

Minutes

Committee of the Whole

October 10, 2024

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 10:22 a.m. with all members present except Councillor Bordignon. Councillor Hutchinson participated electronically.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Delegations

Thorsten Arnold - Urgent Need to Avert Threat of Drinking Water Disaster in Bruce-Grey's Karst Regions

Thorsten Arnold presented to the Committee regarding possible threats to drinking water contamination for private wells in the karst aquifer regions of Grey and Bruce County. The presenter described contributing factors, including karst geology, agricultural intensification, and mixed residential-agricultural land uses, and reviewed policy examples and research conducted in the United States.

Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Councillor Nielsen requested that item 6.b. regarding correspondence from Gary Stocking about a request to increase the bounty for the removal of nuisance wildlife on the consent agenda for this meeting be pulled for further discussion.

Consent Agenda

CW101-24

Moved by: Councillor Dobreen

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 - South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation - Request for Support of Resolution for Continued Transit Funding

That the correspondence from the South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation regarding a request for support of a resolution for continued transit funding be received; and

That Grey County Council urges the provincial government to continue funding Southwest Community Transit beyond March 2025 to ensure the ongoing viability of this essential service for small urban and rural Ontario; and

That staff be directed to circulate a resolution of support to the relevant MPs and MPPs, municipalities, and stakeholders for their support and advocacy.

Correspondence Regarding the Joint Closed Meeting Held August 8, 2024, and the Grey County Collaborative Decision Making Framework

That the correspondence regarding the joint closed meeting held August 8, 2024, and the Grey County collaborative decision making framework be received for information.

Urban Road and Road Exchange Task Force minutes dated September 6, 2024

That the minutes of the Urban Road and Road Exchange Task Force meeting dated September 6, 2024, be adopted as presented.

That the following resolutions contained therein be endorsed:

- i. **That report TR-UR-27-24 Urban Road Task Force Review be received; and**
That the responsibility for the maintenance and capital repair of the urban road segments noted in Table 1 of this report be

approved in principle for transfer to the appropriate lower tier municipality with a target date beginning Fall 2025; and
That staff be directed to negotiate new urban road agreements to take effect Fall 2025 with the municipalities noted in Table 1 and bring a report with the agreements and corresponding transition plans, including schedules, funding and maintenance support details, to a future Task Force meeting, for final approval of the transfer; and
That staff be directed to negotiate any agreements for continued county maintenance service on a cost recovery basis; and
That the urban capital transition funding model be approved in principle and referred to the Budget and Finance Committee for consideration.

- ii. That report TR-UR-28-24 Rural Road Task Force Review be received; and
That staff work with member municipalities to confirm the administrative details necessary to enable the following exchanges and transfers and bring back a summary report to a future Task Force meeting:
 - a. Exchange Southgate Sideroad 11 for Grey Road 14
 - b. Exchange Bentinck-Sullivan Townline for Grey Road 25
 - c. Transfer Concession 5 Derby and Concession Rd 6 to Grey County
 - d. West Grey Concession 12 for Grey Road 9That the Urbans Roads and Roads Exchange Task Force support the proposed financial model and average annual additional funding requirement up to \$2,095,880 for ten years as well as an increase of \$60,000 to the maintenance portion of the operating budget and that it be forwarded to the Budget and Finance Committee for budget consideration.

Budget and Finance Committee minutes dated September 16, 2024

That the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee meeting dated September 16, 2024, be adopted as presented.

That the following resolutions contained therein be endorsed:

- i. That Report FR-BFC-34-24 regarding the 2025 Budget Assumptions and Timelines be received; and

That the proposed budget assumptions be incorporated into the draft 2025 and proposed 2026 budgets for council's consideration and direction.

- ii. That year 1 of the 10-year urban roads transition funding of up to \$2,061,000 be included in the 2025 budget for consideration, resulting in a net levy impact of up to \$1,053,000 based on an estimated County Operating Budget reduction of up to \$1,008,000.**
- iii. That year 1 of the 10-year rural roads exchange funding requirement of up to \$2,095,000 and \$60,000 in new roads maintenance costs be included in the 2025 budget for consideration.**
- iv. That report HRR-BFC-03-24 2025 Proposed Organizational Structure Enhancements, be received; and That staff be directed to include the recommended enhancements as outlined in the report, in the 2025 budget for consideration.**

Budget and Finance Committee closed minutes dated September 16, 2024

That the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee closed meeting dated September 16, 2024, be adopted as provided.

Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes dated September 19, 2024

That the minutes of the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated September 19, 2024, be adopted as presented; and

That the following resolutions contained therein be endorsed:

- i. That Report TR-JAAC-30-24 Grey Road 1 and 14th Street West intersection reconstruction in Owen Sound be received and that the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee provide review and comment on the proposed design of the intersection, including design and placement of sidewalk rest areas if needed.**
- ii. That Report CCR-JAAC-17-24 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Progress Update 2023 2024 be endorsed as presented and posted to the Accessibility page of the Grey County website; and**

That the 2023 – 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan be updated to add implementation of budget software that meets AODA compliance.

PDR-CW-55-24 - Housing Action Plan – Status Update

That report PDR-CW-55-24 be received; and

That consideration of Grey County attaining membership and access to the Rural Housing Information System (RHIS), on behalf of Grey County and member municipalities, via an annual membership fee of \$2,000 be included in the County’s 2025 budget; and

That Grey County host a networking event in 2025 in relation to the surplus lands for affordable housing project to connect potential cross-sector community partners and explore opportunities relating to housing creation on public lands within the County and that it be funded from the 2025 Housing Action Plan implementation budget; and

That a total of \$30,000 be included for consideration in the 2025 budget to cover on-going implementation of the Housing Action Plan to be funded from the Planning General Reserve.

PDR-CW-56-24 - Housing Action Plan – Emerging Understandings

That report PDR-CW-56-24 be received for information.

Carried

Items For Direction and Discussion

PDR-CW-57-24 - Housing Planning Data Needs and Regional Housing Strategy Request

CW102-24

Moved by: Councillor Pringle

Seconded by: Councillor Kentner

That report PDR-CW-57-24 be received; and

That County Council endorse in principle the following recommendations, subject to approval in the 2025 budget, as initial actions towards creating a Regional Housing Strategy, including initial work being conducted on behalf of the members municipalities that is a necessary precursor to be able to access CMHC grant funding opportunities:

- a. **An additional budget allocation of \$10,000 to the \$50,000 already identified within the 10-year capital plan to update the County's Growth Management Strategy (GMS), addressing revised Ministry of Finance projections, and further exploring the relationships between forecasted population growth, employment growth, and related workforce and other housing needs arising, all of which to be funded from the Development Charges Reserve and the Planning – Growth Management Study Update Reserve;**
- b. **That the County explore 'additional services' via the Rural Housing Information System/Rural Ontario Institute as may be needed to support access to data sources for populating a County-wide Housing Need Assessment template, to be funded from the proposed 2025 Housing Action Plan Implementation Budget, all of which is being funded from the Planning General Reserve; and**

That this report be shared with Grey County's member municipalities for information purposes.

Carried

TR-CW-31-24 - Urban Road and Road Exchange Task Force Recommendations

The meeting recessed and reconvened at 11:09 a.m.

Moved by: Councillor Greig

Seconded by: Councillor Mackey

That report TR-CW-31-24 be received; and

That the funding model presented for the urban road and rural road transfers be approved; and

That the 2025 budget reflect a levy increase of \$1,148,300 to support the funding model; and

That staff be directed to negotiate new road agreements to take effect Fall 2025 with the affected municipalities and bring a report with the agreements and corresponding transition plans, including schedules, funding and maintenance support details, to a future Task Force meeting prior to final approval of the transfers through Grey County Council.

CW103-24

Moved by: Councillor Dobreen

Seconded by: Councillor Eccles

That the motion outlined in report TR-CW-31-24 be amended to strike clause three; and

That clause two be amended to strike "approved" and replace it with "supported in principle"; and

That clause four be amended to strike "to take effect Fall 2025".

Carried

CW104-24

Moved by: Councillor Greig

Seconded by: Councillor Mackey

That report TR-CW-31-24 be received; and

That the funding model presented for the urban road and rural road transfers be supported in principle; and

That staff be directed to negotiate new road agreements with the affected municipalities and bring a report with the agreements and corresponding transition plans, including schedules, funding and maintenance support details, to a future Task Force meeting prior to final approval of the transfers through Grey County Council.

Carried

CAOR-CW-21-24 - Energy Management Software

CW105-24

Moved by: Councillor McKay

Seconded by: Councillor Nielsen

That report CAOR-CW-21-24 regarding Energy Management Software be received; and

That the County single source Utility Data Acquisition Service (UDAS) software from ECCAN at a cost of \$5,850 annually (based on processing 130 monthly bills), plus a onetime set-up fee of \$2,500, to be funded from the Energy Efficiency in Corporate Buildings Capital Project which will improve the efficiency, availability and accuracy of corporate utility data.

Carried

Consent Agenda Items Requiring Separate Discussion

Correspondence - Gary Stocking - Request to Increase Bounty for the Removal of Nuisance Wildlife

CW106-24

Moved by: Councillor Nielsen

Seconded by: Councillor McQueen

That the correspondence from Gary Stocking of Guardian Wildlife Control requesting an increase to the bounty for the removal of nuisance wildlife be received; and

That staff be directed to prepare a report reviewing the annual costs of the program, rates of comparator municipalities, and possible program improvements.

Carried

Closed Meeting Matters

CW107-24

Moved by: Councillor Nielsen

Seconded by: Councillor Pringle

That the Committee of the Whole meeting agenda be amended by adding an additional closed meeting item, referred by Council to the Committee of the Whole, being a follow up to the CAO Performance Evaluation Committee regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees and that the notice required by Procedural By-law 5134-22 be waived.

Carried

CW108-24

Moved by: Councillor Dickert

Seconded by: Councillor Paterson

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. A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land (Sydenham Campus Lands).**
- ii. Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees (CAO Performance Evaluation Committee Follow-Up).**

Carried

Council proceeded into closed session at 12:27 p.m.
Council returned to open session at 1:44 p.m.
The Warden confirmed that only the items stated in the resolution to move into closed session were discussed.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Notice of Motion

Councillor Greig presented a notice of motion for the October 24, 2024, meeting of the Committee of the Whole regarding the removal of compensation for Alternate Councillors.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillors Eccles and Nielsen, Committee of the Whole adjourned at 1:45 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

Brian Milne, Warden

Tara Warder, Clerk