



Minutes

**Municipality of West Grey
Special Committee of the Whole Meeting
Regarding the Future of Long Term Care Beds
at Rockwood Terrace**

**Held on Monday, January 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.,
at the Durham & District Community Centre (451 Saddler St. W.)**

<u>Council</u>	Mayor Kevin Eccles, Deputy Mayor John A. Bell, Councillor Bev Cutting, Councillor Doug Hutchinson, Councillor Carol Lawrence, Councillor Rob Thompson
<u>Staff</u>	Larry C. Adams, CAO/Deputy Clerk; Kerri Mighton, Director of Finance/Treasurer.
<u>Others</u>	Al Barfoot, Warden, County of Grey; Kim Wingrove, CAO, County of Grey; Lynne Johnson, Director of Long Term Care, County of Grey; Moderator Pat Morden

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof – None

Introduction of Moderator

Mayor Eccles introduced Pat Morden as the Moderator for this meeting. Pat retired to the former Glenelg Township. Previously, Pat operated a non-profit long term care facility in Hamilton. Pat continues to work with her own consulting company and is an administrative management coach. Pat is a member of the Durham West Grey Lions Club.

Opening Comments

Kevin Eccles, Mayor, Municipality of West Grey, welcomed those in attendance, and turned the meeting over to the Moderator, Pat Morden.

Pat encouraged useful and meaningful dialogue and noted the capacity of the community to show up to talk about the issue in a constructive manner. She stressed the importance of listening to each presenter, as each perspective is worthy of consideration. Each presenter was given ten minutes to address the audience.

Kevin Eccles, Mayor of West Grey, provided an overview of events to date. Mayor Eccles emphasized that this is a Grey County Council decision. Council has supplied Grey County with a lot of local information and

perspective. Mayor Eccles noted that they have put forward at least two other properties within West Grey for consideration if in fact the decision is not to keep Rockwood Terrace at its current location. Mayor Eccles thanked everyone for attending.

Al Barfoot, Warden, County of Grey, introduced other Grey County Councillors in attendance, including Dwight Burley, Deputy Mayor, Georgian Bluffs; Scott Mackey, Deputy Mayor, Chatsworth; and Anna-Marie Fosbrooke, Mayor, Southgate. Warden Barfoot also noted that other Grey County Council representatives were not able to attend due to scheduled Council meetings. Warden Barfoot also noted that County staff will be providing a factual presentation of information that is available to date. A review of Long-term care is a tough situation for the County to go through. The long-term care review has taken the County longer than anticipated. Warden Barfoot stated he will take on-going concerns to County Council.

Lynn Johnson, Grey County Director of Long Term Care, reviewed a PowerPoint Presentation with the audience. The Ministry of Health has released new standards resulting in all long term care facilities having to meet a Class A standard by 2025. Rockwood Terrace is currently a Class B standard. All 100 beds at Rockwood Terrace qualify for redevelopment funding. The South West LHIN oversees all of the various partners in the long term care decisions. Kim Wingrove, Grey County CAO, stated that decisions cannot be made in isolation and there is a need to understand the scope of the redevelopment process. One of the key messages from the LHIN when they met in summer time was that there is an expectation that there will be fewer but larger long term care homes. It was noted that the scope of the Sienna Report was that the consultant was only asked to look at Rockwood Terrace and Grey Gables properties. Ms. Wingrove noted that the Sienna Report had a very narrow focus. The private sector information relating to long term care has not been readily available. Ms. Wingrove advised that the County is here to listen and understand the community's perspective.

Dan Sullivan addressed the meeting on behalf of the "Save Rockwood Terrace/Keep LTC Beds in Durham Committee". He noted that the Committee believes the Grey County review should have started with consulting the community. Public engagement early on would have been a better way to start. He thanked The Spotlight for their attention on this issue. He also thanked West Grey for hosting the meeting, which is the first time for the community's voice to be heard. The Committee is thankful for the progress that has been made to date and hope it continues. This is the opportunity to enact change in the process as once the decision is made this will move quickly. County Council has addressed this in the past and

resolved to maintain the status quo for beds remaining in the existing communities. West Grey Council is in the best position to fight for this cause, not a committee. West Grey can provide leadership in a public awareness campaign to keep long term care beds in West Grey. Durham is the best geographic location for the long term care facility as it has a well-equipped hospital; a team of doctors to service the facility and residents; volunteers within the facility; and there is available land to redevelop.

Steve Townsend also spoke on behalf of the "Save Rockwood Terrace/Keep LTC Beds in Durham Committee". He provided a background on the work the Committee had undertaken since becoming aware of the Grey County review of long term care. He noted that the lack of movement on an economic impact study is concerning. He stressed that the community needs to know all the information so they can understand the decisions being made.

Peter Fallis also spoke on behalf of the "Save Rockwood Terrace/Keep LTC Beds in Durham Committee". He noted that statistics are telling and deceiving at the same time and that the Sienna Report is too isolated. He indicated that the \$1.786 million was budgeted for maintenance at Rockwood but the spending was reduced to \$18,043 and the balance of the funds placed into a reserve instead. He requested that County Council commit to retaining the Rockwood Terrace Reserve of over \$3M until the issue of Rockwood is resolved. The reasons why Rockwood was located in Durham in the first place will still hold true today. He urged the County to look back at the reasons why Rockwood Terrace was built in this location in the first place and commit to circulating this information. To West Grey Council he suggested that the municipality cannot afford not to complete the economic impact study even if it is without Grey County support. He asked the audience if they were in favour of West Grey Council spending its own money to complete the study. The audience responded favourably.

Retired Reverend Dave Nicholson provided a number of compelling reasons to maintain Rockwood Terrace in Durham. It would benefit present and future residents, staff, businesses and their families, as well as the community of Durham to serve as volunteers. He is in favour of keeping Rockwood Terrace in some shape or form. He urged the County not to be deterred by the term "cost effectiveness", but consider that it is the right and reasonable thing to do to keep Rockwood Terrace in Durham. The family of Rockwood Terrace needs the Town of Durham and the Town of Durham needs the family of Rockwood Terrace.

The Moderator, Pat Morden thanked the panel for their presentations. She informed the audience that there would now be a Question and Answer

period until 9:00 p.m. She indicated that there is a commitment from West Grey and Grey County for a better communication process. Every effort will be made to record the questions and to get answers in a more timely fashion. Comment sheets will also be available at the municipal office this week.

In response to Peter Fallis' question regarding the Reserve Fund, Grey County CAO Kim Wingrove advised that no Council decisions have been made to defer funds away from the redevelopment of Rockwood Terrace. The budgeted maintenance funds have also been set aside for future redevelopment of Rockwood Terrace. She also noted that a Community Impact Study is difficult to move forward until they have firmed up some options.

Questions/Comments from the Public

Janice McEachnie – How was the Sienna company chosen to complete the study? County response – Sienna was chosen because they have experience in redevelopment and operating Long Term Care facilities. An RFP process was followed. What stakeholders did they question? County response – The stakeholders revolved around the SWLHIN.

Dr. David Walley, Medical Director at Rockwood Terrace, noted that there are 11 beds in Durham hospital, and if the long term care facility was relocated to Markdale, then there would only be access to 5 beds and one doctor. It would not be able to service the demands of Rockwood Terrace residents.

Christine Robinson – In May 2016 she was a delegation at Council and she delivered a call for action and she again delivered a call to action that Grey County Council commit to a Grey County owned and operated long term care facility. Why is Rockwood not a Class A facility? County response - This is not solely a political decision and they must work across all the members of the health care system and in turn the results must be presented to the LHIN and ultimately the Ministry of Health. The presentation by the LHIN is available on the Grey County website. The redevelopment funding was foreshadowed in 2010 but only announced the funding in 2016.

Nella Monaco-Wells – There are 100 beds at Rockwood and a waiting list of 14. Instead of cutting down on the number of homes, the County should consider expanding, what are we doing? County response – The number of Long Term Care beds is set by the Ministry of Health and the County cannot create more. There is no mechanism for the introduction of new beds into the system.

Robert Cannon-Sherlock – Read aloud stories from residents and their family members that have experienced quality of care at Rockwood Terrace to get the human aspect of the situation. Residents view Rockwood Terrace as their home and they receive exceptional care by staff. Rockwood Terrace beds were strategically placed in proximity to the surrounding communities when the building's location was originally being determined by Grey County.

Carol Lawrence – Our Mayor told us that Sienna had stated that Rockwood was worth \$1M and Grey Gables is worth \$12M. Will you have those buildings appraised before you make any decision on Rockwood? County response - As part of due diligence, staff we will commit to get the best numbers/information.

Audrey Otter – We must not put people at risk for the sake of money – Canada is better than that.

Joanne Todd, Trinity Anglican Church Minister – What defines a community is how we look after our weak, poor, and vulnerable. It draws others to the community to care for those in need.

Jennifer Caswell PSW – Stressed the importance of location in relation to medical facilities. Taking away more jobs, homes, safety, and comfort of staying in the community for the long term. What are you doing to ensure Rockwood stays in Durham? What are the other options being considered? County response – There has been no decision that County Council has made; staff are to bring back further information; they are still exploring options; anticipate staff to come back to County Council in March. County Council will be discussing how to best communicate moving forward. West Grey Council wants Rockwood's 100 or more beds in or in close proximity to Durham.

Dave Cardwell – His parents were living in Tillsonburg. During that time he commuted from Hanover and then they moved to Rockwood. Rockwood is thoroughly Class A facility inside.

Susan Tremble – As a local developer, they build approximately 30 homes a year in West Grey. Long Term Care is an extremely important consideration for a family's decision to relocate in West Grey. They are also involved with a proposed 280 home subdivision. Closing Rockwood Terrace would not only affect their business but also many other businesses.

Grace MacCartney – It is a community that is created inside of Rockwood Terrace.

Sharon Wiggins – It is about families trying to stay in the community.

Reg Golem – Praised the staff at Rockwood Terrace. What is the dollar value of efficiencies in moving beds to Grey Gables? Would there be a reduction in the number of beds? County response – There would be no reduction in the number of beds. There would be one kitchen to service 66 beds or 100 beds or 166 beds. The same would be true for laundry facilities. There is no government subsidy to move beds from Grey Gables and it is not eligible for redevelopment funding. The Sienna Report is available on the Grey County website.

Moderator Pat Morden re-iterated that there has been a lot of information shared tonight and one of the main themes is how important Rockwood is to Durham. Finance is only a small piece of the puzzle that the County is putting together to provide Long Term Care to our community. It is important to listen to each other and West Grey and Grey County commit to an improved communication strategy and to communicate in a fair and equitable way.

Dan Sullivan reminded the audience that there are comment forms that were generated by the Save Rockwood Committee and the Committee will be compiling them into a single document that can be presented to Councils and the community. It is hoped that moving forward we will facilitate a better way to communicate this process. The Committee wants to work with West Grey and Grey County and not tear each other apart. We need to rebuild our relationship to keep moving forward.

Al Barfoot, Grey County Warden, reinforced that we have heard your views and hope that was beneficial for the audience. All the information will be taken back to County Council.

Kevin Eccles, West Grey Mayor, indicated that all the information will be gathered to present to Grey County and will work with them on how to keep Rockwood in Durham. The landscape of Long Term Care across the province has changed and we need to change with it while continuing to serve our community of south Grey County. It is the position of West Grey Council that the Long Term Care beds at Rockwood Terrace remain in Durham.

Adjournment

Thompson, Resolved that, we do now adjourn at 9:09 p.m., to meet again on March 6, 2017, immediately after the conclusion of the March 6, 2017 Council meeting, or at the call of the Mayor.

Carried.

(Signed)
Kevin Eccles, Mayor

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