



Staff Report

Finance and IT Services

Report To: Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: April 29, 2019
Report Number: FAF.19.061
Subject: One Time Provincial Unconditional Grant
Prepared by: Ruth Prince, Director of Finance and IT Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.19.061, entitled “One Time Provincial Unconditional Grant” for information purposes;

AND THAT Council direct staff to transfer the grant money to the Working Capital Reserve to be used as determined by Council.

B. Overview

The Blue Mountains has received a one-time Provincial Unconditional Grant in the amount of \$642,347. Staff is recommending the money be transferred to the Working Capital Reserve.

C. Background

On March 20, 2019, Council and staff were advised that the Town would be receiving a one-time unconditional grant in the amount of \$642,347 to support small and rural municipalities’ efforts to become more efficient and reduce expenditure growth in the longer term. The grant is unconditional (no restrictions on how the money can be spent), and is intended to help modernize service delivery and reduce future costs through investments in projects such as: service delivery reviews, development of shared service agreements and capital investments.

D. Analysis

The 2019 Budget that was approved on April 24, 2019 includes funding for various committees, strategic plan updates, review of the Town’s non-union salary grid and staff additions. The 2019 budget does not include this unconditional grant amount.

With many initiatives just getting started, it is recommended that grant funding be transferred to the working capital reserve to be used as projects, expenditures or other initiatives come forward to Council for approval.

E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan

The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan

Goal #4: Promote a Culture of Organizational and Operational Excellence

Objective #4: To Be a Financially Responsible Organization

F. Environmental Impacts

None.

G. Financial Impact

The \$642,347 was received by the Town on March 29, 2019. This amount was not included in the 2019 Budget.

H. In consultation with

Shawn Everitt, Interim CAO

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been subject to a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. Comments regarding this report should be submitted to Ruth Prince, Director of Finance and IT Services at directorfit@thebluemountains.ca

J. Attached

1. Letter from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing RE: Unconditional Grant

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Prince
Director of Finance and IT Services

For more information, please contact:

Ruth Prince
directorfit@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 228

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M5G 2E5
Tel.: 416 585-7000
Fax: 416 585-6470

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto ON M5G 2E5
Tél. : 416 585-7000
Télééc. : 416 585-6470



March 20, 2019

Your Worship
Mayor Alar Soever
Town of the Blue Mountains
32 Mill Street PO Box 310
Thornbury ON N0H 2P0

Dear Mayor Soever:

Our government for the people was elected to restore trust, transparency and accountability in Ontario's finances. As you know, the province has undertaken a line-by-line review of our own expenditures, and we have been clear that we expect our partners, including municipalities, to take steps to become more efficient as well.

Municipalities play a key role in delivering many provincial services that people across Ontario rely on. Taxpayers deserve modern, efficient service delivery that puts people at the centre and respects hard-earned dollars.

Transforming service delivery and identifying more modern, efficient ways of operating is critical and complex work. As Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, I recognize that many of Ontario's small and rural municipalities may have limited capacity to plan and manage transformation, depending on the resources they have available and how far they have moved on their own modernization agendas.

That is why we are providing a one-time payment in the 2018-19 fiscal year to support small and rural municipalities' efforts to become more efficient and reduce expenditure growth in the longer term.

To ensure that this investment is targeted to where it is needed most, municipal allocations are based on a formula, which takes into consideration the number of households in a municipality and whether it is urban or rural.

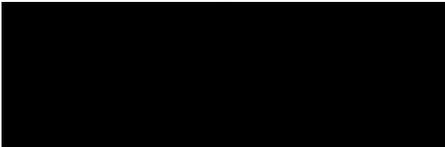
While this investment is unconditional, it is intended to help modernize service delivery and reduce future costs through investments in projects such as: service delivery reviews, development of shared services agreements, and capital investments. Our government believes that municipalities are best positioned to understand the unique circumstances and determine where and how this money is best spent.

I am pleased to share that Town of the Blue Mountains will receive a one-time payment of \$642,347 which will flow in this fiscal year.

Staff from our regional Municipal Services Offices will be in touch in the coming days for your acknowledgement of this letter and to discuss any questions that you might have. I encourage you to work with ministry staff as you begin to think about the best way to proceed for your community. The Municipal Services Offices can offer advice and point to examples that may be helpful as you contemplate local solutions. In the future, we would be interested to hear about your modernization success stories.

Thank you once again for your commitment to demonstrating value for money. I look forward to continuing to work together to help the people and businesses in communities across our province thrive.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing