

Committee of the Whole

May 11, 2023

Grey County Council met on the above date at the County Administration Building. Warden Milne assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m. with all members present. Councillor Bordignon participated electronically.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Delegations

Wayne Caldwell - Lot Creation Policies and the Future of Agriculture in Ontario

Wayne Caldwell presented to the Committee regarding recent changes to planning policy and regulations proposed by the provincial government. The delegate stated the importance of balancing development and stewardship in planning policies and described the potential implications of the proposed changes for agricultural lands. The presenter explained that the proposed changes allowed tens of thousands of residential lots to be created on agricultural lands and spoke about the potential land use conflicts or impacts on farming, livestock, or aggregate operations. The presenter stated their belief that the proposed policy change could impact the agricultural sector's future in Ontario. The presenter highlighted that further consideration was needed for aggregate extraction, water availability and safety, natural heritage, small towns and villages, school boards, and servicing.

In response to questions from the Committee, Wayne Caldwell discussed the importance of autonomy for municipalities to apply planning policies to fit their local context. The presenter expressed concern about the change in philosophy around planning policy, the long-term implications of such severance, the potential impact on rural communities, and the future of agriculture in the province.

Determination of Items Requiring Further Discussion

Councillor Greig requested that item 6.e regarding the Community Services Committee minutes dated April 25, 2023, on the consent agenda for this meeting be pulled for further discussion.

Consent Agenda

CW74-23 Moved by: Councillor Keaveney Seconded by: Councillor Boddy

That the following Consent Agenda items be received; and

That staff be authorized to take the actions necessary to give effect to the recommendations in the staff reports; and

That the correspondence be supported or received for information as recommended in the consent agenda.

a. Correspondence - Enbridge - Third-party Locate Charge - May 2, 2023

That the correspondence from Enbridge regarding third-party locate charge dated May 2, 2023, be received for information.

b. Correspondence - Town of The Blue Mountains - Investigating Partnerships for the Protection of Green Space - March 27, 2023

That the correspondence from the Town of the Blue Mountains regarding investigating partnerships for the protection of green space dated March 27, 2023, be supported by the Council of the County of Grey.

c. Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting minutes dated May 4, 2023

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting minutes dated May 4, 2023, be adopted as presented.

That the following resolutions contained therein be endorsed:

- i. That member Keith Reid be nominated as Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for 2023.**
- ii. That member Rob Lipsett be nominated as Vice Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for 2023.**
- iii. That report PDR-AAC-20-23 be received, regarding the proposed update to the Provincial Policy Statement 2023; and**

That report PDR-AAC-20-23 be forwarded on to County Council for their consideration for inclusion in the County of Grey's comments on the 'Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument' posted on the Environmental Registry through posting #019-6813; and

That the report be shared with member municipalities having

jurisdiction within Grey County; and

That the report be shared with local agricultural stakeholder organizations including the Grey County Federation of Agriculture, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Christian Farmers, National Farmers Union, and Grey County Agricultural Services; and

That should the revised natural heritage policies be released with a limited commenting timeline, with no ability to prepare a further report for the Agricultural Advisory Committee, or County Council, that Council consider directing staff to submit comments directly to the province on those updated policies.

d. Planning and Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting minutes dated May 4, 2023

That the Planning and Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting minutes dated May 4, 2023, be adopted as presented.

That the following resolutions contained therein be endorsed:

- i. That Councillor Keaveney be nominated as Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Advisory Committee for 2023.**
- ii. That Councillor Hutchinson be nominated as Vice Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Advisory Committee for 2023.**
- iii. That report PDR-PEDAC-19-23 regarding proposed Bill 97, the 'Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023' and the proposed update to the Provincial Policy Statement 2023, be received; and**

That report PDR-PEDAC-19-23 be forwarded on to County Council for their consideration for inclusion in the County of Grey's comments on the 'Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument' posted on the Environmental Registry through posting #019-6813; and

That the report be shared with member municipalities having jurisdiction within Grey County; and,

That should the revised natural heritage policies be released with a limited commenting timeline, with no ability to prepare a further report for the Planning and Economic Development Advisory

Committee, or County Council, that Council consider directing staff to submit comments directly to the province on those updated policies.

- e. LSR-CW-01-23 - Conservation Authorities Prosecution Pilot
That report LSR-CW-01-23 regarding the Conservation Authorities Prosecution Pilot be received for information.**
- f. Pending Activity List
That the pending activity list be received for information.**

Carried

Items for Direction and Discussion

PDR-CW-21-23 - County Comments on the 2023 Draft Provincial Policy Statement

CW75-23 Moved by: Councillor Carleton Seconded by: Councillor Paterson

That report PDR-CW-21-23 be received, regarding the proposed update to the Provincial Policy Statement 2023; and

That reports PDR-CW-21-23, PDR-PEDAC-19-23, and PDR-AAC-20-23 be forwarded on to the province as the County of Grey's comments on the 'Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument' posted on the Environmental Registry through posting #019-6813; and

That should the revised natural heritage policies be released with a limited commenting timeline, with no ability to prepare a further report for County Council, that staff be directed to submit comments directly to the province on those updated policies; and

That staff be authorized to proceed prior to County Council approval as per Section 26.6(b) of Procedural By-law 5134-22.

Carried

Addendum to PDR-CW-10-23 - Natural Heritage Review Options Update

The meeting recessed and reconvened at 11:30 a.m.

CW76-23 Moved by: Councillor Bordignon Seconded by: Councillor Eccles

That report Addendum to PDR-CW-10-23 regarding an update on natural heritage review options be received; and

That the report be shared with member municipalities and conservation authorities within Grey County for their review; and

That staff be directed to proceed with recruitment of a second County planning ecologist staff position for natural heritage review of municipal applications, as funded in 2023 from any year-end surplus from the 2023 Planning Operating budget, application fees, along with funds from the waste management, planning studies, and one-time funding reserves; and

That staff work with member municipalities to ensure that the second planning ecologist position is paid for via cost recovery from developers and landowners undertaking planning applications for 2024 and onwards; and

That should the draft natural heritage policies in the 2023 Provincial Policy Statement propose significant alterations to the natural heritage review process, that hiring of a second planning ecologist may be paused or eliminated at the discretion of staff; and

That staff be authorized to proceed prior to County Council approval as per Section 26.6(b) of Procedural By-law 5134-22.

Carried

ITR-CW-02-23 - IT Five-Year Strategic Plan

CW77-23 Moved by: Councillor Hutchinson Seconded by: Councillor Keaveney

That report ITR CW-02-23 IT Five-Year Strategic Plan be received; and

That Council support the goals and objectives of the 2023 IT Strategic Plan as outlined in this report.

Carried

CCR-CW-09-23 - Code of Conduct Update and Guideline for Electronic/Hybrid Meetings

CW78-23 Moved by: Councillor Pringle Seconded by: Councillor Mackey

That report CCR-CW-09-23 regarding a code of conduct update and guidelines for electronic meetings be received; and

That By-law 5107-21, a by-law to adopt a policy respecting a code of conduct for council members, be amended to include clarification on participating in and collecting more than one per diem for meetings held

concurrently; and

That Council supports the guidelines noted in Report CCR-CW-09-23 regarding electronic/hybrid meetings.

Carried

HRR-CW-08-23 - OPSEU Lee Manor Memorandum of Settlement

CW79-23 Moved by: Councillor Eccles Seconded by: Councillor Dobreen

That report HRR-CW-08-23 regarding the OPSEU Lee Manor Memorandum of Settlement be received; and

That Grey County Council ratify and approve the attached Memorandum of Settlement dated April 25, 2023, between Lee Manor and OPSEU Local 299, to bind the new collective agreement; and

That the Warden and Clerk be authorized to sign the Collective Agreement ahead of Council approval as per Section 26.6 (b) of the Procedural By-Law; and

That Grey County Council authorize staff to make the necessary amendments to rates of pay, benefits and other issues identified as agreed changes in the new Memorandum of Settlement.

Carried

Correspondence - Bruce County - Response to Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) Pathways to Decarbonization Study

CW80-23 Moved by: Councillor Boddy Seconded by: Councillor Kentner

That the correspondence from Bruce County regarding their response to Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) Pathways to Decarbonization Study dated April 20, 2023, be received for information; and

That staff be directed to prepare a letter reaffirming Grey County's target of Net-Zero emissions, the importance of non-emitting electricity generation in achieving that goal, and the importance of Provincial investments in renewables to accelerate the market growth of that sector locally.

Carried

Community Services Committee meeting minutes dated April 25, 2023

CW81-23 Moved by: Councillor Matrosovs Seconded by: Councillor Dobreen

That the Community Services Committee meeting minutes dated April 25, 2023, be adopted as presented.

That the following resolutions contained therein be endorsed:

- i. **That staff report CSR-CS-07-23, regarding an overnight warming centre in Owen Sound be received; and**

That Grey County enter into a one-year agreement with Safe n Sound to establish a warming centre in Owen Sound as a pilot project; and

That the operating funding required in the amount of \$150,000 be provided from the Safe Restart Funding Reserve.

- ii. **That report CSR-CS-08-23 Early Learning and Childcare Overview be received for information.**

- iii. **That report CSR-CS-09-23 on Winter Short Term Shelter Program be received for information.**

- iv. **That report CSR-CS-10-23 regarding a proposed Investment Plan for Homelessness Prevention Program for 2023-24 be received; and**

That Grey County Council endorses the Investment Plan for the Homelessness Prevention Program and approves the 2023-24 funding to be expensed by March 31, 2024.

- v. **That report CAOR-CS-12-23, regarding the Grey Transit Route Initiative, be received for information.**

Carried

Closed Meeting Matters

There were no closed meeting matters.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Notice of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillors Matrosovs and Hutchinson, Committee of the Whole adjourned at 12:48 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

Brian Milne, Warden

Tara Warder, Clerk