

Report FR-CS-13-15

To: Chair Pringle and Members of the Corporate Services Committee
From: Kevin Wepler, Director of Finance
Meeting Date: February 10, 2015
Subject: **Sharing of Provincial Uploading of Social Services Costs and Lower Tier Municipalities' Responses to the Town of the Blue Mountains Resolution of December 15, 2014**
Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as amended per Resolution CS30-15 by supporting Report FR-CS-35-14 and Resolution CS89-14 in association with that report; Endorsed by County Council March 3, 2015 per Resolution CC41-15;

Recommendation(s)

That Report FR-CS-13-15 regarding the Lower Tier Municipalities Responses to the Town of the Blue Mountains Resolution of December 15, 2014, be received for information.

Background

County Council at its meeting November 15, 2014 endorsed by Resolution CC165-14 the Corporate Services Committee motion CS89-14 of November 19, 2014 contained in Report FR-CS-35-14. The resolution in part reads as follows:

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT Report FR-CS-35-14 regarding the Sharing of the Provincial Uploading of Social Services Costs be received:

AND THAT in order to reduce future tax burden on local municipalities as the phase-down of the Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding continues, that the following actions be recommended for inclusion in the 2015 budget for the incoming Council's consideration:

- 1. Include in the County's 2015 budget, a reduction of \$2,323,236 in taxation with the removal of the transfer to reserve for future capital. This will provide an estimated 4.47% levy reduction that would assist**

- local municipalities in offsetting future losses of Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding.
2. Utilize any 2015-2018 budget savings realized as a result of the upload of social services costs to reduce the County's budgeted levy requirements.
 3. Distribute in 2015, \$2,825,743 or 50% of the \$5,651,486 in provincial social services uploaded savings that has been placed in the County's Future Infrastructure Reserve to each local municipality based on the assessment values that the County utilizes to calculate taxation. This will place funds back into the hands of local municipalities to provide funding for projects that may have not been undertaken, as projects may have been delayed or removed from local budget plans to accommodate the loss in Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding. The recommendation of allocating 50% of these reserve funds would also then provide future County budgets with infrastructure funding to aid its infrastructure deficit and to assist in transitioning budgetary capital increases that are required as per the County's Asset Management Plan.

At its meeting on January 13, 2015, Corporate Services Committee considered correspondence from the Town of The Blue Mountains including its resolution of December 15, 2014 and Staff Report FIT.14-65 entitled "County of Grey – Sharing of Provincial Uploading of Social Services Costs" and passed the following resolution which reads as follows:

"That Council receive Staff Report FIT.14.65 entitled "County of Grey – Sharing of Provincial Uploading of Social Services costs" for information purposes;

THAT The Blue Mountains does not support the recommendation in the County of Grey Staff Report FR-CS-35-14 dated November 19, 2014, as attached this Report;

AND THAT The Blue Mountains requests that Grey County return 100% of all funds from social services uploading, on an assessment basis, to all Grey County member municipalities."

Corporate Services Committee following its consideration passed the following motion:

"THAT the correspondence from the Town of the Blue Mountains regarding a staff report and resolution on the uploading of Social Services costs be deferred until further communication is received from all lower tier municipalities, but no later than January 31, 2015. "

The following communications have been received from the lower tier municipalities in the regard.

<p>Chatsworth Council – January 14, 2015 “Be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Chatsworth support the County of Grey staff report FR-CS-35-14 dated November 19, 2014 regarding the sharing of Provincial Uploading of Social Services Costs. Carried.”</p>
<p>Georgian Bluffs Council – January 21, 2015 “THAT the Council of the Township of Georgian Bluffs supports the recommendation of the County of Grey that 50% of the reserve funds from the Provincial Social Services uploaded savings, that has been placed in the County’s Future Infrastructure Reserve, be transferred to the municipality. Carried”</p>
<p>Grey Highlands Council – January 21, 2015 “Resolve, THAT Council supports the resolution and initiatives circulated by the Town of the Blue Mountains regarding County of Grey Report Sharing of Provincial Uploading of Social Services Costs. Lost”</p>
<p>Hanover Council – January 19, 2015 “THAT Hanover Council not support the resolution put forth by the Town of The Blue Mountains as it pertains to the County of Grey Staff Report FR-CS-35-14 dated November 19, 2014 on Sharing of Provincial Uploading of Social Services Costs; AND THAT Hanover Council support County of Grey Staff Report FR-CS-35-14; AND FURTHER THAT the County of Grey be duly notified of Hanover Council’s position. Carried”</p>
<p>Meaford Council – January 12, 2015 Communications - Item 11. k) The Town of the Blue Mountains – Sharing of Provincial Uploading of Social Services Costs Resolution and Report – Noted and filed.</p>
<p>Owen Sound Council – January 12, 2015 “THAT City Council supports the resolution dated December 18, 2014 from the Town of The Blue Mountains respecting the County of Grey’s sharing of provincial uploading of social services costs.”</p> <p>Prior to a vote on the motion, Deputy Mayor Wright made a tabling motion.</p> <p>“THAT Resolution No. R-150112-012 respecting the County of Grey’s sharing of provincial uploading of social services costs be tabled until further information is received from the County of Grey. Carried”</p>
<p>Southgate Council – January 23, 2015 Received for Information</p>
<p>West Grey Council - January 12, 2015 Staff Reports - Letter from the Town of The Blue Mountains RE: Grey County Sharing of Provincial Uploading of Social Services...(received for information)</p>

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology

Considerations

The 2015 Draft Corporate Services Budget includes the distribution of \$2,825,743 in provincial social services uploaded savings that has been placed in the County's Future Infrastructure Reserve to each local municipality based on the assessment values that the County utilizes to calculate taxation.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

Communication is a key value to the County's Strategic Plan. This report provides information to Council in regards to the sharing of provincial uploading of social services costs.

This report also provides financial support that will enhance the sustainability of rural and small urban communities.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kevin Weppeler
Director of Finance