



Minutes

Municipality of West Grey Special Committee of the Whole (2018 Preliminary Budget) Meeting

Held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

At the Council Chambers – West Grey Municipal Office

<u>Council</u>	Mayor Kevin Eccles, Deputy Mayor John A. Bell, Councillor Bev Cutting, Councillor Rebecca Hergert, Councillor Doug Hutchinson, Councillor Carol Lawrence, Councillor Rob Thompson
<u>Staff</u>	Mark Turner, Clerk (left meeting at 10:34 a.m.); Kerri Mighton, Director of Finance/Treasurer

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof - None

Items of Business – 2018 Preliminary Budgets:

1. Public Works Roads Budget - updated

The Director of Infrastructure and Public Works (DIPW) reported he is working towards paperless time sheets for better efficiencies and cost savings.

The DIPW indicated "Health & Safety" and "Road Side Safety Maintenance" line items have been added to eliminate the "Miscellaneous" line item to better identify actual expenditures.

The Director of Finance/Treasurer noted some of the expenditure line items that were slightly increased resulting in a total Public Works Operating Expenditures amount of \$4,053,725.00. As a result, there is a 1.88% (\$73,475) increase in the Public Works Operating Budget for 2018.

The 2018 Public Works Capital Budget is currently at \$1,994,533.00, whereas the 2017 Public Works Capital Budget was \$1,872,533.00.

The DIPW is investigating the possible replacement of other bridges in West Grey with wooden bridges in order to potentially save significant funds.

The DIPW is waiting for a more detailed cost estimate from the engineer from GSS Engineering respecting the "Bruce & Lambton Street Reconstruction". If the proposed amount (\$450,000) is reduced, the extra funds will be used for a contingency fund for this project.

The DIPW recommended the inspection and cleaning of tanks at the Durham & Neustadt Water Treatment Plants be completed in 2018 at an estimated cost of \$20,000 for all three tanks. The Committee of the Whole agreed to include this item for 2018.

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2. SMART Transit

The West Grey portion payable for SMART Transit is decreasing from approximately \$77,800 in 2017 to \$71,145 in 2018.

3. West Grey Parks Committee

The 2017 West Grey Parks Committee budget was \$50,900, however, the actual 2017 Budget expenditures to date is just over \$80,000.00. A portion of this increase was due to the Parks Committee assuming the work in Neustadt that was formally done by a contractor, as well as additional work for Canada 150. Watering in Ayton was also a new item added after the 2017 budget had been set.

The proposed 2018 West Grey Parks Committee budget is \$60,000.00, mainly increased as a result of wages and materials. Discussions ensued on the potential to lease or purchase a Kubota Side x Side for watering in Durham. Some thoughts were that it may be able to also be used to drag the ball diamonds. It was suggested that the Parks Committee review these options as they reassess their 2018 budget to bring it in at a lower total levy amount but that the purchase of a Side by Side would be removed from capital for 2018. Suggestions were made that the new CAO would take a more active oversight role for the Parks Committee. In order to improve communications, it was suggested that secretarial support staff be assigned to take minutes at the Parks Committee meetings, which are typically held the second Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Thompson Seconded by Councillor Hergert
That the 2018 Net Operating Budget for the Parks Committee be set at \$52,500.

Councillor Lawrence requested a recorded vote:

John Bell	yea	Doug Hutchinson	yea
Bev Cutting	nay	Carol Lawrence	nay
Kevin Eccles	nay	Rob Thompson	yea
Rebecca Hergert	yea		

Carried.

The Committee of the Whole temporarily adjourned at 10:50 a.m. and reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

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4. 2018 Draft Overall Budget Summary

The draft overall budget increase is 2.88% or \$262,416 which includes revenue from growth estimated at \$90,000 or approximately 1% of the tax levy. It was noted that there are still a few items waiting to be finalized, such as the Library Board budget, OMPF Grant Funding allocations for 2018 and West Grey's share of the Elmwood Fire Board once assessment rolls for 2018 are available.

The Committee of the Whole temporarily adjourned for lunch at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

5. 2018 Draft Capital Budget Summary

Discussions ensued on the need for a new Police Station. It was suggested that at the next Committee of the Whole meeting that consideration be given to establish a Building Sub-Committee, as well as what potential financing scenarios may be for a building. It was also suggested that the Committee review whether a combined Police/Fire Station option would be suitable.

There were some questions regarding the 60" Zero-turn Mower budgeted for the Durham Arena, specifically whether a smaller 54" model may have preferred maneuverability and whether a residential model instead of a commercial model would be sufficient.

It was noted that the Durham Fitness Centre request for paving should be considered in the 2018 Capital budget.

6. Other Items

Discussions ensued on the Frazil Fest Family Day event. It was noted that in previous years the BIA had covered the costs, however because most of the activities are at the Arena it does not promote the downtown area very much. It was suggested that maybe the Durham Recreation Committee would be interested in organizing the event. Perhaps the West Grey Chamber of Commerce would consider increasing their donation towards the event.

A proposal was received for a "Bids for Benefits" where artwork would be placed at the local Arenas and silent auction bids would be accepted. Any proceeds over the minimum bid would be given to the charitable organization. After discussing this proposal it was the consensus not to pursue at this time.

Adjournment

Lawrence, Resolved that, we do now adjourn at 2:50 p.m. Carried.

(Signed)

Kevin Eccles, Mayor

(Signed)

Mark Turner, Clerk