



Minutes
Special Council meeting
Municipality of West Grey

Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 9 a.m.
West Grey municipal office, council chambers and virtual

Members present: Mayor Kevin Eccles
 Deputy Mayor Tom Hutchinson
 Councillor Scott Foerster
 Councillor Doug Hutchinson
 Councillor Joyce Nuhn
 Councillor Geoffrey Shea
 Councillor Doug Townsend

Staff present: Laura Johnston, Chief Administrative Officer
 Jamie Eckenswiller, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
 Kerri Mighton, Director of Finance/Treasurer
 Brent Glasier, Interim Director of Infrastructure and Public Works
 Karl Schipprack, Director of Development/CBO
 Geoff Aitken, Manager of Public Works
 Sile Ferguson, Communications Coordinator
 Sarah Bothman, Legislative Services Coordinator

1. Call to order

Mayor Eccles called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Moment of reflection

Mayor Eccles called for a moment of reflection.

3. Declaration of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof

There were no declarations of interest.

Staff reviewed instructions for members of the public to participate via Zoom or telephone, and how to contact staff for assistance if disconnected. It was noted that this meeting will be livestreamed to the West Grey YouTube channel.

4. Staff reports

4.1 Director of Finance/Treasurer

4.1.1 2023 Draft Budget

Councillor Shea joined the council meeting at this time.

The Director of Finance/Treasurer provided an overview of the 2023 Draft Budget package, highlighting capital and departmental details, and noting that the estimated tax levy increase with the draft budget as it is presented is 17.9 percent.

The Interim Director of Infrastructure and Public Works highlighted the 10 Year Capital Plan for the Public Works Department and noted the reasons for the large budget. Mr. Glasier noted that the roads revenue has increased partly due to the extent of the gravel extractions that are

occurring within the West Grey gravel pits which is expected to continue. The increase for roadside maintenance, surface treatments and loose top maintenance is due to fuel, materials and equipment costs increasing.

Mr. Glasier advised that he is investigating opportunities to reduce the cost of loose top gravel and recommended that starting the tender process for gravel application early is the best option moving forward.

Ms. Mighton advised that one of the biggest pressures in the Public Works overhead is insurance. The annual premium has increased in total, before taxes to \$541,000 resulting in an \$82,000 increase, with liability, property, and auto insurance all seeing increases as well.

Council recessed at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

Mr. Glasier highlighted equipment replacement contained in the capital budget and recommended that council consider the purchase of a used street sweeper, new tandem plow truck, lift gate for a Durham one ton, and a one-ton truck for Normanby. This would improve the efficiency and safety of the Public Works Department. Mr. Glasier advised he would investigate the possibility of sharing a street sweeper with a neighboring municipality and also obtain a full repair quote on the current street sweeper and will report back to council with the findings.

Resolution: S-230117-001

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Nuhn

"THAT in consideration of the 2023 Draft Budget, council directs staff to reduce the street sweeper capital budget item to \$50,000."

Carried

Mr. Glasier provided an overview of bridges and culverts, highlighting the bridges and culverts that need to be removed, repaired, and replaced.

Mr. Glasier reviewed roads and sidewalks requiring attention and noted that the sewer system in the subdivision on Durham Road East from Garafraxa to Kincardine needs to be replaced, with costs being shared between West Grey and the developer.

Mr. Glasier highlighted the Concession 2 EGR project from Durham Road to North Line. It was noted that \$180,000 from the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) grant could fund the project. Mr. Glasier advised that Mulock Road is also in need of attention, and that Union Gas notified West Grey about work needing to be completed on Mulock Road. Mr. Glasier advised that staff will explore options with Union Gas to determine if these projects could be completed together.

Resolution: S-230117-002

Moved by Councillor Shea

Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson

"THAT in consideration of the 2023 Draft Budget, council directs staff to transfer \$180,000 from the Concession 2 EGR project to the Mulock Road Concession 6 to Crawford project."

Carried

Council recessed for lunch at 12:43 p.m. and reconvened at 1:17 p.m.

Mr. Glasier advised that Public Works has a 10-year strategic plan, adding that the Park Street project is approximately five years away. Given the timing of the Park Street project, Mr. Glasier recommended that this project be removed from the levy at this time.

Resolution: S-230117-003

Moved by Councillor Nuhn

Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson

"THAT in consideration of the 2023 Draft Budget, council directs staff to remove the \$20,000 allocated to the Park Street – Garafraxa Street West hardtop project from the 2023 draft budget."

Carried

Mr. Glasier advised West Grey was recently notified by the county that the sidewalk project on Mill Street in Neustadt would not be proceeding in 2023, and recommended that this project be removed from the levy.

Resolution: S-230117-004

Moved by Councillor Nuhn

Seconded by Councillor Foerster

"THAT in consideration of the 2023 Draft Budget, council directs staff to reallocate the \$50,000 allocated to the Mill Street sidewalk project to the Durham Road East hard top project in the draft 2023 budget."

Carried

Deputy Mayor Hutchinson left the council meeting at this time.

Mr. Glasier reviewed Environmental Services noting that the Neustadt Meux creek gabion basket needs repairs and the Durham upper dam pre-engineering needs to be completed. These project costs would be shared with the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA).

The Neustadt dam also requires the completion of a study to determine if it needs to be replaced, removed, or repaired.

Mayor Eccles relinquished the Chair to put forward the following motion. Councillor Foerster took the Chair.

Resolution: S-230117-005

Moved by Mayor Eccles

Seconded by Councillor Shea

"THAT in consideration of the 2023 Draft Budget, council directs staff to remove the \$20,000 allocated to dam reserve and investigate other partnership options."

Carried

Mayor Eccles reclaimed the Chair.

Ms. Mighton provided a summary of the decisions made during the meeting, highlighting that council:

- Deferred the purchase of a street sweeper and transferred part of that to reserve, resulting in a \$130,000 decrease.
- Deferred the Park Street Pre-engineering, resulting in a \$20,000 decrease.
- Removed the sidewalks and re-allocated Canada Community Building funding towards the Durham Road East project, resulting in a \$50,000 decrease.
- Removed the dam reserve to look for other partnership options, resulting in a \$20,000 decrease.

In summary, the 2023 draft budget was reduced by \$220,000, bringing the draft levy increase to 16 percent.

5. Bylaws

5.1 Bylaw No. 2023-002 - Confirming the proceedings of council

Resolution: S-230117-006

Moved by Councillor Shea

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

"THAT Bylaw 2023-002, being a bylaw to confirm the proceedings of council, be read a first, second and third and final time."

Carried

6. Adjournment

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Eccles adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Mayor Kevin Eccles

Clerk Jamie M. Eckenswiller