

Minutes

Committee of the Whole

November 9, 2023

Call to Order

Grey County Council met on the above date at the County Administration Building. Warden Milne assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. with all members present except Councillor Pringle. Councillors McQueen, Dickert, Boddy, Hutchinson, and Bordignon joined the meeting electronically.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Delegations

There were no delegations.

Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

There were no items on the consent agenda pulled for further discussion.

Consent Agenda

CW163-23

Moved by: Councillor Nielsen

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.

Correspondence - Dianne and John Stoneman - Windfall
Continued Opposition to Grey County Grey Road 19 Expansion

That the correspondence from Dianne and John Stoneman on behalf of Windfall residents regarding opposition to Grey County Grey Road 19 expansion be received for information.

Correspondence - Western Ontario Warden's Caucus - Strong Mayor Powers

That the County of Grey support the correspondence from the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus regarding Strong Mayor Powers.

Correspondence - Western Ontario Warden's Caucus - Leave to Construct Threshold

That the County of Grey support the correspondence from the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus regarding an increase in the leave to construct threshold for hydrocarbon lines.

Agricultural Advisory Committee minutes dated October 19, 2023

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting minutes dated October 19, 2023, be adopted as presented.

That the following resolutions contained therein be endorsed:

- i. That the following correspondence be received for information.**
 - i. That the Ontario Farmer article regarding the new campaign asking drivers to share the road be received for information.**
 - ii. That the media release from the Governments of Canada and Ontario regarding mental health initiatives in support of Ontario's agricultural community be received for information.**
 - iii. That the media release from the Governments of Canada and Ontario regarding agri-food research and innovation in Ontario be received for information.**
- ii. That the correspondence from the Municipalities of West Grey and Arran-Elderslie regarding tile drainage be supported by the Agricultural Advisory Committee and recommended for endorsement by Grey County Council.**

Carried

Items For Direction and Discussion

CAOR-CW-19-23 - County of Grey Comments on Bill 134: Affordable Homes and Good Jobs Act, 2023

CW164-23

Moved by: Councillor Kentner

Seconded by: Councillor Nielsen

**That report regarding County of Grey comments on Bill 134:
Affordable Homes and Good Jobs Act, 2023, be received for
information.**

Carried

PDR-CW-47-23 - Recommendation Report OPA 18

CW165-23

Moved by: Councillor Carleton

Seconded by: Councillor Mackey

**That all written and oral submissions on Official Plan Amendment
Number 18 were considered and helped to make an informed
recommendation and decision; and**

**That report PDR-CW-47-23 be received; and that Amendment Number
18 to the County of Grey Official Plan to permit the redesignation of
'Agricultural' lands to the 'Agricultural – Site Specific' designation,
for the purposes of permitting an on-farm diversified use on the
lands legally described as Part Lot 27, Concession 16, as in
GS148863, geographic township of Proton, now in the Township of
Southgate, be supported, and a by-law to adopt the County Official
Plan Amendment be prepared for consideration by County Council.**

Carried

Pre-Budget Workshop

The meeting recessed and reconvened at 11:08 a.m.

Mary Lou Spicer presented to the Committee and reviewed an updated budget summary from the November 3, 2023, budget discussion meeting. The Director confirmed that after growth, the draft budget currently proposed a net levy impact of 10.07 per cent. Staff explained that unless otherwise directed by Council, the items identified for potential adjustments will be included in the draft 2024 budget presented to Council on December 8, 2023, for consideration. In response to questions from the Committee, staff discussed line items for Council meals, mileage, conference registrations, and staff appreciation events. Further, staff spoke about the information

used to estimate the Board of Health budget and reductions to the Warden's Forum, inaugural, and municipal memberships.

The Committee heard comments from members requesting further details for line items, such as those for affordable housing or human resources, to assess the impacts of the proposed adjustments. Staff confirmed that such details would be included in the full proposed 2024 budget.

Councillor Pringle joined the meeting at this time.

Kim Wingrove clarified that the level three proposed adjustments would have significant impacts on organizations and services that the County provides.

Moved by: Councillor Greig

Seconded by: Councillor Eccles

That staff be directed to prepare the 2024 budget with all of the proposed level one adjustments; and

That corporate management training, the wellness budget, and staff recognition budgets be maintained at 2023 levels; and

That the catering for Council meeting dates be reduced by \$6,000; and

That the transfer to healthcare funding initiatives be reduced by \$309,500 so \$200,000 remains

Amendment:

CW166-23

Moved by: Councillor Nielsen

Seconded by: Councillor Carleton

That the motion be amended to remove the wellness budget from clause two and that the transfer to the healthcare funding initiatives reserve be reduced by \$209,500 instead of a \$309,500 reduction.

Lost

CW167-23

Moved by: Councillor Greig

Seconded by: Councillor Eccles

That staff be directed to prepare the 2024 budget with all of the proposed level one adjustments; and

That corporate management training, the wellness budget, and staff recognition budgets be maintained at 2023 levels; and

That the catering for Council meeting dates be reduced by \$6,000; and

That the transfer to healthcare funding initiatives be reduced by \$309,500 so \$200,000 remains.

Lost

Moved by: Councillor Eccles
Seconded by: Councillor Greig

That staff be directed to prepare the draft 2024 budget with all of the proposed adjustments as outlined in the meeting materials.

Amendment:

CW168-23

Moved by: Councillor McQueen
Seconded by: Councillor Matrosovs

That the motion be amended to maintain Grey Agricultural Services funding as noted in the proposed 2024 budget.

Lost

CW169-23

Moved by: Councillor Eccles
Seconded by: Councillor Greig

That consideration of the motion regarding preparation of the draft 2024 budget with all of the proposed adjustments be deferred following the closed meeting discussion.

Carried

Transit Budget Discussion

Stephanie Stewart presented to the Committee regarding Council's request for additional information about the implications of separating the Southgate and Grey County transit services. The presenter shared proposed mitigating measures for cost savings. In response to questions from the Committee, staff spoke about ongoing conversations with Uber, the requirements and limitations of partnering with one company, models used by other municipalities, and staff's recommendation for removing barriers to local ridesharing. Further, staff explained that the base level of service provided by provincial funding impacts the level of service and that fares are set by the province in the grant agreement.

The meeting recessed and reconvened at 1:15 p.m. Councillor Hutchinson left the meeting at this time.

Economic Development Budget Discussion

Savanna Myers presented to the Committee regarding considerations for the EDTC Department in the proposed 2024 budget. The Director spoke about the department's work attracting investment, providing a regional lens and benefit in coordinating and developing tools and resources. Further, the Director explained the County's role in supporting local skill development and job creation, encouraging business investment, creating growth in the assessment base, innovation and relationship building, contact for provincial and federal opportunities, business retention and expansion, Tourism and culture, role in assessment growth, role in local businesses and workforce, destination management, coordination of infrastructure investment and attraction, and resident attraction and quality of life. In response to questions from the Committee, Savanna Myers spoke about the Made In Grey magazine.

Closed Meeting Matters

CW170-23

Moved by: Councillor Nielsen

Seconded by: Councillor Dobreen

That the 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. **Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;**
- ii. **labour relations or employee negotiations.**

Carried

Council proceeded into closed session at 1:32 p.m.

Council returned to open session at 3:17 p.m.

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

CW171-23

Moved by: Councillor Eccles

Seconded by: Councillor Greig

That staff be directed to prepare the draft 2024 budget with all of the proposed adjustments.

Councillor Greig requested a recorded vote.

In Favour: Keaveney 5, Boddy 8, Greig 8, Bordignon 7, Eccles 6, Hutchinson 6

Opposed: Mackey 4, McKay 3, Carleton 6, McQueen 6, Neilson 5, Paterson 4, Dickert 3, Kentner 6, Milne 4, Dobreen 3,

Absent: Pringle 5, Matrosovs 7,

The motion was Lost (44-40).

Other Business

ROMA Delegation Requests (Deadline November 20, 2023)

CW172-23

Moved by: Councillor Eccles

Seconded by: Councillor Kentner

That the following delegation requests be submitted for the upcoming Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference:

- 1. Long-Term Care Construction Funding**
- 2. Rural Transportation Funding, Entrance Permits on Provincial Highways & Growth in Rural Ontario**
- 3. Transportation in Partnership with Grey Highlands**
- 4. Supportive Housing Funding & Nonprofit Housing Provider Insurance**
- 5. Surplus Property Negotiations for Affordable Housing**
- 6. Home and Community Care**

Carried

Notice of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillors Nielsen and Paterson, Committee of the Whole adjourned at 3:35 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

Brian Milne, Warden

Tara Warder, Clerk