

# Minutes

## Committee of the Whole

November 3, 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.

### Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### Roll Call

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

Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Tara Warder, Clerk; 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.

## 2024 Pre-Budget Workshop

Mary Lou Spicer presented the pre-budget workshop materials to the Committee. The Director reviewed the proposed net levy increase of \$8.4 million or 12.12 per cent. The Director explained the purpose of the meeting to seek guidance on potential adjustments or reductions for consideration as part of the budget process. The Director presented some initial adjustments identified by staff before the meeting, which resulted in a decrease of \$836,400 or 1.2 per cent to the net levy impact.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mary Lou Spicer confirmed that transfers from the reserve were intended for life cycle improvements identified by building condition assessments. The Director explained that if transfers to reserves are reduced, there may be years where some reach a negative balance, but overall, the corporate reserves should be sufficient. Kim Wingrove spoke about the potential risks, such as forgoing work or increasing staff workloads.

Further, the Director reported the proposed level-one, two, and three reductions. The Director noted the potential impacts of the proposed adjustments on service levels, operations, partnerships, and staff morale or development.

In response to Committee questions, Mary Lou Spicer discussed using Safe Restart Funding and that at the end of 2024, the One Time Funding Reserve would be \$4.5 million, which is within its target balance. The Director described how funds are allocated to the One Time Funding or Tax Stabilization Reserve. Tara Warder spoke about considerations for County Council conferences and Council day catering. Jennifer Moreau reviewed the long-service awards and staff recognition event. Kim Wingrove listed the municipal memberships to which Grey County belongs and spoke about senior staff attendance at conferences.

Further, in response to Committee questions, Randy Scherzer discussed climate change and sustainable agriculture initiatives. Anne Marie Shaw noted affordable housing contributions, recreational programs, and support for funeral services. Jennifer Cornell explained items related to raw food and security for Lee Manor. Tara Warder confirmed that contributions to Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village were previously approved by County Council but still needed to be passed in the annual budget process. Scott Taylor explained involvement in Ontario Land Tribunal hearings. Kevin McNab reviewed the proposed adjustments for Paramedics Services.

Mary Lou Spicer and Kim Wingrove spoke about the next steps of the budget process.

CW161-23

Moved by: Councillor Mackey

Seconded by: Councillor Dobreen

**That the pre-meeting adjustments presented by staff during the November 3, 2023, pre-budget workshop resulting in a \$836,400 or 1.2 per cent decrease to the net levy impact be incorporated into the proposed 2024 budget.**

Carried

## **Closed Meeting Matters**

CW162-23

Moved by: Councillor Dobreen

Seconded by: Councillor Eccles

**That Committee of the Whole does now go into closed session pursuant to Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, to discuss:**

- i. Labour relations or employee negotiations.**
- ii. Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees**

Carried

Council proceeded into closed session at 4:18 p.m.

Council returned to open session at 4:50 p.m.

The Warden confirmed that only the items stated in the resolution to move into closed session were discussed.

## **Adjournment**

On motion of Councillors Nielsen and Greig, Committee of the Whole adjourned at 4:58 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

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Brian Milne, Warden

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Tara Warder, Clerk