



Committee Minutes

Grey County – The Blue Mountains Task Force

June 28, 2017 – 1:00 PM

The Task Force met on the above date at the County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

Present: Grey County Warden Alan Barfoot; Blue Mountain Councillors Michael Martin, Joe Halos and John McGee; and Grey County Councillors Ian Boddy, Selwyn Hicks and Kevin Eccles;

Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Grey County Chief Administrative Officer; Troy Speck, Town of the Blue Mountains Chief Administrative Officer; Sharon Vokes, County Clerk/Director of Council Services; Kevin Weppler, Director of Finance and Tara Warder, Committee Coordinator

Call to Order

Warden Barfoot called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Adoption of the Agenda

TBM01-17 Moved by: Councillor McGee Seconded by: Councillor Hicks

That the Grey County – The Blue Mountains Task Force agenda dated June 28, 2017 be adopted as amended by adding “Election of the Vice Chair”.

Carried

Election of the Vice Chair

TBM02-17 Moved by: Councillor Halos Seconded by: Councillor Eccles

That Councillor Michael Martin be nominated as Vice Chair of the

Grey County – Blue Mountains Task Force for 2017.

On motion by Councillor Boddy, nominations closed.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

Items for Discussion

Task Force Terms of Reference

Kim Wingrove provided an overview of the Terms of Reference.

The Committee outlined the additions they wish to see to the Terms of Reference:

- Including a statement that the Task Force serves as a forum for information sharing between the Town and the County in an effort to reach a consensus.
- Meeting structure is to be open discussion and informal structure with minimal votes taken. Any decisions will be made as recommendations to the respective councils.
- Agendas, minutes and location of the meetings are to be shared between the municipalities

It was noted that it is important to discuss what is working well between the two municipalities.

Areas of Interest To Explore

The Task Force provided information on the origination of the Task Force, noting that the Blue Mountains pays 26% of levy but does not have a population proportionate to what they pay in. One of the issues is how to solve the disparity.

It was noted that a possible way to alleviate this disparity is to shift some services that are in the County's control to the Blue Mountains, such as maintenance of Grey County roads and Subdivision approvals.

Members of the Task Force believe there is ability to area rate services rather than use traditional tax assessment. It was noted that area rating can only be done on services that are only available to certain areas.

There is a workshop being held at the Blue Mountains tomorrow which was developed to find out what other methods exist to handle relationships between tiers.

A unique feature of the Blue Mountains is that there are a number of part time residents and they do not need the same services as full time residents.

Further, when the County does not deliver core services and strays in its service provision, the financial impact could be significant. The example of the County providing Canada 150 funding to lower tiers was cited.

It was noted that having one instead of two members per municipality on County Council could provide savings.

There is a desire to seek out the tools in the Municipal Act which would allow us to do something different than what the current arrangement provides. The question was asked whether there are some vehicles in the Municipal Act that are available that we can look at to allocate taxes differently.

With respect to development charges, a substantial amount of County development charges are provided from the Blue Mountains. There are some perceived issues surrounding collecting development charges from development occurring in the Blue Mountains and permitting the municipalities who do not have development charges benefit from it. This is becoming increasingly important and will be for other municipalities as well. There is a need for staff to analyze where dollars are being allocated.

The Task Force noted that an additional concern is that the payment of the County representative's per diem should be paid by the local municipality rather than the County.

If a lot of development is being driven by the Blue Mountains, there is a need to look at services which should be provided. Discussion occurred on the number of paved shoulders that are being constructed on roads now. For example, the local municipality could have provided paved shoulders earlier when they knew there was a need for it, and wouldn't have had to work through multiple levels of government to make it happen.

There was a suggestion for the Task Force members to attend tomorrow's workshop if they are available. The presentation will include information on Grey County services and costs, the County system and how it works, how it can change, tools to utilize and learning from other jurisdictions.

Staff noted that with respect to the subdivision approval arrangement, the City of Owen Sound was a single tier before amalgamating with Grey County. Owen Sound did their planning and part of the amalgamation deal was that they continue to do their own planning. This arrangement was mandated by the Province. Any arrangement of involving subdivision approvals being passed to the lower tier would have to be examined.

The Task Force noted that residents do not understand why the County is approving subdivisions, as they County is removed from the municipality. There is more control if it rested with The Blue Mountains, rather than having to redirect developers to the County for certain aspects of development process.

Discussion occurred on area rating services. Staff noted that further research would need to be done on which services can be area rated. There needs to be a certain service that is provided to some residents and not others.

There was a suggestion to undertake a communication piece on the percentage of services that are being provided in the Blue Mountains for the public's benefit.

Are there other municipalities that are experiencing similar issues? Lake of Bays and Niagara on the Lake were cited as examples.

Facilitation Services

Discussion occurred on the proposal to have the Blue Mountains maintain County roads within its boundaries.

The Blue Mountains expressed disappointment that the County did not have a counter offer to the proposal to take over the County roads within the Blue Mountains.

It was noted that there was reluctance to go with provincial facilitator, but a different facilitator may be appropriate. There may be a time for a facilitator to help with some of the discussion in the future on a defined issue.

Inquiry was made as to whether there a need to bring back a framework on how to select a facilitator in the future.

Staff were requested to develop a contact list for distribution to the Task Force.

Other Business

There was no Other Business.

Next Meeting Dates

August 22nd at 1:00 PM in the Blue Mountains.

On motion by Councillor Halos, the meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Alan Barfoot, Chair