
2016 Warden's Forum

April 21, 2016, 4:00 p.m.

Cobble Beach Golf Resort
221 McLeese Drive, Kemble

Present: Warden Alan Barfoot; Councillors Dwight Burley, Sue Paterson, Selwyn Hicks, Harley Greenfield, Barb Clumpus, Anna Marie Fosbrooke, Gail Ardiel, Paul McQueen, Stewart Halliday, Arlene Wright, Bob Pringle, Brian Gamble, Liz Thompson, Shawn Greig, Carol Lawrence, Sue Carleton, Paul Sutherland, Tom Wiley, Hazel Pratt Paige, Ryan Thompson, Barbara Dobreen, Dale Pallister, Christine Gordon, Jim McManaman, Travis Dodd, Marion Keopke, Brian O'Leary, Richard Thomas, Scott Greig

Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Randy Scherzer, Grant McLevy, Kevin Weppler, Lynne Johnson, Barb Fedy, Mike Muir, Geoff Hogan, Heather Morrison, Petal Furness, Larry Adams, Janice Collins, Rick Winters, Holly Morrison, Brian Tocheri, Robert Trembley, Tony Bell, Robert Armstrong, Dave Milliner, Raylene Martell, Dan Best, Clint Stredwick, Jim Ellis, Glenn Walker, Reg Russwurm, Ken Becking, Pam Coulter, Carolyn Stob, Peter Aylan-Parker, Tim Nichols Harrison, Virginia Eichorn, Grace Naylor and Penny Colton – Recording Secretary

Opening Remarks

Warden Barfoot welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending, and then provided a quick overview of the agenda for this evening.

Personal First Nations Historical Account

Petal Furness recounted a previous trip to Cape Croker with Council and staff. Petal then provided a presentation entitled A West Coast History - One Small Voice, sharing her personal heritage and aboriginal history throughout Canada.

Grey County Senior Management Team Updates

Mrs. Wingrove reviewed the goals for this evening and recognized that County staff are here to share ideas, goals and find ways to work together to serve ourselves and the public better. There have been requests from the local municipalities to provide more information sharing between the County and municipalities.

The County will be launching a new website and electronic document filing system, which will provide better access to information. Staff is committed to use plain language in order to provide better customer service.

Kim provided background on population, the County budget and how it is broken down and spent by the County. The following departmental overviews were also provided.

Planning - working on an official plan update, and a special council meeting has been set for May 19th to begin the process. There will be opportunities for municipalities and public to provide input. Other projects currently underway include the updating of development charges, Green in Grey, and a National Heritage Study.

Paramedic Services – Currently Grey County is working with the Province to provide a pilot Community Paramedicine program. The program has provided excellent results in the community, and is building a bridge between the at home patient, their doctors and health care services. Today we were advised that the funding has been extended to March 2017.

Transportation Services – Crews are working on summer maintenance and construction, snow removal, and weed inspection. Grey County Mechanics service the ambulance fleet and this has provided cost efficiencies. Upcoming projects include connecting links, urban design standards, cycling map and paved shoulders.

Finance – Continues to look after the County's financial needs, including asset management and audits. Funding has been provided toward the Centre Grey Hospital, Grey Bruce Regional Hospital campaign and MED training at Georgian College.

Social Services – delivers Ontario Works and Children's Services throughout the county. Ontario Works provides income to clients to assist with basic necessities and keep them safe.

Children's Services support early years programming throughout the county and also provide oversight and monitoring of home child care in rural communities. A new web site has been launched to assist with finding child care - Greycountychildcare.ca.

Movin 'GB – is a rural transit service currently servicing Owen Sound, Meaford, Blue Mountains and Grey Highlands, we hope to grow throughout the county. The program is run in partnership with Community and Home Support Services and is currently restricted to the disabled and seniors but there are plans to expand.

Social Services and Social Housing continue to work with community support groups ie. Poverty Task Force, Children's Alliance, Crystal Meth Task Force etc. These groups are supported by County staff to keep initiatives moving forward. Other services provided include a sustainable housing benefit and emergency services during times of crisis.

Long Term Care – currently the County has 316 beds at three different locations with 450 staff. Currently council and staff are reviewing a number of options for Long Term Care services within Grey County.

Affordable housing –The County has available 1355 units of housing throughout the county. We received \$1.3 million from the Province to assist with provision of new affordable housing units and \$1.6 million to assist with homelessness. Buildings require a lot of work to keep up to date and tenants safe.

Clerks – staff continue to work on administration, and are presently developing a communication strategy. There are plans to have a governance review session with council this year. Provincial Offences Court updates include the administration of 1600 charges in 2015 between Walkerton and Owen Sound courts. The fine revenue for 2015 was just under \$1 million.

Human Resources – Working with staff on WSIB, benefits, safety and extend an offer to assist local municipalities with their training or other HR needs.

IT - Work continues to update the website and electronic document management.

Connected community initiative includes the County's commitment to the South West Integrated Fibre Technology. Another new initiative includes Ag 4.0 and more information can be found at grey.ca/smart.

Economic Development – providing opportunities for businesses to learn and innovate; also marketing and promoting activities to attract visitors and investors. Staff can support economic development in local municipalities.

Tourism – wrapping up the Destination Development Action Plan for visitor and investment attraction.

Grey Roots – providing ongoing events and activities and participant numbers continue to rise.

Barbara Dobreen inquired where Recolour Grey opportunities were being advertised. Randy Scherzer advised ads have been placed in GreyBruce this week, and a number of local newspapers. Staff will be attending a number of local events to generate discussion, including partnering with Tourism staff at their events. Also working through social media, web site and web page, there is a sign up page to gather contact information. We are also depending on councillors and staff to spread the word.

Meeting break 5:25 p.m. for dinner.

Reconvened at 6:25 p.m.

Warden Barfoot introduced Rob McLeese, owner Cobble Beach Golf Resort. Mr. McLeese thanked everyone for their interest in Cobble Beach and provided some highlights of upcoming activities at the resort.

Grey County Strategic Plan Priorities

Mrs. Wingrove reviewed the history of the Strategic Plan and its beginnings in 2012 and its schedule to be updated in 2016. The directors had an initial meeting in February to review the plan and provide updates in preparation for a meeting with Councillors in March. At the meeting in March, councillors and senior staff were led through a process with a consultant where the original six goals were collapsed into three;

1. Grow the Grey County economy
2. Support a healthy connection community
3. Deliver excellence in governance and service

The plan is to visit each local council to discuss in more detail and also review how these priorities play into the local plans and future.

Anna Marie Fosbrooke – would like to see more learning, and elevating the awareness that crosses everything that we do. She referred to a recent round table discussion with Minister Leal indicating we should have a better relationship with Ministry of Education.

Gail Ardiel – requested a definition of connected community. Kim advised it is making sure we have the processes in place to make decisions in a collaborative way. Nobody should be making decisions in isolation.

Stewart Halliday – definition of a healthy community. Kim advised it is a community that is resilient and vibrant. More clarity will be provided.

Kevin Eccles– Planning around the economy and is hopeful the County recognizes the economic change. New companies need the fibre optic services to grow.

Dwight Burley– Wiarton Kepple Airport excellent facility that has custom clearance.

Dave Milliner – should it be governance and service or “services”.

Scott Greig – noted redevelopment of the Grey Bruce line completely opened up traffic and movement of goods. He advised there is a need to have jobs for kids that graduate high school and will work at manual labour, we need to maintain those connections.

Brian Tocheri – great impact if County gave each municipality \$20,000 to work on local economic development initiatives.

Warden Barfoot advised that once minutes are complete and approved by Council they will be distributed to the local municipalities. Once received, it is hoped that the local councils will review and provide input through their Grey County representatives, or when the Warden and CAO visit.

Discussion and Questions

Warden Barfoot advised one of his missions as Warden has been to improve customer service and he indicated there has been progress.

Kevin Eccles – Is there any consideration at County Council to upload programs and systems and what would it take for that to happen? An example is the current joint services review of Bruce and Grey Paramedic Services.

Kim responded that some municipalities are currently going through service reviews, which may produce more opportunities or challenges. There may be opportunities to have conversations or review where there are some repetitive functions.

Glenn Walker– any thoughts to partnering with other County paramedic services such as Wellington?

Mike Muir candidly advised if we continue to join services it would be more logical to upload the service to the Province.

Ryan Thompson – Inter-municipal and inter-county agreements all start out with a great idea, but they are a lot of work and it usually ends up with people at odds. Should we be

looking at running the core services really well and let the County look after other items such as Human Resources.

Selwyn Hicks – Indicated we need to grow our workforce and an opportunity may lie with immigration. We need to be able to engage these individuals to our area and become connected to our community.

Kim – is aware of work that Owen Sound is doing with the Welcoming Communities program and there are others that can be built upon.

Hazel Pratt Paige - thanked Petal for her rendition of First Nations people. We need to show gratitude of our First Nations.

Kevin Eccles – Where are we with implementation of the Transportation Master Plan? Kim advised that there have been discussions regarding connecting links and design standards.

Owen Sound – Noted Minister Leal was in Owen Sound recently discussing youth retention in community; therefore City council is encouraged to hear the County is looking at this as well. One big item reviewed was Grey Simcoe development, looking to work with youth development.

Kim advised staff is working on ways to engage with the agricultural community through some existing initiatives of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Georgian College tried last year to have some continuing education classes in Owen Sound, there was a lot of enthusiasm but they couldn't fill classes; therefore looking at other alternatives such as online options. We need to connect more often and better with the agricultural community.

Geoff Hogan – the Ag 4.0 is part of becoming a more connected community and one of our strengths is agriculture. One of the upcoming sessions is trying to merge tech with agriculture. Also working with college to try and establish programs.

Dale Pallister – advised that past coop students tend to remain actively involved in the areas they took their coop placements.

Bob Pringle – Noted there should be changes in the Planning Act to allow for smaller farms in certain areas. The large farms will continue to get bigger and better, but there is also a need for small farms.

Paul McQueen –most farmers need off farm income to keep the farm running. Would like to see more opportunities in planning for our youth. Municipalities are looking at high costs of policing, is there an opportunity to have County provide policing. Other

areas that could provide a benefit to municipalities would include County providing planning for all municipalities.

Kim thanked all for participation and thanked Petal for her presentation.

Warden thanked all for attending this event and special thanks to Cobble Beach for their facility.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Attachments:

[Grey County We're Here for You Wardens Forum 2016](#)

[Strategic Plan Update Wardens Forum 2016](#)