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## Committee of the Whole

### December 7, 2017

Grey County Council met on the above date at 9:30 AM at the County Administration Building. Warden Halliday assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order with all members present except Councillors Jack, Ardiel and Eccles.

The following staff members were in attendance:

Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Heather Morrison, Deputy Clerk; Kevin Wepler, Director of Finance; Lynne Johnson, Director of Long-Term Care; Barbara Fedy, Director of Social Services; Grant McLevy, Director of Human Resources; Pat Hoy, Director of Transportation; Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing; Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning and Development and Kevin McNab, Director of Paramedic Services; Jody MacEachern, Acting Director of Information Technology and Tara Warder, Committee Coordinator

### Call to Order

Warden Halliday called the meeting to order.

### Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

### Items for Direction and Discussion

#### 2018 Budget Overview and Department Presentations

Kevin Wepler introduced the budget documents and the process for the budget presentation.

Councillor McQueen entered the meeting at 9:38 PM.

Mr. Wepler noted that the proposed tax levy increase is 0.83% with \$454,120 to be raised from taxation and \$459,735 from assessment growth. The updated Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) data shows \$917,000 in assessment growth. Council endorsed a resolution from a previous staff report which recommended that excess assessment revenue be allocated to reserves in order to help address the infrastructure deficit. The \$459,735 in assessment growth included in the budget reflects the average increase from 2013-2016.

Mr. Wepler then reviewed the process for developing the budget.

Staff addressed questions from Council on the process for local municipalities to pay for their representatives to come to County Council. It was noted that this rests with the lower tier municipality. A notice of motion could be brought forward to start this process.

Discussion occurred on the Council Administration budget. Staff noted that any changes to the councillor conference attendance policy can be initiated through a notice of motion.

Kevin Wepler noted that overall, the estimated tax increase for residential property assessment is \$9.21 per household or \$4.84 per person.

Kevin Wepler then provided an overview of the Corporate Services budget which includes Council budgets and administrative operating and capital budgets, worker's compensation and weekly self-indemnity, information services, the assessment budget, County property, Provincial Offences Administration, taxation and grants and the Health Unit., Grey Bruce Health Services Hospital Campaign, health care initiatives funding and the Marine Emergency Duties Training Centre contributions.

Further detail was provided on the corporate services budget. It was noted that the future costs of the integrity commissioner are unknown at this time. Staff recommended \$25,000 for the first year and if anything is left at the end of 2015 it be transferred to reserve. A practice for consideration may be to allocate a fixed amount each year towards a reserve.

Mr. Wepler spoke to the benefits of having one time funding reserves and how they function as a tax stabilization fund for one time or unforeseen costs.

Staff addressed questions on the cost of living adjustment. Further questions regarding MPAC's service fees were addressed. Discussion occurred on decreasing POA revenues. Council noted that a method to improve safety is through conducting Commercial Vehicle Operator's Registration (CVOR) inspections and having improved technology for completing these inspections.

Committee recessed briefly, then reconvened.

Randy Scherzer noted that the 2018 Planning Development budget requires \$692,508. Mr. Scherzer outlined the items impacting the budget, and highlighted the agriculture, forestry and trails budgets.

It was noted that forestry revenue is declining compared to previous years. Staff are projecting forestry revenue of \$100,000 for 2018. Staff addressed questions regarding forestry and future plans for forest management in the Pretty River Tract.

Savanna Myers noted that the 2018 Economic Development budget requires \$715,820 for 2018 and highlighted the projects impacting the budget.

Bryan Plumstead noted that the Tourism Department is looking at an increase of \$10,925 over the 2017 budget, totaling \$590,225. Mr. Plumstead noted that the Tourism Advisory Committee has reviewed the priorities in the Destination Development Action Plan and is supportive.

Petal Furness provided information on upcoming project goals for Grey Roots Museum and Archives. The Grey Roots budget includes an increase of \$3,555 over 2017.

Ms. Furness spoke to plans of refreshing the Grey County gallery, for future heritage buildings and landscaping of both the Grey Roots courtyard and Moreston Village.

Positive feedback was received on the work of the volunteers at events in the community.

Barb Fedy spoke to the Children's Services and Ontario works budgets. She noted the positive effects of the new Social Services space and how it assists in better serving clients.

Challenges to staffing sufficient early childhood educators were noted. Many of these educators go to the Board of Education. The wage enhancements support an increase in wages for providers. There is a disparity between the public and private sector.

Discussion occurred on special needs resourcing and an upcoming homelessness enumeration project in April 2018.

Councillor Mackey left the meeting at 12:34 PM.

Council recessed, then reconvened.

Anne Marie Shaw addressed Council on the housing budget, noting that the Housing department budget requires \$7,466,423, an increase of \$248,017 over 2017. Ms. Shaw provided an outline of the planned projects from the Housing Department.

Lynne Johnson noted that the net departmental requirement for Long-Term Care is \$6,269,646, an increase of \$119,928 over 2017.

It was noted that the Ministry sets accommodation rates for long-term care for semi-private and private rooms. There is no flexibility in changing these rates; however some residents can qualify for different rates in basic accommodations based on income.

Ms. Johnson spoke to changes in the case mix index and the raw food budget. The Ministry provides nine dollars per resident day for raw food. Traditionally the County contributed \$0.18 per resident day and the 2018 budget maintains this amount.

Ms. Johnson then spoke to each of the individual budgets for the three long-term care homes.

It was noted that a new long-term care facility needs to be ready and compliant with the Ministry before residents move in. Most of Rockwood Terrace's existing building components or hardware will not be transferable to a new facility.

Kevin McNab presented the Paramedic Services budget, noting that the departmental budget includes a net requirement of \$6,403,006, a decrease of \$27,772 as compared with the 2017 budget. The main contributor to the decrease was an increase in anticipated provincial funding.

Mr. McNab spoke to the Community Paramedicine Program. It was noted that the program has expanded to include four main pillars which include home visits, remote patient monitoring, community clinics and referrals.

The Post Traumatic Stress Disorder plan was outlined.

Mr. McNab noted that the debenture for the Craigeith base has been paid off and it can now be allocated towards the Chatsworth base. Paramedic Services is working with Transportation Services to share common facilities. The base should help with response times in the Meaford, Chatsworth and nearby areas.

Pat Hoy noted that the 2018 Transportation Services departmental budget includes a net departmental requirement of \$17,611,920, an increase of \$278,713 over 2017.

Mr. Hoy noted that Grey County has been approved for funding through the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Grant. The budget as currently written does not reflect this grant.

Mr. Hoy listed the projects approved under the cycling grant, being Grey Road 40 near Desboro, Grey Road 10 in Hanover, and Grey Road 9 near Dundalk. Further, a cycling plan in the amount of \$20,000 was also approved.

Pat Hoy spoke to the upcoming projects for 2018.

Discussion occurred on half loads on County roads and methods to collect money from heavy users to assist with road upgrades. Haul routes were also discussed.

John Bell then left the meeting at 2:39 PM.

It was noted that the quarry study is anticipated to be completed in January 2018.

Kevin Wepler then highlighted the status of the County's reserves. Overall, reserves would move from approximately \$49.9 million to \$43.4 million with the passing of the budget as presented today.

The assessment growth number and the cycling grant figures will be finalized and will be applied to the budget before being brought back to County Council. It will reflect a 0.83% increase as it has been presented today, however those new numbers will be incorporated into the budget.

The budget is anticipated to come back January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and if supported, a by-law will come forward January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for Council to consider.

## Other Business

There was no other business.

## Adjournment

On motion of Councillor Burley, Committee of the Whole adjourned at 2:53 PM to the call of the Chair.

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Stewart Halliday, Warden

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Heather Morrison, Deputy Clerk