



Committee Report

To:	Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	June 24, 2021 July 8, 2021
Subject / Report No:	CAOR-CW-08-21
Title:	Patrol D Property Purchase Update
Prepared by:	Kim Wingrove
Reviewed by:	
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	
Status:	Deferred to July 8 meeting through resolution CW107-21; Adopted as presented by Committee of the Whole through Resolution CW7115-21; Endorsed by County Council CC57-21

Recommendation

1. That Report CAOR-CW-08-21 Patrol D Property Purchase Update be received; and
2. That staff be directed to take no further action towards the purchase of approximately 40 acres of land in the Municipality of Grey Highlands presently bearing Property Identification Number 37241-0085 and described as “Part of Lots 21 and 22, Concession 1 North of the Durham Road, Geographic Township of Artemesia, designated as Part 1 on Reference Plan 17R-2500, save and except that land designated as Parts 1 and 2 on Reference Plan 17R-3052”; and
3. That staff resume the search for a suitable Patrol D depot location and bring a report forward to Council at a future meeting date.

Executive Summary

In March of 2021, Grey County conditionally offered to purchase a 40-acre parcel of land in the Municipality of Grey Highlands as the site for a new Patrol D depot. Recently the County was advised of the historic significance of the adjacent Black Pioneer Cemetery and of strong objections by members of the community to siting a depot next to it. Out of respect for the difficult history and the ancestors of those buried there, staff recommend that no further action be taken towards purchasing the property.

Background and Discussion

Grey County has been actively searching for a suitable property for the Patrol D Transportation depot as per staff direction endorsed by County Council on July 12, 2018 within TR-CW-18-

18. In the fall of 2020, a suitable, vacant 40-acre parcel on Old Durham Road was identified. Council directed staff on December 10, 2020 to negotiate an offer to purchase. A formal offer, subject to various conditions being met, was executed in early March of 2021.

Significant concerns were recently raised via correspondence and social media, regarding the proposal to purchase the property. Council and staff were advised that the proposed depot site was adjacent to the Old Durham Road Black Pioneer Cemetery which dates from the 1800s and has a great deal of history associated with it. Upon learning of the site's significance further activity regarding the property purchase was halted. Two follow up meetings between County representatives and key stakeholders were held. These confirmed that the Black Pioneer Cemetery Committee, ancestors of those interred at the site and other key stakeholders believe that a Transportation Depot would not be compatible with the historic and sensitive nature of the cemetery. As a result, County staff recommend that the depot not be located at this site.

Furthermore, staff recognize that there is an opportunity to do more work with organizations to increase the visibility of the County's Black history, raise awareness, nurture, and support community group efforts in this regard, and bring better heritage awareness to our work. Grey Roots Museum can play an important role in enabling this and building on earlier work. For many years, the County's museum and archives, Grey Roots, has been proud to host annual events and exhibits that celebrate Black history in Grey County. This includes a number of Owen Sound Emancipation Festival events and an annual exhibit during Black History Month.

Transportation and Purchasing staff will renew their efforts to find an appropriate site for the new depot.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

If the County does not formally waive its conditions in its purchase offer by 4:00 PM on June 30, the offer will terminate, and the County will not be in a position to purchase the property.

Financial and Resource Implications

The County will forgo the \$5,000 deposit paid to the property owners as part of the conditional offer to purchase.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal Randy Scherzer, Michael Letourneau
- External (list)

Appendices and Attachments

None