

# Minutes

## Committee of the Whole

October 24, 2023

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### Call to Order

Grey County Council met electronically on the above date. Warden Milne assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

### Roll Call

The Deputy Clerk called the Roll with all members present except Councillors Pringle and Boddy.

Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer, and Sarah Goldrup, Deputy Clerk were also in attendance.

The following staff members were also participating:

Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO; Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Community Services; Amanda Kokas, Manager of Provincial Offences Court; Jennifer Cornell, Director of Long-Term Care; Kevin McNab, Director of Paramedic Services; Mary Lou Spicer, Director of Finance; Sue Murray, Deputy Treasurer; Michael Letourneau, Director of Legal Services; Pat Hoy, Director of Transportation; Savanna Myers, Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Culture; Scott Taylor, Director of Planning; Jennifer Moreau, Director of Human Resources; Jody MacEachern, Director of Information Technology; and Robert Hatten, Manager of Communications.

### Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge with respect, the history, spirituality, and culture of the Anishinaabek, Six Nations of the Grand River, Haudenosaunee, and Wendat-Wyandot-Wyandotte peoples on whose traditional territories we gather and whose ancestors signed Treaties with our ancestors. We recognize also, the Metis and Inuit whose ancestors shared this land and these waters. May we all, as Treaty People, live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with all its diverse peoples.

### Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## **2024 Pre-Budget Workshop**

Kim Wingrove introduced the pre-budget workshop and process to seek feedback to guide the development of the 2024 budget.

Councillor Boddy joined the meeting at this time.

Mary Lou Spicer presented to the Committee regarding the process for developing the proposed 2024 budget and the County's context, such as geographical size, population, and households. The presenter shared the five-year net levy breakdown by department, allocation of the net levy by municipality, the cost per private dwelling of the net levy, and draft levy net requirements.

The presenter described the continuing initiatives proposed to be included in the 2024 budget, including departmental reviews, climate change action plans, communications strategy, and strategic plan initiatives. The presenter noted the inclusion of the restoration of prior-year reductions to the health care funding contribution and the affordable housing contribution.

Further, Mary Lou Spicer explained factors impacting the proposed 2024 budget, such as inflation, construction costs, cost of living adjustments, nonunion compensation and pay equity adjustments, group benefit renewals, collective agreements, proposed new FTEs, and consideration of the leap year. The presenter also highlighted risks and assumptions in the budget, like external funding commitments or assessment growth.

Mary Lou Spicer reported the net levy implications of the draft 2024 budgetary increase over the 2023 approved budget, resulting in a proposed 12.12 per cent increase or a \$134.22 increase from 2023 for the average single detached home and noted the impact by member municipality. The Director described the next steps and key dates in considering ten-year capital and the 2024 budget.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff discussed anticipated provincial funding, additional budget meetings, and the presentation of budget materials. The Committee heard comments from its members noting concern about the proposed levy increase, discussing expectations for the level of service, targets for the proposed 2024 levy impact, and inquiring about scenarios prepared by each department that compare options for discretionary versus required expenses. Further, comments were heard regarding the impact of the lack of inflationary increases on provincial funding and related advocacy. Kim Wingrove confirmed that an additional budget workshop would be scheduled.

## **Adjournment**

On motion of Councillors Paterson and McKay, Committee of the Whole adjourned at 10:04 a.m. to the call of the Chair.

Brian Milne, Warden

Tara Warder, Clerk