

## Special Meeting - Committee of the Whole Budget Discussions February 7, 2020

Grey County Council met on the above date at 9:30 AM at the County Administration Building. The Deputy Clerk called Committee of the Whole to order and Warden Paul McQueen assumed the Chair.

The Warden invited members of Council to join him in O Canada.

The Deputy Clerk affirmed Rob Potter as County Councillor for The Blue Mountains and Rob Sampson as Alternate Councillor for The Blue Mountains.

The Roll was called by the Deputy Clerk with all members present except Councillors Soever and Boddy. Alternate Councillor Sampson was in attendance on behalf of Councillor Soever and Alternate Councillor Thomas was in attendance on behalf of Councillor Boddy.

Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator, and Kathie Nunno, Recording Secretary were also in attendance.

The following staff members were in attendance:

Kevin Wepler, Director of Corporate Services; Jennifer Cornell, Director of Long Term Care; Barbara Fedy, Director of Social Services; Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing; Pat Hoy, Director of Transportation Services; Savanna Myers, Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture; Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning and Development; Kevin McNab, Director of Paramedic Services; Michael Letourneau, Director of Legal Services-County Solicitor; Grant McLevy, Senior Manager of Human Resources; and Evan Davis, Technology and Information Manager;

### Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

### Delegations

#### Blue Mountain Ratepayers' Association

Jim Torrance, President and John White, Member led a PowerPoint presentation regarding the draft Grey County 2020 budget and highlighting contributions and services. The Association is interested in working with County staff to explore some of the issues brought forward.

Mr. Torrance outlined the feedback received from a survey from the ratepayers of The Blue Mountains, and highlighted the break down of an average property tax bill in the Town and proportion of taxes that go towards the local municipality, the County and education.

Discussion occurred on development charges collection and capital expenditures in the Town. The Ratepayers Association has raised concerns that the Town has not been receiving the necessary County reinvestment of its contributions to support its growth.

The importance of a shared commitment to finding efficiencies across all levels of government was noted, as well as the need for the Town to receive enough investment to ensure its growth is sustainable, and a need for a coordinated approach between the Town and the County.

The Blue Mountain Ratepayers' Association noted the need for more infrastructure to help deal with the growth that is occurring in the Town. Additional recreational facilities to promote sustainable community were also requested.

Council recessed briefly and then resumed.

## Items for Direction and Discussion

### 2020 Budget Overview and Department Presentations

Kevin Wepler provided an overview of the proposed 2020 budget seeking \$741,083 in additional funding to be raised from taxation or a net levy increase of 1.26%.

Mr. Wepler then introduced the Corporate Services function. It was noted that this function includes a net requirement increase of \$206,619 over 2019. Each respective budget was then outlined.

Discussion included a change in timeframe to meet the asset management deficit to 1.7% over 10 years instead of the current 1% over 15 years.

CAO Wingrove and Kevin Wepler described the methodology behind the development of the County's budget, highlighting mandated responsibilities as a designated consolidated municipal service manager.

Discussion ensued whether the contribution to enhanced fire communications fits within the scope of the County's mandated services. Prior reports to Council led to Council addressing challenges that first responders face with the increased frequency of mutual aid situations. A coordinated communications response including radios and towers will increase effectiveness and fire fighter safety. The County undertook this project as a leadership role and service on behalf of all of the local municipalities and their emergency services.

The addition of a manager of organizational development in the human resources department will address the need for leadership and management skills development and succession planning including improved staff performance and staff development. This role will also manage ongoing training and necessary training certifications, ensuring that they are accomplished in a timely and cost-effective way. Recruitment and unfilled shifts in long-term care have consistently been a challenge.

An explanation of the cost of the consultant for the corporate asset management plan was requested. Public Sector Digest will help staff with data collection and policy development and addressing mandated requirements. They will meet with all the staff/departments to ensure Grey County has the data elements and service levels identified to meet the regulation. The County uses their software to track our assets and staff find this effective. Working with Public Sector Digest will ensure that staff achieve the necessary level of expertise, meet the requirements of this provincial regulation and maintain a robust asset management system.

Randy Scherzer and Savanna Myers then presented the Planning and Community Development budget function, which incorporates the newly created Economic Development, Tourism and Culture Department. This function includes a net requirement increase of \$74,499 over 2019.

Discussion was held regarding the County Planning function. With the change in timelines in the Planning Act, there is opportunity to review operations for efficiency. The Planning Department will be bringing a report reviewing the fees and services to ensure they are aligned properly as well.

Councillor Clumpus then left the meeting.

Council then recessed for lunch and then resumed.

The Planning summer student role was highlighted as a beneficial student experience and value to the Corporation as both a summer student and as a potential future employee.

The Social Services function is comprised of Social Services (decreased budget for 2020 of \$134,000) Housing (increased budget of \$80,000 for 2020) and Long-Term Care (increased funding of \$813,000 for 2020). Barb Fedy, Anne Marie Shaw and Jennifer Cornell outlined their department's respective budgets and factors that contributed to the proposed 2020 budget.

Council recessed briefly and then resumed.

Concern was expressed in the over \$400,000 decrease in long-term care funding and increase in acuity of patients entering long-term care. There was the suggestion of providing support to seniors who want to age at home. Addressing care for dementia was also suggested.

With the success of the community paramedicine program, paramedic services staff is now considered to be part of the health care industry as well as being part of emergency services.

Kevin Weppler then spoke to Long-Term Care redevelopment, noting that the 2020 budget continues to show money going to reserves in 2020 for the redevelopment of Rockwood Terrace.

Kevin McNab and Pay Hoy then spoke to the Transportation and Public Safety functions which have a net requirement increase of \$1,531,175 over 2019. Planned projects for 2020 were then highlighted.

*Main Motion*

Moved by: Councillor Milne

Seconded by: Councillor Burley

**That the 2020 budget be adopted as amended including the following changes:**

- **Change asset management spending to 1.7% per year over ten years instead of 1% per year over 15 years**
- **Include a student planner position in the planning budget for 2020 at \$12,500 funded from the levy**

**That a By-law be brought forward to adopt the Estimates of Revenues and Expenditures for the Year 2020 to be raised from taxation in 2020**

*Amendment to Main Motion*

CW33-20 Moved by: Councillor Sampson Seconded by: Councillor Potter

**That the main motion be amended as follows:**

- **Remove the fire services communications project from the 2020 budget of \$50,000 funded from reserve.**

Lost

*Motion to Separate*

CW34-20 Moved by: Councillor Hicks Seconded by: Councillor Keaveney

**That the main motion be separated with the following two items being considered separately**

- **Change asset management spending to 1.7% per year over 10 years instead of 1% per year over 15 years**
- **Include a student planner position in the planning budget for 2020 at \$12,500 funded from the levy**

Carried

*Separated Motion #1*

CW35-20 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor Desai

**That the 2020 budget include the following change:**

- **Change asset management spending to 1.7% per year over ten years instead of 1% per year over 15 years**

Lost

*Separated Motion #2*

CW36-20 Moved by: Councillor Hicks Seconded by: Councillor Desai

**That the 2020 budget include the following change:**

- **Include a student planner position in the planning budget for 2020 at \$12,500 funded from one-time funding**

Lost

*Main Motion as Amended*

CW37-20 Moved by: Councillor Burley Seconded by: Councillor O'Leary

**That the 2020 budget requiring a 1.26% net levy increase be adopted as presented; and**

**That a By-law be brought forward to adopt the Estimates of Revenues and Expenditures for the Year 2020 requiring a total to be raised from taxation in 2020 of \$59,809,900.**

Carried

## Other Business

There was none.

## Adjournment

On motion of Councillors Milne and Desai, Committee of the Whole adjourned at 4:13 PM to the call of the Chair.

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Paul McQueen, Warden

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Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk