The Corporate Services Committee met on the above date at the County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

Present: Chair Bob Pringle; Councillors Dwight Burley, Paul McQueen, Bob White, Harley Greenfield, Arlene Wright and Kevin Eccles; and Warden Duncan McKinlay

Regrets: Councillor Norman Jack

Staff
Present: Lance Thurston, Chief Administrative Officer; Sharon Vokes, County Clerk / Director of Council Services; Kevin Weppler, Director of Finance; Grant McLevy, Director of Human Resources; Geoff Hogan, Director of Information Technology; Michael Kelly, Director of Transportation Services, Marlene McLevy, Emergency Systems Coordinator / Claims Supervisor and Tara Warder, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Chair Pringle called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Corporate Services Committee minutes dated October 8, 2013

These minutes are for information only as they were adopted by Grey County Council as presented on November 5, 2013.
Reports – Finance

FR-CS-45-13 Corporate Services Financial Update and Year End Projection as of September 30, 2013

Kevin Weppler addressed the Committee on the above report regarding a year end projection for the portfolios under the Corporate Services Committee as of September 30, 2013. Mr. Weppler outlined the reasons for the anticipated surplus by providing a highlight of each of the budgets. The anticipated surplus totals $433,162.

Discussion occurred on vesting of the Talisman property to the Municipality of Grey Highlands and the effect of this tax write off. Mr. Weppler noted that the County has a reserve to mitigate against unpredicted fluctuations in tax revenue.

Further discussion occurred on worker’s compensation schedules and the provincial offences collection agency selection process. Staff noted that the collection agency selection process is a tiered system. Mrs. Vokes apprised the members of the status of the Provincial Working Group’s efforts to acquire further tools for the collection of unpaid fines.

Staff indicated that a report is forthcoming to request direction on how to treat the surplus at the end of the year.

CS93-13 Moved by: Councillor White Seconded by: Councillor Burley

THAT the Corporate Services Committee receive Report FR-CS-45-13 regarding a Financial Update and Year-End Projection as of September 30, 2013 for those budgets under the direction of the Corporate Services Committee.

Carried

FR-CS-46-13 Ontario Regulation 284/09 – 2014 Budget

Kevin Weppler presented the above report. The intent of the Province in passing this regulation was to encourage municipalities to plan for the future renewal of their assets.

Mr. Weppler noted that Grey County budgets do not include amortization and reflect the full costs of purchases.

Discussion occurred on the Public Sector Accounting Board’s requirement for municipalities to disclose contaminated sites in its financial statements.

Post-employment benefit costs will be provided to the Committee at the next meeting.
CS94-13 Moved by: Councillor Greenfield Seconded by: Councillor Eccles


Carried

Closed Meeting Matters

The Chair advised that the Committee will go into closed meeting at 10:37 AM for consideration of certain matters.

CS95-13 Moved by: Councillor Greenfield Seconded by: Councillor Eccles

THAT the Corporate Services Committee do now go into closed session to discuss:

i. Labour relations or employee negotiations per Section 239 (2) (d) of the Municipal Act, 2001 (Report HRR-CS-08-13 CUPE Local 1530)

ii. Litigation or potential litigation affecting the Municipality per Section 239 (2) (e) of the Municipal Act, 2001 (claim on Grey County Road 119)

iii. Adoption of the closed meeting minutes of June 25, 2013

AND THAT the following staff members remain in attendance: Lance Thurston, Sharon Vokes, Kevin Weppler, Grant McLevy, Geoff Hogan, Michael Kelly, Marlene McLevy and Tara Warder.

Carried

CS96-13 Moved by: Councillor Eccles Seconded by: Councillor Greenfield

THAT the Corporate Services Committee do now return to open session at 12:03 PM.

Carried

Councillor Eccles then left the meeting.

The Committee recessed at 12:05 PM and reconvened at 12:31 PM.

Grant McLevy indicated that the Social Services collective agreement has been ratified and staff will keep the Committee apprised of the pay equity issue.

CS97-13 Moved by: Councillor White Seconded by: Councillor Burley

THAT in accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Settlement as outlined in Confidential Report HRR-CS-08-13, the
Collective Agreement between the County of Grey and the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1530, be hereby ratified.

Carried

Deputations

*Year – End Insurance Update - Jeff Coleman, Frank Cowan Insurance*

Jeff Coleman addressed the Committee on the County’s year end insurance update, noting the difficulties public entities face with claims in recent years.

Mr. Coleman spoke to the need to have legislation changed to combat claims to municipalities because of the perception they have large monetary resources.

Mr. Coleman further indicated that Grey County’s premium is increasing by approximately 9.8%. There are outstanding claims, including some related to motor vehicle accidents that are contributing to the increase. It was noted that this phenomenon is happening across the province and Grey County is in a similar position when compared to other municipalities in Ontario. Mr. Coleman also indicated that the County is being moved to a $75,000 deductible from a $50,000 deductible for liability coverage. Liability deductibles of smaller municipalities will be increased incrementally, as the company is conscious of municipal budgets.

Mr. Weppler noted that an insurance deductible reserve exists at the County to assist those departments with smaller budgets with their deductible payments.

Discussion occurred on factors affecting losses from motor vehicle accidents and how public entities can aid in decreasing these incidents and large losses associated with them.

It was determined that councillors are covered by the County’s insurance policy if an incident occurs when acting in the scope of their duties as County Councillors.

Kevin Weppler thanked Frank Cowan Company, Brian McCall and the Nicol Insurance representatives for attending the meeting.

Correspondence

*Upcoming Discussions on Interest Arbitration – Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)*

The Committee considered the above correspondence. No action was taken.
WHEREAS the federal government will look at how it handles public postal services with a review of the Canadian Postal Service Charter in 2014;

AND WHEREAS the public has a right to have input on matters involving its publicly owned post offices;

AND WHEREAS the current charter has a number of serious problems that need fixing;

AND WHEREAS the government could use the Charter review to reduce our public post office’s obligation to provide service (instead of improving the Charter) and even lay the groundwork for privatizing or deregulating Canada Post;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County of Grey write a letter to the Minister responsible for Canada Post to request that the upcoming review of the Canadian Postal Service Charter be open to public input and that the Charter be improved by:

i. Ensuring that the moratorium on post office closures in small and rural communities protects the public nature of post offices

ii. Eliminating the exceptions to the moratorium

iii. Extending the consultation process over possible closures and making the process and moratorium more transparent

iv. Establishing an independent Canada Post ombudsperson to report on Canada Post’s performance in meeting charter expectations

v. Establishing a reasonable, uniform and democratic process for making changes to the postal and delivery network (closures, downsizing removal of rural mailboxes, etc.) but only after consultation with the public and other stakeholders.

Carried
CS99-13  Moved by: Councillor White  Seconded by: Councillor Wright

THAT the correspondence received from the County of Renfrew regarding gas tax revenues be received for information.

Carried

Other Business

Discussion occurred on the new landscape signage at the Administration Building. Staff confirmed the weathering process will improve the visibility of the lettering as the stone will lighten as it dries and the corten steel will darken.

Next Meeting Dates

December 10, 2013 at the Grey County Administration Building

On motion by Councillor Burley, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM.

Bob Pringle, Chair