



Staff Report

CAO

Report To: Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: September 12, 2016
Report Number: FAF.16.88
Subject: Town/County Relationship
Prepared by: Troy Speck, CAO

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receives Staff Report FAF.16.88 entitled “Town/County Relationship”;

THAT Council authorizes the Mayor to write the Honorable Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs for the Province of Ontario, asking that the services of the Office of the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator be engaged to assist the Town of The Blue Mountains and Grey County by facilitating discussions between the two municipalities with a view to finding solutions to resolve existing disagreement between the Town and the County regarding the Town’s share of the County’s annual levy;

THAT a copy of the Mayor’s letter be sent to the Office of the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator;

AND THAT Council requests the County of Grey to join the Town in writing their own letter to the Honorable Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs for the Province of Ontario, with a copy to the Office of the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator, asking that the services of the Office of the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator be engaged to assist the Town of The Blue Mountains and Grey County by facilitating discussions between the two municipalities with a view to finding solutions to resolve existing disagreement between the Town and the County regarding the Town’s share of the County’s annual levy.

B. Overview

This report is intended to provide Council with information regarding how to engage the assistance of the Office of the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator to facilitate discussions with Grey County regarding the Town’s share of the County levy.

C. Background

On August 22, 2016 at their Committee of the Whole meeting, members of Council were provided a memorandum from the Town's CAO summarizing the discussions Town representatives had at the recent Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) meeting with the Parliamentary Assistant for the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

As outlined in the summary, the Parliamentary Assistant suggested that the Town might seek to engage the services of the Office of the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator (OPLDF) to facilitate discussions between the Town and Grey County regarding disagreement over the Town's share of the County levy.

At the August 22 meeting, the CAO was asked to follow-up with the Ministry to determine whether the OPLDF would be prepared to assist in discussions between the Town and County.

D. Analysis

The CAO has spoken with Mr. Ian Kerr, Regional Director for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), who confirmed that the OPLDF may indeed be in a position to assist the Town in this matter. Through subsequent e-mail messages, MMAH staff have advised that the protocol for engaging the OPLDF would be for both the Town and the County to each write a request letter to either the Minister, with a copy to the OPLDF, or vice versa. It is recommended that a letter be written to the Minister, with a copy to the OPLDF.

On Sept. 7, 2016, the CAO spoke with Ms. Paula Dill, facilitator with the OPLDF. Ms. Dill advised that her office may be in a position to help facilitate discussion between the Town and the County. She stressed that the facilitation would be non-prejudicial, non-committal and non-binding. She also stressed that it was essential that both parties have a willingness to enter into a facilitated discussion, hence the protocol for requesting the engagement of the OPLDF requiring a letter of request from both parties.

At the August 22 Committee of the Whole meeting, there had been some discussion about possibly meeting with representatives from Brant County and the City of Brantford, who have in past engaged the OPLDF to facilitate a local dispute. However in discussions with the CAOs for both Brant County and the City of Brantford, it has been determined that the issues those communities were dealing with were far different than the issue between the Town and the County of Grey and there was little merit in arranging any more formal meetings. Both municipalities did indicate that they found the OPLDF very capable and good to work with.

E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan

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

Objective: Engage the County in discussion of road maintenance responsibilities and a reduced County levy or increased capital expenditures in The Blue Mountains.

F. Environmental Impacts

N/A

G. Financial Impact

Unknown

H. In consultation with

Ian Kerr & Maureen Beatty, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Paula Dill, Office of the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator

I. Attached

N/A

Respectfully Submitted,

Troy Speck

Chief Administrative Officer

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