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STAFF REPORT: Chief Administrative Officer



REPORT TO: Committee of the Whole
MEETING DATE: June 6, 2016
REPORT NO.: FAF.16.61
SUBJECT: 2016 AMO Conference Ministerial Delegation Requests
PREPARED BY: Troy Speck, CAO

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive report FAF.16.61 entitled “2016 AMO Conference Ministerial Delegation Requests”;

THAT Council approves the delegation requests attached as Appendix “A” to report FAF.16.61.

B. Background

At its May 30, 2016 meeting, Council directed staff to submit ministerial delegation requests for the 2016 AMO conference for the following two items:

- 1. Investigate Single Tier; and
- 2. Shared Economy Act.

C. Analysis

Delegation requests for the AMO conference have a specific format and in some sections, a wording maximum. Attached as Appendix “A” to this report is a draft of the proposed delegation requests, prepared in accordance with the Province’s formatting requirements.

The deadline for submitting delegation requests is June 29, 2016.

D. The Blue Mountains’ Strategic Plan

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

E. Environmental Impacts

N/A

F. Financial Impact

N/A

G. In Consultation With

N/A

H. Attached

Appendix "A" DRAFT proposed content of AMO ministerial delegation requests.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Speck
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix "A" to Report FAF.16.61

Proposed submissions requesting ministerial delegations at 2016 AMO conference, August 2016

Municipality (required)

Town of The Blue Mountains

Members of municipal delegation to attend (full names & titles)

Mayor John McKean

Deputy-Mayor Gail Ardiel

Councillor Joe Halos

CAO, Troy Speck

Contact person – First & Last Name *(Should be a contact who can speak to the issue and be available to quickly respond to ministry inquiries)*

Troy Speck, CAO

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1) First Ministry you would like to meet with

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Preferred Date for delegation

Sunday, August 14 __

Monday, August 15 __

Tuesday, August 16 __

No Preference X

List of discussion issues related to this Ministry (maximum 3):
(Include issues related to the selected Ministry only)

Issue # 1: *(please limit to 150 characters)*

The Town wishes to begin discussions with the Ministry to investigate the opportunity for the Town to become a single-tier municipal government.

Description and background of issue(s):

The Town of The Blue Mountains, is one of nine (9) lower-tier municipalities located within Grey County. The Town pays 26% of the annual County levy, yet the Town represents only 7% of Grey County's population; 13% of the households in the County; and has only 11% of the representation around the County Council table. This disparity between representation and taxation is viewed as inequitable. The Town feels it may be better able to achieve its municipal goals as a single-tier municipality, and wishes to explore that option.

2) Second Ministry you would like to meet with

Ministry of Finance

Preferred Date for delegation

Sunday, August 14 ___

Monday, August 15 ___

Tuesday, August 16 ___

No Preference X

List of discussion issues related to this Ministry (maximum 3):
(Include issues related to the selected Ministry only)

Issue # 1: *(please limit to 150 characters)*

Town would like to discuss ensuring that the province's sharing economy efforts not result in action that might undermine steps already taken by the Town to regulate local concerns.

Description and background of issue(s):

As a 4-season resort destination with millions of annual visitors and a large proportion of part-time homeowners mixed in with the permanent residential population, the Town already has years of experience with the short-term rental of properties in residential neighbourhoods by visitors and tourists. This conflict in uses has been shown to create some significant distress for permanent residents who suddenly found themselves living next to a short-term rental property. Complaints of noise, rowdiness, parking violations and improper garbage disposal have led to many feeling that the character of their residential neighbourhood had been negatively impacted. Others were concerned that it may happen to them. Traditional by-law enforcement was of limited assistance, as levying charges and fines against a renter one weekend, does little to deter the renters the next weekend, or the weekend following. As a result of these concerns, and at the very vocal urging of its residents, the Town has made efforts to address the negative impacts of short term accommodation (STA) rentals on residents within residential neighbourhoods. These efforts, at a one-time cost totalling more than \$600,000, plus ongoing operational costs, have been in support of numerous activities, including:

- study of the issue;
- passage of Official Plan and zoning by-law amendments to identify areas within the municipality where STA rentals are, and are not compatible with neighbouring uses;
- responding to appeals brought by STA owners to the Ontario Municipal Board and the Divisional Court, all of which have been successfully defended by the municipality, with the both OMB and the courts finding that there are valid municipal planning and local community reasons that support the actions taken by the Town;
- development and implementation of a STA Licensing By-Law which, where STAs are permitted, ensures that: they can safely accommodate the visiting public within them (Building Code and Fire Code requirements); their use is not to the detriment of the neighbourhood (ex. parking; waste disposal; noise disturbance); and ensuring that STA owners have a local representative who is readily available to respond to concerns. As of the end of May 2016, there were a total of approximately 200 active STA license applications being administered by Town staff.

Respectfully, the Town is concerned about ensuring that the province's efforts toward supporting a sharing economy not result in any action that would undermine the efforts already taken by the Town to address this very local issue. The Town is more than willing to assist the province's Sharing Economy Advisory Committee to better understand this issue.