

**Minutes**

**Special budget meeting**

**Municipality of West Grey**

**Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 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: Michele Harris, Chief Administrative Officer  
 Jamie Eckenswiller, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk  
 Kerri Mighton, Director of Finance/Treasurer  
 Karl Schipprack, Director of Community and Development Services/CBO  
 Geoff Aitken, Director of Infrastructure and Public Works  
 Rob Martin, West Grey Chief of Police  
 Phil Schwartz, West Grey Fire Chief  
 Kodey Hewlett-Mowbray, Corporate and Community Initiatives Officer  
 Ashley Noble, Communications Coordinator  
 Krista House Langdon, Legislative Services Coordinator

**1. Call to order**

Mayor Eccles called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**2. Declaration of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Presentations**

**3.1 Draft 2025 Consolidated Operating and Capital Budget**

The Director of Finance/Treasurer provided an overview of the draft 2025 consolidated operating and capital budget.

Director Mighton noted that the budget summary included two additional increases which were previously unseen, representing costs associated with the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding. Both increases have been included in the presented numbers, resulting in a 12.9 percent tax levy increase based on Council direction to date.

Staff provided additional information with respect to specific departmental budget requests.

S-241210-001

Moved by Councillor Townsend

Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson

**"THAT in consideration of the draft 2025 consolidated operating and capital budget, Council directs staff to reduce the corporate legal budget to \$25,000 in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

S-241210-002d

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Foerster

**"THAT in consideration of the draft 2025 consolidated operating and capital budget, Council directs staff to remove the \$16,000 allocated to grants to organizations from the 2025 draft budget."**

Defeated

S-241210-003

Moved by Councillor Shea

Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson

**"THAT in consideration of the draft 2025 consolidated operating and capital budget, Council directs staff to reduce the Elmwood Fire budget by \$75,000 in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

Council recessed at 10:29 a.m. and reconvened at 10:43 p.m.

Mayor Eccles relinquished the chair to put forward the following motion.  
Deputy Mayor Hutchinson assumed the chair.

S-241210-004

Moved by Mayor Eccles

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

**"THAT in consideration of the draft 2025 consolidated operating and capital budget, Council directs staff to increase Durham Fire revenue to \$15,000 and Ayton and Neustadt Fire revenue to \$8,000 each in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

Mayor Eccles reclaimed the chair.

S-241210-005

Moved by Councillor Nuhn

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

**"THAT in consideration of the draft 2025 consolidated operating and capital budget, Council directs staff to remove the \$49,750 allocated to a one-ton truck for Glenelg from the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

Council recessed for lunch at 12:38 p.m. and reconvened at 1:32 p.m.

Councillor Shea was not present when Council resumed.

Councillor Shea joined the meeting during the discussion of the Durham Arena.

Mayor Eccles relinquished the chair to put forward the following motion.  
Deputy Mayor Hutchinson assumed the chair.

S-241210-006

Moved by Mayor Eccles

Seconded by Councillor Shea

**"THAT in consideration of the draft 2025 consolidated operating and capital budget, Council directs staff to increase the Normanby Arena ice rental revenue to \$200,000 in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

Mayor Eccles reclaimed the chair.

Mayor Eccles relinquished the chair to put forward the following motion.  
Deputy Mayor Hutchinson assumed the chair.

S-241210-007

Moved by Mayor Eccles

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

**"THAT in consideration of the draft 2025 consolidated operating and capital budget, Council directs staff to reduce municipal drain contract labour by \$15,000 in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

Mayor Eccles reclaimed the chair.

S-241210-008

Moved by Councillor Nuhn

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

**"THAT in consideration of the draft 2025 consolidated operating and capital budget, Council hereby rescinds Resolution No. S-241112-011, being a resolution to approve the economic development officer business case, as presented."**

Carried

S-241210-009

Moved by Councillor Nuhn

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

**"THAT Council hereby reconsiders resolution S-241112-010d, being a resolution to forgo including an economic development officer in the 2025 draft budget."**

	<b>In Favor</b>	<b>Opposed</b>
Councillor Foerster	X	
Councillor Townsend	X	
Councillor Nuhn	X	
Deputy Mayor Hutchinson	X	
Councillor Shea		X
Councillor Hutchinson	X	
Mayor Eccles	X	
<b>Results</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>

Carried

Mayor Eccles relinquished the chair to speak to the motion. Deputy Mayor Hutchinson assumed the chair. Mayor Eccles reclaimed the chair after providing comments.

S-241210-010

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Foerster

**"THAT in consideration of the draft 2025 consolidated operating and capital budget, Council forgoes including an economic development officer in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

Councillor Shea left the Council meeting at this time.

The Director of Finance/Treasurer advised that the approximate tax levy increase for 2025 is 11.4 percent.

S-241210-011

Moved by Councillor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Foerster

**"THAT in consideration of the 2025 draft budget, Council:**

- 1. approves the 2025 draft budget in principle; and**
- 2. directs staff to bring forward a bylaw to adopt the 2025 budget."**

Carried

#### **4. Bylaws**

##### **4.1 Bylaw No. 2024-103**

S-241210-012

Moved by Councillor Townsend

Seconded by Councillor Nuhn

**"THAT Bylaw No. 2024-103 be passed and enacted."**

Carried

**5. Adjournment**

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Eccles adjourned the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

---

Mayor Kevin Eccles

---

Clerk Jamie M. Eckenswiller