

Committee of the Whole

February 27, 2020

Grey County Council met on the above date at 9:44 AM at the County Administration Building. Deputy Warden Selwyn Hicks assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order with all members present except Councillor Soever. Alternate Councillor Sampson was in attendance on behalf of Councillor Soever.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Milne declared an interest with respect to PDR-CW-16-20 Wilder Lake Subdivision Information Report, as he has a sibling involved in the application.

Delegations

Michael Ryan and Hugh Simpson, Grey County Federation of Agriculture - Farmland Property Tax Rate

Hugh Simpson and Michael Ryan presented to Committee on behalf of the Grey County Federation of Agriculture. Mr. Simpson noted that the organization represents 2000 farms in the area that produce over 400 million dollars in gross domestic product. He also noted that there are many young farmers coming into the area, which is a promising trend.

Michael Ryan then addressed the Committee, noting that the Grey County Federation of Agriculture is not requesting a reduction in property tax, but are asking Grey County to keep the agricultural burden the same as it has been in the past, at approximately 3% of the County's total tax revenue.

It was noted that the assessed value of farmland in Grey County has gone up by 71% and the residential tax base has only increased by 5%. He noted that if residential values move proportionately with the agricultural sector, the ratios are applicable, however the latest assessment cycle has resulted in a shift of tax burdens towards farmland.

There is concern in the sector that the increased taxes the sector is paying is not proportional to the services it receives from the County. Mr. Ryan spoke to the variables that impact revenues and profits in the sector, and that the continuances of growth in the number of young farmers is directly related to the costs that an operation can sustain.

Municipalities can set the ratio anywhere between 0% and .25% and each municipality is different. The decision needs to be made based on local needs. Ratios from other municipalities were then reviewed.

Mr. Ryan and Mr. Simpson addressed questions from the Committee regarding the request from the Federation, including what rate the Grey County Federation of Agriculture would recommend. Mr. Ryan noted that historically, agriculture has paid between 2% and 3% of the County's tax revenue and the Federation would like to see that continue at 3%. It is expected that the next assessment cycle will realize another significant increase as well. The Federation is requesting a decrease from .24% to .158%.

Staff noted that the Treasurer will prepare a report for the second meeting in March regarding tax policies and it was requested that this presentation be factored into the report.

Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Councillor Milne left the meeting at this time and did not vote or participate in discussion of the matter.

There were no items requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Consent Agenda

CW49-20 Moved by: Councillor Clumpus Seconded by: Councillor Paterson

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.

- i. That Report TR-CW-07-20 containing the tender results for RFT-TS-05-20 Grey Road 9 Pulverizing and Hot Mix Paving be received; and
That the Murray Group Ltd. be awarded the Tender for a total amount of \$2,095,961.00, excluding HST.**
- ii. That Report PDR-CW-16-20 regarding an overview of proposed plan of subdivision application 42T-2019-04, consisting of twenty nine (29) single detached residential parcels and one lot containing the existing buildings associated with the golf course on lands described as Part of Lots 2, 3 and 4, Concession 21, Township of Southgate, geographic Township of Egremont, be received for information.**
- iii. That the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes dated February 12, 2020 be adopted as presented.**
- iv. That the Grey County – The Blue Mountains Task Force minutes dated February 13, 2020 be adopted as presented.**
- v. That the correspondence from the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development regarding a brief on the Sydenham Skills Training and Innovation Hub be received for information.**

- vi. **That the correspondence from the Lake Erie Drinking Water Source Protection Region be received for information.**

Carried

Items for Direction and Discussion

CAOR-CW-03-20 Award of NFRP-EDTC-03-20 Bus Lease for Community Transportation Project

CW50-20 Moved by: Councillor Burley Seconded by: Councillor Mackey

That Report CAOR-CW-03-20 regarding bus leases be received; and

That the lease of six Elkhart Coach buses be awarded to Overland Custom Coach (2007) for \$15,234 monthly excluding taxes; and

That the monthly lease cost be funded from the Provincial funding contained in the 2020 budget from the Community Transportation Grant; and

That staff be authorized to proceed with this project prior to Council approval as per Section 25.6 of Procedural By-law 5003-18.

Carried

HDR-CW-02-20 Community Homeless Prevention Initiative

Councillor Desai then entered the meeting.

CW51-20 Moved by: Councillor Robinson Seconded by: Councillor Boddy

That Report HDR-CW-02-20 regarding a proposed Investment Plan for Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative for 2020-21 be received; and

That Grey County Council approves the Investment Plan for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative and approves the 2020-21 funding to be expensed by March 31, 2021.

Carried

EDTC-CW-06-20 Draft Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan

Bryan Plumstead addressed the Committee on the draft Cycling and Trails Master Plan on behalf of the WSP consultants who could not attend due to weather. It was noted that funding was received in 2018 through the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program to develop both a cycling plan and implement paved shoulders on County Roads.

Mr. Plumstead then outlined the phases of the development of the draft Cycling and Trails Master Plan and reviewed the engagement process that was undertaken with residents, decision makers, member municipalities and County staff.

The vision of the plan was then noted. Key design considerations were then highlighted as noted in the Ontario Traffic Manual Book 18.

Mr. Plumstead then provided an overview of the proposed network and the proposed facilities. The focus of the cycling and trails network within the next ten years is to align with the County's capital plan and achieve efficiencies where possible.

Warden Paul McQueen then entered the meeting.

The costs to implement the Plan were outlined.

One of the recommendations stemming from the Plan is to establish a cycling and trails committee which could include representatives from all member municipalities. Partners are essential to share ideas and resources for infrastructure and programming, as well as funding.

Key actions and next steps were then outlined.

Staff addressed questions from the Committee.

Mr. Plumstead noted that the open house scheduled for 11:30 this morning will be rescheduled.

CW52-20 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor Hutchinson

That Report EDTC-CW-06-20 and the Draft Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan be received; and

That the Draft Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan be posted on the County website; and

That staff be directed to circulate a link to the draft plan to member municipalities and interested stakeholders, and

That following a minimum 30-day period, comments will be reviewed and incorporated into a final plan and brought back to county council along with recommendations for implementation.

Carried

Committee recessed briefly, then reconvened with Warden McQueen in the Chair.

PDR-CW-09-20 Forest Management Plan

CW53-20 Moved by: Councillor Burley Seconded by: Councillor O'Leary

That Report PDR-CW-09-20 regarding the draft Forest Management Plan be received; and

That staff be directed to solicit input from the public, the forest industry, agencies, and municipalities on the draft Forest Management Plan; and

That following consideration of stakeholder input, a revised Forest Management Plan be presented to the Forest Management Plan Advisory Committee and County Council for its consideration.

Carried

PDR-CW-14-20 County Official Plan Amendment 42-03-580-OPA-148 Sarawak Quarry Expansion Merit Report

CW54-20 Moved by: Councillor Carleton Seconded by: Councillor Keaveney

That Report PDR-CW-14-20 regarding a proposed County Official Plan Amendment be received; and

That the proposal proceeds to a Public Meeting to consider an amendment to the County of Grey Official Plan on lands designated 'Agricultural' and 'Rural', to permit the expansion of an existing quarry at Part Lot 36, Concession 2, geographic Township of Sarawak, Township of Georgian Bluffs, provided the Township is prepared to hold a joint public meeting in consideration of the necessary local amendment requirements.

Carried

PDR-CW-15-20 Forest Management Annual Report and By-law Enforcement Officer Appointments

CW55-20 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor Woodbury

That Report PDR-CW-15-20 regarding Forest Management be received; and

That a by-law be prepared to appoint Lee Thurston and an alternate as Municipal By-law Enforcement Officers for the County of Grey; and

That the by-law contain provisions for the appointment by the Director of Planning or his/her designate of additional Municipal By-law Enforcement Officers for the County of Grey.

Carried

TR-CW-06-20 Orchardville Bridge (Structure 900-272)

CW56-20 Moved by: Councillor Robinson Seconded by: Councillor Potter

That TR-CW-06-20 be received and that Grey County accept the preferred solution to have Orchardville Bridge (Structure 900-272) removed with full recording and documentation of the heritage bridge; and

That Staff be directed to single source the bridge removal design to GM BluePlan.

Carried

FR-CW-04-20 Year End Transfers

CW57-20 Moved by: Councillor Paterson Seconded by: Councillor Gamble

That Council receive Report FR-CW-04-20 titled 2019 Year-End Transfers and approve the recommendations, as contained and estimated in Report FR-CW-04-20, regarding transfers to and from Reserve; and

That Council approve any surplus/deficit arising in the 2019 budget be transferred to/(from) the respective departmental reserves.

Carried

PSR-CW-04-20 Response Time Performance Plan Results 2019

CW58-20 Moved by: Councillor Robinson Seconded by: Councillor Woodbury

That Report PSR-CW-04-20 be received; and

That the 2019 Paramedic Service response time performance results be submitted to the Ministry of Health by March 31, 2020.

Carried

Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village

CW59-20 Moved by: Councillor Hutchinson Seconded by: Councillor Mackey

Whereas a request has been received from Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village for \$15,000 to support program delivery; and

Whereas staff have reviewed the request in coordination with the Not for Profit Grant Requests criteria as outlined in Report SSR-CW-06-19, endorsed by Council August 8, 2019, confirming Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village's eligibility with the grant process;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Grey County support the request for \$15,000 from Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village and that this amount be funded from the One Time Funding Reserve.

Carried

Other Business

There was no other business.

Notice of Motion

Councillor Desai provided a notice of motion regarding Australia's World Trade Organization challenge against Canada's wine and cider industries.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillors Milne and Desai, Committee of the Whole adjourned at 11:59 AM to the call of the Chair.

Paul McQueen, Warden

Heather Morrison, Clerk