



Staff Report

Administration

Report To: Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: March 13, 2017
Report Number: FAF.17.46
Subject: Town / County Steering Committee, Terms of Reference
Prepared by: Corrina Giles, Town Clerk

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.17.46, entitled “Town / County Steering Committee, Terms of Reference”;

AND THAT Council approve the Town / County Steering Committee, Terms of Reference as attached to Staff Report FAF.17.46.

B. Overview

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a draft terms of reference for the Town / County Steering Committee.

C. Background

At the February 13, 2017 Council Meeting, Council resolved as follows:

Moved by: Gail Ardiel Seconded by: Michael Seguin

THAT Council receives Staff Report FAF.17.28 entitled “Town/County Relationship”;

AND THAT Council authorize 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;

AND 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;

AND THAT Council appoint Councillor Michael Martin, Councillor John McGee and Councillor Joe Halos to the Steering Committee and the Town CAO, Director of Financial and IT Services and Manager of Human Resources be staff representatives and support to the Steering Committee;

AND THAT Council either provide direction as to the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee or direct the Steering Committee to bring back draft Terms of Reference for Council consideration and approval;

AND THAT the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee include the development of a Council Workshop to provide detailed information on potential Town/County Relationship opportunities, to be developed for an open session of Council by the Steering Committee and to be scheduled in the Spring of 2017, Carried.

The Town / County Steering Committee have met and are providing Council with a draft Terms of Reference for consideration and approval (Attachment #1).

D. Analysis

None

E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan

Goal #2 Engage Our Communities and Partners
Objective #3 Strengthen Partnerships

Goal #4: Promote a Culture of Organizational and Operational Excellence
Objective #5: Constantly Identify Opportunities To Improve Efficiencies and Effectiveness

F. Financial Impact

None

G. In consultation with

Troy Speck, CAO

H. Attached

1. Draft Town / County Steering Committee, Terms of Reference

Respectfully Submitted,

Corrina Giles
Town Clerk

Troy Speck, CAO
Chief Administrative Officer

For more information, please contact:
Corrina Giles, Town Clerk
519-599-3131 extension 232

Town/County Steering Committee

Terms of Reference dated

Name:

Town/County Steering Committee

Members:

- Michael Martin – Chair, Councillor
- Joe Halos –Councillor
- John McGee –Councillor
- Troy Speck – CAO
- Ruth Prince – Director of Financial and IT Services
- Jennifer Moreau –Manager of Human Resources

At the February 13, 2017 Council Meeting, Council established this Committee as an initiative to explore possible solutions to resolve existing issues between the Town and the County regarding the Town's share of the County annual levy.

Terms of Reference

1. Consider alternatives to the Town's current financial and governance relationship with the County of Grey, including Single Tier governance
2. Determine the most viable alternatives
3. Present to Council the most viable options for a change in that relationship for Council's consideration

Scope / Jurisdiction

The Committee may investigate any possible opportunities to improve the Town/County relationship, may interview individuals or organizations and may hold public meetings, may consult with experts in the municipal/provincial field.

It is beyond the Committee's mandate to initiate discussions or negotiations with the County of Grey, unless authorized by Council.

The Current Situation

The Town of the Blue Mountains is a unique municipality within the County of Grey and within the province. The Blue Mountains is mix of permanent residents and part time residents like many municipalities in central Ontario. What makes The Blue Mountains unique is what is at the heart of our issues with the County.

Unlike other municipalities in central Ontario which have significant part time populations the majority of which receive limited services from their municipalities, the majority of The Blue Mountains' part time residents receive the full range of municipal services, water, wastewater, waste collection and others while utilizing few of the County level services. Within the County of Grey there are some areas with a significant part time population but none providing the level of services equal to their full time residents. In addition, The Blue Mountains' part time residents account for 60% of the total population with the majority in an urban rather than rural setting.

Among the Town's successful industries, Tourism and Specialty Agriculture are primarily driven by the utilization of its natural resources, the escarpment, Georgian Bay and its microclimate. The large apple industry and tourism businesses like Blue Mountain Resorts and Scenic Caves as well as private ski clubs drive the economy of The Blue Mountains. This success has resulted in unprecedented growth and upward pressure on property values resulting in 4.1 billion of property assessment. To sustain this success The Blue Mountains needs infrastructure investments which often times are not consistent with the types needed in other areas of the County.

Similarly the local need for planning, economic development, transportation and other services in The Blue Mountains is not in line with the needs of the rest of the County.

Resources and Budget

Council has approved a \$20,000 budget for a workshop and the Committee may use that budget in both determining viable options and presenting to council for their consideration

Governance

Decisions will be based on consensus