



Minutes

**Municipality of West Grey Special Committee
of the Whole (2017 Preliminary Budget) Meeting
Held on Monday, December 19, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.**

At the Council Chambers – West Grey Municipal Office

<u>Council</u>	Mayor Kevin Eccles, Deputy Mayor John A. Bell (left meeting at 4:15 p.m.), Councillor Bev Cutting, Councillor Doug Hutchinson, Councillor Carol Lawrence, Councillor Don B. Marshall, Councillor Rob Thompson
<u>Staff</u>	Larry C. Adams, CAO/Deputy Clerk; Mark Turner, Clerk; Kerri Mighton, Director of Finance/Treasurer. Kim Storz, Chief Librarian/CEO – during West Grey Public Library budget discussions
<u>Others</u>	Malcolm Beddoe, West Grey Public Library Board – during West Grey Public Library budget discussions

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

– None

Items of Business

Director of Finance/Treasurer – Report FTR #12/19/16 - 2017 Preliminary Budget

1) West Grey Public Library Budget

The Committee of the Whole requested the West Grey Public Library Board to consider hours of operation for potential savings, in order to reduce the overall proposed 2017 budget increase from approximately 12% including the elimination of reserve transfers, to 2% excluding the reserve transfer impact. The Director of Finance/Treasurer will verify the insurance rate. – COW #85-16, #86-16

2017-2021 Five Year Capital Forecast – (adjusted to \$10,000/year for 2017-2021)

Marshall-Lawrence, Resolved that, the Committee of the Whole hereby requests that Council recommends to the West Grey Public Library Board that library services at the Elmwood resource centre continue for one additional year, and thereafter, the continuation of this service be further assessed at that time.

(2) December 19, 2016

Recorded Vote:

**For: Deputy Mayor Bell, Councillor Cutting, Mayor Eccles,
Councillor Hutchinson, Councillor Lawrence,
Councillor Thompson**

Against: Councillor Marshall

... #COW 85-16

Carried.

Bell-Hutchinson, Resolved that, the Committee of the Whole hereby recommends that Council negotiate a one-year extension of the rental agreement with St. John's Lutheran Church for the Elmwood resource centre.

... #COW 86-16

Carried.

2) West Grey Police Service Budget

There is a projected 1.93% increase in the 2017 West Grey Police Service budget. One police vehicle will be purchased in 2017.

Mayor Eccles noted West Grey is under an Order from the Province to consider a new police building. The Director of Finance/Treasurer will complete some estimates on debenturing approximately \$3-4 million for a proposed new police building.

3) Durham Cemetery Budget

The Durham Cemetery budget is self-funding, and is not part of the municipal tax levy. No new items to report.

4) Public Works Budget

The Committee of the Whole concurred with the direction from the Director of Infrastructure and Public Works to decrease by \$5,000 the estimated cost in 2017 to purchase a new half ton truck for the Utilities Supervisor. The Committee of the Whole requested the Director of Infrastructure and Public Works to consider increasing the revenue amount from gravel pits, increasing the machine time credit amounts, or utilizing other means to reduce the proposed 2017 Roads Budget in order to meet the 2% target increase.

(3) December 19, 2016

Capital Projects – Durham Trestle Bridge (The Committee of the Whole requested the Director of Infrastructure and Public Works to contact Beth Puddicombe, from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, to discuss why West Grey’s funding application for the Durham Trestle Bridge was denied.)

The Committee of the Whole requested the Director of Infrastructure and Public Works to consider implementing some temporary solutions to enhance pedestrian safety along Durham Road East, until a sidewalk is considered on the north side of Durham Road East in conjunction with the proposed plan of subdivision.

The proposed 2017 Landfill budget is to decrease by 49.7%, largely due to the savings achieved through the new recycling and garbage contract. The Committee of the Whole requested \$5,000 be added to the “Landfill Post Closure Paid” expenditure, and to allocate \$100,000 to a Bentinck Landfill Compactor reserve.

There is a proposed 50% (\$63,550) reduction in the 2017 Street Light budget as a result of the new LED street lights. The Committee of the Whole directed that the \$64,550 be allocated to a reserve towards paying for the LED street light project loan.

There were no changes to the proposed Environmental/Water/Sewer budget for 2017.

The Director of Finance/Treasurer noted the Durham Water/Sewer Budget was carrying approximately \$600,000 debt as of January 1, 2016, and the new rates set in 2016 will serve to reduce this debt as each year passes, barring any future significant capital projects. The rates will be reviewed after the 2016 year end and may potentially be adjusted by the cost of living in 2017.

The Neustadt Water/Sewer Budget was reviewed. It was noted that further review will be completed after the year end of 2016 to ensure the water/sewer rates are still sufficient to cover the expenses.

The Committee of the Whole requested the Director of Infrastructure and Public Works to compare the two most recent consultants’ reports respecting the Durham Reservoir, and report back to Council or the Committee of the Whole with comments or recommendations.

(4) December 19, 2016

The Director of Infrastructure and Public Works reported on an invoice in the amount of \$13,053.75 for William Street Construction Change Order Certificate No. 7 that was not submitted as an oversight for past work. This matter is also on the Director of Infrastructure and Public Works' Report at this evenings' Council meeting, and a resolution approving the invoice will be considered at that time.

5) Jim Wallis Request – resolution #COW 87-16

It was noted that the current property tax system in Ontario does not have the ability to take into consideration the owner specific information such as age or income. Property taxes are based on the land and structures on the property not who owns the property. The Provincial/Federal income tax system does have provisions for income tax credits for property taxes paid and eligible seniors.

**Thompson-Hutchinson, Resolved that, the Committee of the Whole hereby recommends that Council not support the request by Jim Wallis for a reduction in property tax payable for pensioners/low income seniors;
And further that, the Director of Finance/Treasurer forward a letter to this effect. ...#COW 87-16 Carried.**

6) Clerk COW Report

2018 Municipal and School Board Election – Internet and Telephone Voting – resolution #COW 88-16

**Hutchinson-Cutting, Resolved that, the Committee of the Whole recommends that a by-law be brought forward at the January 16, 2017 Council meeting to authorize Internet and Telephone Voting as the voting method for the 2018 Municipal and School Board Election;
And further that, municipal staff continue to collaborate with other municipalities in Grey County regarding the 2018 Municipal and School Board Election where it is mutually beneficial, including communications, advertising, and policies and procedures. ... #COW 88-16 Carried.**

(5) December 19, 2016

7) Grants to Organizations

Councillors Thompson and Hutchinson will take the financial request from the Durham & District Horticultural Society to the West Chamber of Commerce and Durham BIA for consideration, in lieu of financial support from the Municipality of West Grey.

The funding request from Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce Inc., was not supported.

The Committee of the Whole supported re-allocating funds from St. Johns Ambulance (\$100) and Fringe Film Festival (\$250), to the Women's House Serving Bruce & Grey.

The next Special Committee of the Whole (2017 Preliminary Budget) Meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Hutchinson, Resolved that, the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting hereby adjourns at 5:08 p.m., to meet again as a Special Committee of the Whole (2017 Preliminary Budget) on January 23, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. Carried.

(Signed)
Kevin Eccles, Mayor

(Signed)
Larry C. Adams, CAO/Deputy Clerk