Committee Minutes

Transportation and Public Safety Committee

January 24, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.

The Transportation and Public Safety Committee met on the above date at the County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

Present: Chair Brian Milne; Councillors Bob Pringle, Paul McQueen, Bob White, Harley Greenfield, Ellen Anderson, Kevin Eccles; and Warden Duncan McKinlay

Regrets: Councillors Deborah Haswell and Alan Barfoot

Staff
Present: Lance Thurston, Chief Administrative Officer; Mike Muir, Director of Emergency Medical Services; Michael Kelly, Director of Transportation Services; Kevin Weppler, Director of Finance and Tara Warder, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Chair Milne called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

Deputations

Don Fountain, retired Grey County paramedic, addressed the Committee regarding Meaford ambulance coverage and expressed concern about Meaford losing an ambulance. Mr. Fountain noted that there is a large population within the Blue Mountains, Owen Sound and Meaford areas and many calls originate here.

Mike Muir provided the Committee with an overview of ambulance coverage, noting that staff compiled information on the number of calls, patient flows, and anticipated future decreases in non-emergency transfers and determined Meaford would be least
impacted through the reallocating of one ambulance to Dundalk. Mr. Muir further noted that by 2014, Grey County will no longer be providing non-emergency transfers, and those ambulances previously on non-emergency calls will now be within Grey County borders for service.

The Committee concurred that the decision to move an ambulance from Meaford to Dundalk was made on sound information.

The system will be monitored to ensure that it is working, and there are resources available to mitigate issues or gaps in the system which may arise. Residents of southern Grey County are pleased with the new 24 hour coverage in that area.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Transportation and Public Safety Committee minutes dated December 20, 2012

These minutes are for information only as they were adopted by Grey County Council on January 8, 2013.

Addendum to Report TR-TAPS-53-12

The Committee discussed the above report, deferred from the meeting held December 20, 2012. Mr. Kelly stated that the Osprey Museum Board is content having Grey County provide the funds for two replacement trees at the Museum up to a maximum of $800.00. The Committee discussed the possibility of collecting the HST rebate from the transaction.

TAPS15-13

WHEREAS Section 62 of the Municipal Act gives the County the authority to remove decayed, damaged or dangerous trees or branches of trees on or adjoining its roadways that in the County’s opinion, pose a danger to the health or safety of any person using the road;

AND WHEREAS County staff in consultation with a tree specialist from Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, have identified two trees on property owned by the Osprey Museum Board in Rob Roy as posing a safety threat to persons using adjoining County Road 31; one requiring removal and the other requiring trimming of branches and annual monitoring;

AND WHEREAS the Heritage of Grey Highlands Board, Osprey Museum and the Municipality of Grey Highlands have been
consulted on this matter and concur with the recommendation provided by Grey Sauble Conservation Authority;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Report Addendum to TR-TAPS-53-12 regarding tree removal on Grey County Road 31 in front of the Osprey Museum be received;

AND THAT County staff take the necessary steps to remove one of the remaining trees, trimming branches from another and monitoring its condition;

AND FURTHER THAT the County pay the Osprey Museum the cost to purchase, spade and maintain two replacement trees up to a maximum cost of $800.00, and the County will leave the cut tree stumps as is.

Carried

Reports – Transportation

TR-TAPS-08-13 Municipal Drain-Grey Road 17

Michael Kelly provided details on the above report regarding municipal drainage improvements on Grey Road 17, noting that the area at the southwestern quadrant of Grey Road 17 and Highway 6 is prone to flooding, as well as an area at the intersection of Grey Road 17 and 17B. The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has petitioned the Township of Georgian Bluffs for a municipal drain from Shane Street to the Pottawatomi River. County staff recommend that Grey County petition Georgian Bluffs to extend the petition to include the area north of the MTO’s petition, 530 metres north of the intersection of Grey Road 17 and 17B in order to address the County’s drainage concerns.

Mr. Kelly noted that the money is not within the 2013 budget, however may be funded from the 2012 surplus or general reserve. Further, Mr. Kelly outlined the appeal process and indicated that property owners will have to pay a portion of the costs if their property receives benefit from the work.

TAPS16-13 Moved by: Councillor White Seconded by: Councillor Greenfield

WHEREAS flooding occurs at the intersection of Grey Roads 17 and 17B as well as in the southwestern quadrant of Grey Road 17 and Highway 6;
AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Transportation has petitioned the Township of Georgian Bluffs to proceed with a Municipal Drain under the Drainage Act from Shane Street to the Pottawatomi River;

AND WHEREAS by extending the Municipal Drain petition from Shane Street to Grey Road 17, the flood prone areas at 17 and 17B as well as in the southwestern quadrant of Grey Road 17 and Highway 6 may be eliminated;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report TR-TAPS-08-13 be received;

AND THAT the Director of Transportation Services be authorized to petition the Township of Georgian Bluffs to undertake the process to complete a Municipal Drain as per the conditions of the Drainage Act from the intersection of Highway 6 and Shane Street northerly to Grey Road 17, 530 metres north of the intersection of Grey Roads 17 and 17B.

Carried

Closed Meeting Matters

There were none.

The Committee recessed briefly, then reconvened.

Correspondence

Resolution from Grey Highlands Respecting Road Use Agreements for Wind Turbine Projects

Councillor McQueen provided an outline of the correspondence received from the Municipality of Grey Highlands respecting the establishment of a collaborative approach with the County in dealing with road use agreements. Mr. Kelly noted that Grey County does not currently have a policy in place, however stressed the importance of consistency with turbines and development in terms of fees, setbacks, effects on the roadway, and requirements for traffic impact studies, among others. The Committee suggested that all lower tiers be considered in this process.

Councillor Eccles expressed his wishes to have the County consider implementing a requirement for all generating cables from wind turbines to be encased in concrete.
Councillor McQueen suggested that the Committee discuss a potential fee for hiring a consultant to develop road use agreements at a future meeting.

_TAPS17-13_ Moved by: Warden McKinlay Seconded by: Councillor McQueen

THAT the correspondence from the Municipality of Grey Highlands respecting developing a protocol for working through road use agreements for wind turbine projects be received;

AND THAT Grey County staff be directed to contact lower tier municipal road authorities to begin a process of creating a unified set of policies with regard to road use agreements.

Carried

Other Business

_Emergency Medical Services Update_

Mike Muir expressed thanks to Grey County paramedics for all of their hard work. It was noted that Emergency Medical Services has received 300 calls since Sunday, with 160 being emergencies. Recent weather conditions have been a factor in the volume of calls.

_Transportation Services Update_

Mike Kelly noted that staff member Sheila McKerroll will be retiring and that interviews for the Transportation Services Administrative Assistant will be taking place next week.

_Pavement Planning Presentation_

Mike Kelly addressed the Committee with a presentation on pavement planning, outlining the components and materials which make up a road, strategies for maintaining roads, including preservation, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and the various methods of treating the road surfaces. Further, the importance of preventative maintenance was stressed, as costs rise significantly as the condition of a road deteriorates.

Next Meeting Dates

_February 21, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Grey County Administration Building_

On motion by Councillor Eccles, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Brian Milne, Chair