

# **Minutes**

## **Special County of Grey**

### **Joint All Councils**

**April 17, 2025**

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#### **Call to Order**

A special County of Grey Joint All Councils meeting took place on the above date at 9:00 AM electronically, through Zoom. The Warden called Council to order and assumed the Chair.

#### **Roll Call**

The Warden asked each Municipal Clerk to verify the elected members present.

Patty Sinnamon, CAO/Clerk for the Township of Chatsworth, confirmed that Mayor Scott Mackey, Deputy Mayor Terry McKay, Councillors Peter Whitten and Elizabeth Thompson were present. Councillor Shawn Greig sent his regrets. The following staff were also in attendance: Tyler Zamostny and Aakash Desai.

Carly Craig, Clerk for the Township of Georgian Bluffs, confirmed that Mayor Sue Carleton and Councillors Cathy Moore Coburn and Tobin Day were present. Deputy Mayor Grant Pringle, Councillor Ryan Thompson, Councillor Rick Winters and Councillor Isaac Shouldice sent their regrets. The following staff were also in attendance: Niall Lobley, Brittany Drury, Samantha Buchanan.

Amanda Van Alstine, Clerk for the Municipality of Grey Highlands, confirmed that Deputy Mayor Dane Nielsen, Councillors Paul Allen, Tom Allwood, Nadia Dubyk, Joel Loughhead and Dan Wickens were present. Mayor Paul McQueen sent his regrets. The following staff were also in attendance: Danielle Thompson, Karen Govan, Debbie Yip, Shawn Moyer, Chris Cornfield, Jerri-Lynn Levitt, Anna McCarthy, Marty Wellwood, Mya McGrady.

Vicki McDonald, Clerk for the Town of Hanover, confirmed that Mayor Sue Paterson, Deputy Mayor Warren Dickert and Councillor Susan Sakal were in attendance. Councillors Harold Fleet, Carol Hudson, Brandon Koebel, and Dave Hocking sent their regrets. The following staff were also in attendance: Sherri Walden, Chris Walker, Jeff Dentinger, Melissa Hilgendorff, April Marshall, Laura Christen.

Margaret Wilton-Siegel, Clerk for the Municipality of Meaford, confirmed that Mayor Ross Kentner, Deputy Mayor Shirley Keaveney and Councillors Brandon Forder, Harley Greenfield and Rob Uhrig were present. Councillors Steven Bartley and Tony Bell were absent. The following staff were also in attendance: Shawn Everitt, Valerie Manning, and Sarah Mahon.

Briana Bloomfield, Clerk for the City of Owen Sound, confirmed that Deputy Mayor Scott Greig and Councillors Travis Dodd, Jon Farmer, Brock Hamley, Marion Koepke, Suneet Kukreja and Carol Merton were present. Mayor Ian Boddy and Councillor Melanie Middlebro sent their regrets. The following staff were also in attendance: Kate Allan, Pam Coulter, Lara Widdifield, Aidan Ware, Michelle Palmer, Kristen Van Alphen, Allison Penner.

Holly Malynyk, Deputy Clerk for the Township of Southgate, confirmed that Mayor Brian Milne, Deputy Mayor Barbara Dobreen and Councillors Jim Ferguson, and Joan John were in attendance. Councillors Jason Rice, Martin Shipston and Monica Singh Soares sent their regrets. The following staff were also in attendance: Jim Ellis, Kayla Best, Derek Malynyk, John Watson, Ken Melanson, Phil Schram.

Corrina Giles, Clerk for the Town of The Blue Mountains, confirmed that Mayor Andrea Matrosovs and Councillors June Porter, Gail Ardiel, Shawn McKinlay, Alex Maxwell and Paula Hope were in attendance. Deputy Mayor Peter Bordignon sent his regrets. The following staff were also in attendance: Adam Smith, Ryan Gibbons, Monica Quinlan, Alan Pacheco, Tim Hendry, Tim Murawsky, Sarah Traynor.

Jamie Eckenswiller, Clerk for the Municipality of West Grey, confirmed that Mayor Kevin Eccles, Deputy Mayor Tom Hutchinson and Councillors Scott Foerster, Doug Hutchinson, Geoffrey Shea and Doug Townsend were in attendance. Councillor Joyce Nuhn sent her regrets. The following staff were also in attendance: Michele Harris, Kerri Mighton, Karl Schipprack, Geoff Aitken, and Krista House Langdon.

The following staff from Grey County were also in attendance: Kim Wingrove, Randy Scherzer, Tara Warder, Scott Taylor, Jennifer Moreau, Rob Hatten, Savanna Myers, Pat Hoy, Mary Lou Spicer, Kevin McNab, Kayla Rier, Jody MacEachern, Jacquelyn Morrison, Anne Marie Shaw, and Rayburn Murray.

## **Land Acknowledgement**

The Warden and Clerk read the applicable land acknowledgements.

## **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **Adoption of the Agenda and Procedures**

JC05-25

Moved by: Councillor Eccles

Seconded by: Councillor Hutchinson

**THAT the Special County of Grey Joint All Council adopts the content of the agenda as presented and Grey County Procedural By-law 5134-22 to govern the procedure of its April 17, 2025 joint meeting of the County of Grey and the municipalities of the Town of The Blue Mountains, City of Owen Sound, Township of Georgian Bluffs, Municipality of Meaford, Township of Chatsworth, Municipality of Grey Highlands, Town of Hanover, Municipality of West Grey, and the Township of Southgate; and**

**THAT quorum shall be determined by 50% plus one of all elected officials across Grey County and that votes taken be determined by a simple majority vote.**

Carried

## **Closed Meeting Matters**

At this time, Warden Matrosovs introduced John Mascarin, senior partner with Aird & Berlis LLP in Toronto attending today to provide education and training on the strong mayor powers. She further noted that Jeffrey Abrams of Principles Integrity was also in attendance.

Discussion occurred on the motion to proceed in camera for the purposes of education or training on the proposed strong mayor powers, recently granted to many municipalities by the Province of Ontario. The importance of the public having ability to access and hear the information were cited by various members as reasons to hold the session in an open forum, despite the ability to hold education or training in closed session under the Municipal Act, 2001.

JC06-25

Moved by: Councillor Dickert

Seconded by: Councillor Milne

**THAT the Special County of Grey Joint All Councils meeting does now go into closed session pursuant to Section 239 (3.1) of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended, to hold a meeting for the purpose of educating or training the members on Strong Mayor powers.**

A recorded vote was requested. The following voted in favour:

K. Eccles, W. Dickert, S. Keaveney, S. McKinlay, T. Hutchinson, B. Milne, S. Paterson, D. Townsend, D. Nielsen, R. Uhrig, P. Allen, D. Hutchinson, P. Whitten, B. Dobreen, T. Allwood, E. Thompson, S. Foerster, J. John, S. Mackey, S. Sakal, S. Carleton. (21)

The following voted in opposition:

J. Loughhead, G. Ardiel, P. Hope, J. Ferguson, C. Moore Coburn, R. Kentner, T. McKay, G. Shea, N. Dubyk, D. Wickens, B. Forder, J. Porter, T. Dodd, H. Greenfield, A. Maxwell, S. Greig, J. Farmer, B. Hamley, M. Koepke, S. Kukreja, C. Merton, T. Day. (22)

The motion was Lost, 21-22.

## **Strong Mayor Powers - Education Session**

John Mascarin, Aird and Berlis, LLP, provided a presentation on the Strong Mayor Powers following the announcement from the Province to expand strong mayor powers to additional municipalities as of May 1, 2025.

Councillor Hamley left the meeting at 9:47 a.m. Councillor Monica Singh Soares joined the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

Mr. Mascarin began by providing an overview of the origin of the strong mayor powers in Ontario and the purported reason for implementing strong mayor powers, being to assist in expediting housing developments. Development restrictions, development fees, levies, and building permit delays were many of the reasons cited in the Housing Affordability Task Force Report from February 2022. Information was provided on the system of municipal government historically in place in Ontario, known as a weak mayor system, where a mayor does not have significant power to act without approval by its municipal council. This has been changed with the implementation of the strong mayor powers.

Mr. Mascarin provided information on the types of powers given to mayors who have been granted these strong mayor powers. They include administrative, provincial priority powers and budget powers as well as other miscellaneous abilities. Processes associated with utilizing these powers were highlighted, as well as details within the regulations in the legislation.

Questions were addressed regarding what checks and balances are in place in Ontario's system and veto powers granted to mayors. It was noted that these have been provided to mayors of lower and single tier municipalities that have six or more members of Council.

Further information was provided on examples where strong mayor powers have been used across the province. Discussion occurred on the human resources element of these powers and how budget processes may be affected going forward.

Councillor Townsend and Councillor Dodd left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

The Joint Council took a recess from 10:46 a.m. to 10:52 a.m.

Mr. Mascarin continued the session, detailing information on provincial priority powers and budget powers, among others.

Councillor Merton left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Councillor Kukreja left the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

Councillor Porter left the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

Further discussion occurred on implications for codes of conduct.

## **By-laws**

JC07-25

Moved by: Councillor Hutchinson

Seconded by: Councillor Eccles

**THAT By-law 2025-02, being a by-law to confirm all actions and proceedings of the Special Grey County Joint All Councils meeting held April 17, 2025 be enacted and passed this 17th day of April, 2025.**

Carried

## **Adjournment**

On motion by Deputy Mayor Terry McKay and Councillor Joan John, the Joint Council adjourned at 11:54 a.m. to the call of the Warden.