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## Transportation and Public Safety Committee

October 23, 2014 – 10:00 AM

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

Present: Chair Alan Barfoot; Councillors Bob Pringle, Wayne Fitzgerald, Bob White, Harley Greenfield, Deborah Haswell, Duncan McKinlay, John Bell; and Warden Brian Milne

### Staff

Present: Sharon Vokes, Acting Chief Administrative Officer; Michael Kelly, Director of Transportation Services; Mike Muir, Director of Paramedic Services; Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning; Geoff Hogan, Director of Information Technology; Sharon Melville, Buyer and Tara Warder, Recording Secretary

### Call to Order

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

### Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There was none.

### Business Arising from the Minutes

*Transportation and Public Safety Committee minutes dated September 18, 2014*

These minutes are for information only as they were adopted by Grey County Council on October 7, 2014.

## Deputations

### *Municipality of Grey Highlands Council – Concerns with the Closure of Simcoe Road 91*

Councillor McQueen addressed the Committee on behalf of the Municipality of Grey Highlands on its concern with the proposed closure of Simcoe Road 91. Councillor McQueen provided a history of the issue to date, including the need for the hard surfacing of Sideroad 26/27.

Councillor McQueen expressed concern with the lack of discussion and consultation with the Municipality of Grey Highlands and noted the impacts on the Municipality's transportation system and potential impacts on the economy, as well as Grey County tourism. Concerns expressed by the community include environmental impacts to the escarpment with the development of Sideroad 26/27, visual impacts to the escarpment and the health and safety of residents in terms of acceptable emergency response times.

The Municipality of Grey Highlands is requesting that Grey County Council review the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) Development Permit for the reconstruction of Sideroad 26/27 and consider the Municipality's and community's concerns, and further that Grey County work with the Municipality on a process moving forward. Grey Highlands also wishes to be a consulting municipality and signatory to future agreements.

Councillor McQueen addressed questions from the Committee on the presentation, as well as the proposed tunnel under Simcoe Road 91.

Mike Muir highlighted the ability of Paramedic Services to service the area, noting that traditionally, volumes have not been high to date. That area is currently serviced by vehicles from Blue Mountain, Dundalk, Collingwood and Stayner.

### *Doug Dingeldein and Lorrie Gillis – Concern with the Closure of Simcoe Road 91*

Doug Dingeldein addressed the Committee on concerns with closing Simcoe Road 91. Mr. Dingeldein outlined current traffic patterns in the area and issues of the proposed closure including those related to public safety, commerce and tourism.

Mr. Dingeldein spoke to the lack of discussion with residents of Grey Highlands on the closure of Simcoe Road 91, and the issues that will remain if Sideroad 26/27 is not upgraded to an acceptable standard. Further issues relating to use of alternative routes were discussed.

It was noted that Walker Aggregates has indicated to the group that its preferred option is to construct a tunnel under Simcoe Road 91.

Mr. Dingeldein noted specific requests for the Committee to consider, including placing traffic counters on Grey Road 31 and Simcoe Road 91 for at least a two week period and making the results available to the community, re-opening discussions with Clearview Township and request reconsideration of the arrangement to close the road, request an intervention by the Province, and participate in a review of the NEC Development Permit to upgrade Sideroad 26/27.

Mr. Dingeldein addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

Councillor Haswell then left the meeting.

*Joerg Weller, Cedarwell Excavating Ltd. – Requirements for a Road*

*Assessment Study for Grey Road 28*

Joerg Weller of Cedarwell Excavating attended the meeting to speak to the requirement to undertake a road assessment study on Grey Road 28 for the gravel pit he owns on Concession Road 2, east of Hanover. Mr. Weller plans to expand the quarry.

Mr. Weller requested the Committee to reconsider the requirement for Cedarwell Excavating to undertake a road assessment study. He holds concerns with paying for a study when there is another operator utilizing the road and hauling more material. Mr. Weller is proposing a 2,000,000 expansion with up to 50,000 tonnes annually. It was noted that the pit has been there for over 50 years and the infrastructure was constructed to sustain it. Mr. Weller noted that he is willing to decrease extraction on the existing pit to compensate for the expansion.

Michael Kelly outlined the proposed process to determine when road assessment studies are required. Until a process is developed, the Transportation Services Director will bring forward a report to the Committee with a recommendation on whether an assessment study is required.

Mr. Weller was requested to provide documentation showing the last five years of extraction/tonnage, current haul routes, and any additional relevant information.

TAPS113-14 Moved by: Councillor McKinlay

Seconded by: Councillor White

**THAT the Transportation and Public Safety Committee recommends to County Council that Resolution TAPS96-14, being the requirement for Cedarwell Excavating to undertake a road assessment study on Grey Road 28, be reconsidered;**

**AND THAT if permission is granted from Council, that staff prepare an additional report for Committee's consideration.**

Carried

The Committee briefly recessed then reconvened.

## Reports – Transportation Services

### *TR-TAPS-63-14 Simcoe Road 91 Transfer*

Mike Kelly presented the above noted report regarding the closure of Simcoe Road 91 and provided a history of the issue to date, as well as Grey County's involvement.

Mr. Kelly spoke to his knowledge of Clearview Township's intention to upgrade Sideroad 26/27, and noted that Clearview Township intends to place load restrictions on the road.

It was noted that the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) will look at environmental impacts and aesthetics of Sideroad 26/27 rather than design standards.

Mr. Kelly also indicated that two three day traffic counts were taken on Grey Road 31 from September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The average daily traffic along Grey Road 31 north of Simcoe Road 91 was 382 and south of Simcoe Road 91 was 579.

Staff addressed questions from the Committee regarding load restrictions. Staff will research whether a corridor agreement exists between Clearview and Grey County.

Inquiry was made as to why the option for a tunnel underneath Simcoe Road 91 is no longer being pursued if that is the preferred approach of Walker Aggregates.

*TAPS114-14* Moved by: Councillor McKinlay      Seconded by: Councillor Pringle

**WHEREAS at the August 7, 2014 Transportation and Public Safety Committee meeting a resolution was passed requesting that a staff report be completed regarding the closure of Simcoe Road 91 and development of Sideroad 26/27;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report TR-TAPS-63-14 regarding the closure of Simcoe Road 91 and development of Sideroad 26/27 be received for information.**

Carried

TAPS115-14 Moved by: Councillor McKinlay      Seconded by: Councillor Pringle

**THAT staff be directed to provide a report to the Transportation and Public Safety Committee regarding the presentations on the closure of Simcoe Road 91 and the requests from the delegations.**

Carried

The remaining Transportation Services reports were considered later in the meeting.

## Reports – Information Technology

### *ITR-TAPS-06-14 Facilitating Fibre Construction in Grey County*

Geoff Hogan presented the above noted report regarding the facilitation of fibre construction in Grey County.

Mr. Hogan noted that collaborative policies need to be considered which aim to find the balance between keeping roadways safe and functional and allowing providers to more easily install fibre. There is a need to align policies across municipalities in order to move projects through the process quickly and keep private sector costs low.

TAPS116-14 Moved by: Councillor White      Seconded by: Councillor Bell

**WHEREAS encouraging diversification of local and regional economies through the increased use of broadband and information and communications technologies (ICT) is an essential component of developing a knowledge-based economy;**

**AND WHEREAS leveraging high speed, high capacity communications technologies (broadband) across a wide range of sectors achieves above average rates of economic growth, job creation, social diversification and environmental innovation;**

**AND WHEREAS the lack of affordable high quality broadband is impeding Grey County residents and businesses' ability to fully take advantage of the new economy;**

**AND WHEREAS initial results of the County's Economic Development Action Plan indicate that the implementation of high quality fibre based broadband needs to be a priority of Grey County;**

**AND WHEREAS a significant portion of the cost of installing fibre is permits required to be in compliance with municipal policy;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT report ITR-TAPS-06-14 Facilitating Fibre Construction in Grey County be received;**

**AND THAT the Transportation and Information Technology departments be directed to update policies to decrease cost and complexity of installing facilities required to improve broadband (particularly fibre) in Grey County;**

**AND FURTHER THAT County staff work with member municipality staff to align policies between County and member municipalities to standardize access to road allowances for the installation of broadband facilities;**

**AND FURTHER THAT the County circulate information on this initiative to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) and the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus (WOWC).**

Carried

## Reports – Planning

### *PDR-TAPS-36-14 Draft Transportation Master Plan and Implementation Action Plan*

Randy Scherzer presented the above report regarding the draft Transportation Master Plan and implementation plan for the Committee's information. The Planning and Community Development Committee considered the report on October 16<sup>th</sup> and provided direction on the matter.

Mr. Scherzer provided a history of the initiative to date, noting that the consultants have provided the County with a draft plan which will be circulated to the lower tier municipalities.

The draft plan includes a number of recommendations. County Council will need to decide which recommendations, if any, it wishes to pursue and then prioritize these

recommendations.

It was noted that the recommendations are dependent on funding, and the funding will determine the timing of implementation.

Staff will summarize the comments received from the lower tier municipalities and bring forward a final plan as well as an engagement strategy which will include circulating the draft to municipalities and stake holders, facilitating an open house, offering to present to the lower tier municipalities, incorporating the use of social media and holding a special meeting with County Council to discuss the plan.

*TAPS117-14* Moved by: Councillor McKinlay      Seconded by: Warden Milne

**THAT Report PDR-TAPS-36-14 regarding the draft Transportation Master Plan be received for information.**

Carried

## Reports – Transportation (continued)

### *TR-TAPS-71-14 Snowmobile Access – Durham Patrol Facility*

Michael Kelly presented the above report, requesting authorization to negotiate an agreement with the Durham and District Trail Blazers to permit them to place a ten metre wide snowmobile trail across the Durham patrol yard so that users may access the Tim Horton's.

*TAPS118-14* Moved by: Councillor McKinlay      Seconded by: Councillor Greenfield

**WHEREAS the Durham and District Trail Blazers Snowmobile Association has requested permission from Grey County to utilize its Transportation Services Durham patrol yard as a trail;**

**AND WHEREAS Grey County wishes to promote tourism within Grey County;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report TR-TAPS-71-14 regarding the use of Grey County Transportation Services Durham patrol yard by the Durham and District Trail Blazers for the use of a snowmobile trail be received;**

**AND THAT Grey County staff are hereby authorized to negotiate an agreement with the Durham and District Trail Blazers Snowmobile Association to use a ten metre corridor for the use of a snowmobile**

**trail provided it assumes all responsibility and costs associated with this initiative.**

Carried

*TR-TAPS-72-14 Setback Exemption Request – Grey Road 15*

Michael Kelly presented the above report, recommending an exemption be made to the policy on the erection of buildings and structures on lands abutting Grey County roads. The landowner at 1793 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East has requested to place a structure 50.5 feet from the centreline.

TAPS119-14 Moved by: Councillor White

Seconded by: Councillor Fitzgerald

**WHEREAS the Grey County Transportation Services Department policy on the erection of buildings and structures on lands abutting Grey County Roads specifies that no building or structure shall be erected within 75 feet (22.9 meters) from the centerline of any County road unless approved by the Director of Transportation Services and the Transportation and Public Safety Committee;**

**AND WHEREAS a property owner is seeking permission from Grey County to place a structure (house) 50.5 feet from the centreline of Grey Road 15 at the property municipally described as 1793 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East in the City of Owen Sound;**

**AND WHEREAS accommodating the requested setback exemption will not have any adverse impact on Grey Road 15;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report TR-TAPS-72-14 be received;**

**AND THAT the Transportation and Public Safety Committee approve the request for a building setback of 50.5 feet from the centerline of Grey Road 15 for the construction of a residential house at 1793 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East in the City of Owen Sound.**

Carried

*TR-TAPS-73-14 Quarterly Purchasing Report Quarter 3 of 2014*

Michael Kelly presented the above report, outlining the purchases requiring reporting to Committee in accordance with the purchasing by-law.

TAPS120-14 Moved by: Councillor Bell

Seconded by: Councillor Pringle



**THAT Report TR-TAPS-73-14 regarding the Quarterly Purchasing Report for Quarter 3 of 2014 for Transportation Services, be received for information.**

Carried

*TR-TAPS-74-14 Entrance Permit Procedure Amendment*

Michael Kelly addressed the Committee on the above report, recommending amendments to the entrance permit procedure. Mr. Kelly outlined the proposed changes to the procedure.

The Committee suggested that the proposal to include an additional clause in Section 3.1 Entrance Standards be amended to read “3 metres from the edge of the pavement” rather than 5 metres.

TAPS121-14 Moved by: Councillor Bell

Seconded by: Councillor McKinlay

**WHEREAS the Corporate Procedure for Entrance Permit (Procedure Number: MS-TS-001-001) was approved on May 7, 2013 and modified on July 2, 2013;**

**AND WHEREAS after over one year of administration of the Entrance Permit, several concerns have been identified and modifications are recommended to the Corporate Procedure;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report TR-TAPS-74-14 regarding modifications to the Corporate Procedure for Entrance Permit (Procedure Number MS-TS-001-001) be received;**

**AND THAT the proposed modifications as amended, by stating that all entrances shall either have a surface of asphalt or granular material from the edge of the road asphalt to at least three metres away from the edge of the road, be incorporated into the Corporate Procedure for Entrance Permits.**

Carried

*TR-TAPS-75-14 Disposal of Grader*

Michael Kelly presented the above report, noting that staff will be disposing of the 2007 grader as it is no longer needed by the County. The grader has less than 4000 hours on it and costs money to maintain it.

The Committee made inquiry as to whether the grader would be beneficial to use

during the winter for winging snowbanks back. Staff noted that two other graders are equipped and available for use.

Staff were requested to bring back information on the costs to equip the grader for snow removal and to provide the number of hours spent on snow blowing and winging back snow banks during the 2013-2014 season.

*TAPS122-14* Moved by: Councillor McKinlay      Seconded by: Councillor Fitzgerald

**THAT Report TR-TAPS-75-14 regarding the grader disposal be deferred until further information is presented on the costs to equip the grader with snow removal equipment.**

Carried

The Committee recessed from 12:50 PM to 1:15 PM.

*TR-TAPS-76-14 Owen Sound Winter Maintenance Agreement*

Michael Kelly presented the above report requesting authorization for the Warden and Clerk to execute a one year winter maintenance agreement with the City of Owen Sound.

*TAPS123-14* Moved by: Councillor McKinlay      Seconded by: Councillor Fitzgerald

**WHEREAS the County of Grey (Grey County) and the City of Owen Sound have historically entered into Winter Maintenance Agreements for the upkeep and maintenance of 15.2 kilometers of County Roads within the boundary of the City of Owen Sound;**

**AND WHEREAS the current winter maintenance agreement with the City expired in April of 2014;**

**AND WHEREAS Grey County wishes to renew the Winter Maintenance Agreement for the winter of 2014 / 2015;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report TR-TAPS-76-14 be received;**

**AND THAT the Warden and Clerk be authorized to execute a one year winter maintenance agreement between Grey County and the City of Owen Sound and to authorize the City of Owen Sound to complete the winter maintenance of 15.2 kilometers of County roads with in the City limits of Owen Sound.**

Carried

*TR-TAPS-77-14 Paved Shoulder Policy Background*

Michael Kelly addressed the Committee on the above report. It was noted that a policy was completed in 2009 identifying that all shoulders on county roads would be paved. A further report was then developed which included a map showing which shoulders would be paved.

Staff indicated that Tourism and Transportation staff did not work collaboratively on deciding where to put paved shoulders when the policy was originally developed. Staff wish to provide a collaborative and updated policy which incorporates both tourism and transportation interests.

The Committee suggested that the option of a cycling liaison committee be explored.

TAPS124-14 Moved by: Warden Milne

Seconded by: Councillor Pringle

**WHEREAS since January 6, 2005 there have been several Transportation and Public Safety Reports and a Policy was adopted (Road 01-09) regarding the placement of paved shoulders;**

**AND WHEREAS the latest report TAPSR-TAPS-06-11 was endorsed by County Council on February 1, 2011 which includes a map that defines where paved shoulders will be scheduled to be installed;**

**AND WHEREAS the Transportation Master Plan is recommending the development of a paved shoulder plan;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report TR-TAPS-77-14 regarding the Grey County Roads Paved Shoulders be received;**

**AND THAT Grey County Tourism and Transportation Services staff continue to work together with recreational groups and local municipalities to develop a policy regarding paved shoulders;**

**AND THAT the Director of Transportation completes a report each fall prior to budget approval, identifying the placement of paved shoulders on upcoming construction projects.**

Carried

Chair Alan Barfoot then left the meeting.

TAPS125-14 Moved by: Councillor Bell

Seconded by: Councillor White

**THAT Councillor McKinlay be appointed as Acting Chair for the remainder of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee**

**meeting.**

Carried

*TR-TAPS-78-14 Transportation Services Engineering Section*

Michael Kelly presented the above report, providing information on the use of consultants by the Department. Mr. Kelly noted that it is more efficient to outsource specialist work if there is a lack of available resources or a need for specialized expertise.

Staff were requested to provide rationalization for the Committee's information as to when and why consultant assignment projects are outsourced.

TAPS126-14 Moved by: Councillor Greenfield      Seconded by: Councillor White

**THAT Report TR-TAPS-78-14 regarding the Transportation Services Engineering Section be received for information purposes.**

Carried

Correspondence

*Grey Northern Powerline Inc. – Encroachment Permit Fee and Refund Request*

The Committee requested Michael Kelly to follow up with Grey Northern Powerline, indicating that a staff report will be brought forward on the matter.

*City of Kingston – Support for Lowering Speed Limit on Residential Streets to 40 km/hour*

The Committee considered the correspondence.

TAPS127-14 Moved by: Councillor White      Seconded by: Councillor Bell

**THAT the County of Grey support the resolution from the City of Kingston supporting the Ministry of Transportation's consideration to lower the speed limit on residential streets to 40 kilometres per hour from 50 kilometres per hour.**

Carried

*Correspondence from Nancy Matthews Regarding Simcoe Road 91  
Closure*

The Committee considered the above correspondence.

TAPS128-14 Moved by: Councillor Bell                      Seconded by: Councillor McKinlay

**THAT the correspondence from Nancy Matthews expressing concern for the closure of Simcoe Road 91 be received for information.**

Carried

*Correspondence from Peter Ferguson - Bowles Bluff Hill*

TAPS129-14 Moved by: Councillor Bell                      Seconded by: Councillor Fitzgerald

**THAT the correspondence from Peter Ferguson regarding Bowles Bluff Hill be received for information.**

Carried

TAPS130-14 Moved by: Councillor Pringle                      Seconded by: Councillor Greenfield

**THAT the following correspondence be received for information:**

- **Correspondence from the Municipality of Grey Highlands to Township of Clearview – Simcoe Road 91 Closure**
- **Correspondence from the Municipality of Grey Highlands to the County of Simcoe – Simcoe Road 91 Closure**
- **County of Simcoe Response to Grey Highlands Deputation Request on Simcoe Road 91 Closure**

Carried

TAPS131-14 Moved by: Councillor Bell                      Seconded by: Councillor Fitzgerald

**THAT the Correspondence from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs regarding approval for Truvist for use on Wild Chervil, be received for information.**

Carried

Other Business

*Transportation Services Update*

Michael Kelly noted that it will cost approximately \$100 per kilometre to spray Truivist to eradicate wild chervil and it has been approved for industrial (road work) use, but not agricultural work.

TAPS132-14 Moved by: Councillor Fitzgerald      Seconded by: Councillor Bell

**THAT the Committee receive the update on Truivist approvals;**

**AND THAT the County of Grey continue to press for the approval of Truivist for agricultural purposes.**

Carried

Mr. Kelly noted that the County will receive Ontario Community Infrastructure Funding for roads and bridges in 2015.

Mr. Kelly also indicated that NextEra Energy / East Durham Wind have requested an extension to the encroachment permit issued by the County. Mr. Kelly advised that extensions are generally granted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

TAPS133-14 Moved by: Councillor Bell      Seconded by: Councillor Pringle

**THAT NextEra Energy / East Durham Wind's request for an extension to its encroachment permit not be granted.**

Carried

*Paramedic Services Update*

Mike Muir noted that the Province is setting direction on protocols for dealing with suspected ebola cases.

Next Meeting Dates

**Thursday, November 6, 2014 at the Grey County Administration Building**

On motion by Councillor Bell, the meeting adjourned at 1:54 PM.

Alan Barfoot, Chair