill Walker, MPP for Bruce - Grey - Owen Sound, and all Ontario municipalities.
CARRIED.**

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jerri-Lynn Levitt
Deputy Clerk
Council and Legislative Services
Municipality of Grey Highlands