



GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

The Committee met at 3:00 p.m. in the Sutton Room, 55 Zina Street, Orangeville

Members Present: Councillor John Creelman (Chair)
Warden Darren White
Councillor Guy Gardhouse
Councillor Andy Macintosh
Councillor Wade Mills

Staff Present: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer
Pam Hillock, Clerk/Director of Corporate Services
Alan Selby, Treasurer
Michelle Dunne, Deputy Clerk

Chair Creelman called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Bill McCutcheon, President, Dufferin Federation of Agriculture, Gord Grant, Ontario Federation of Agriculture Field Representative and Ben Lefort, Ontario Federation of Agriculture Senior Policy Researcher, asked to address the Committee on behalf of Item #1, Treasurer's Report – Annual Setting of Tax Policies.

Mr. McCutcheon, serves as a Director on the Dufferin Board of Trade and they have expressed support for a reduction in the Farm class ratio from the current 0.25. Mr. Grant provided the Committee with some basic facts regarding property tax and farms. He noted that farmers pay full residential rates on their residence plus a full acre.

Mr. Lefort spoke about the MPAC Farm Assessments and the shifting Farm Tax burden. In Dufferin, Farmland assessed value has increase by 66%. Dufferin farmers have had an increase in their tax burden since 2012.

They asked if Committee would consider on of the three following scenarios:

- Reduce the farm tax ratio to 0.17 (same level as 2012)
- Reduce the farm tax ratio to 0.19 (same level as 2016)
- Reduce the farm tax ratio to 0.23 (maintain current level)

The Treasurer noted that any adjustment down in the Farm Tax Rate will have an impact on the other tax classes.

REPORTS

1. **GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES – February 28, 2019 – ITEM #1**
Annual Setting of Tax Policies

A report from the Treasurer, dated February 28, 2019, to review existing Property Tax Policies and determine the policies for the year 2019.

Moved by Warden White, seconded by Councillor Creelman

THAT Report, Annual Setting of Tax Policies, from the Treasurer, dated February 28, 2019, be received;

AND THAT the Tax Policies for 2019 for Tax Ratios, Sub-Class Rate Reductions, and Charitable Organization Rebates remain as they were in 2018;

AND THAT the program for rebates to Low-Income Seniors and Persons with Disabilities be amended for 2019, by eliminating the \$50 tax-increase threshold, but keeping the same guidelines in place to qualify for assistance.

Moved by Warden White, seconded by Councillor Gardhouse

THAT the main motion be amended by:

Remove: AND THAT the Tax Policies for 2019 for Tax Ratios, Sub-Class Rate Reductions, and Charitable Organization Rebates remain as they were in 2018;

Insert: AND THAT the Farm Tax Ratio for 2019 be set at 0.23, and the Sub-Class Rate Reductions, and Charitable Organization Rebates remain as they were in 2018.

-Amendment Carried-

MAIN MOTION ADOPTED AS AMENDED

THAT Report, Annual Setting of Tax Policies, from the Treasurer, dated February 28, 2019, be received;

AND THAT the Farm Tax Ratio for 2019 be set at 0.23, and the Sub-Class Rate Reductions, and Charitable Organization Rebates remain as they were in 2018

AND THAT the program for rebates to Low-Income Seniors and Persons with Disabilities be amended for 2019, by eliminating the \$50 tax-increase

threshold, but keeping the same guidelines in place to qualify for assistance.
-Carried-

2. GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES – February 28, 2019 – ITEM #2
Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit Agreement

A report from the Treasurer, dated February 28, 2019, to recommend approval of an updated Agreement between the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) Public Health and its municipal partners. (Deferred from General Government Services Committee – January 24, 2019)

Moved by Councillor Mills, seconded by Warden White

THAT Report, Health Unit Agreement, from the Treasurer, dated February 28, 2019, be received;

AND THAT the updated Agreement be approved;

AND THAT the necessary By-law be presented to County Council.

-Carried-

3. GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES – February 28, 2019 – ITEM #3
Council and Committee Video Recording

A report from the Clerk/Director of Corporate Services, dated February 28, 2019, to investigate the cost and practicality of recording and broadcasting Council and Committee meetings.

Moved by Councillor Mills, seconded by Warden White

THAT the report from the Clerk/Director of Corporate Services, dated February 28, 2019, to investigate the cost and practicality of recording and broadcasting Council and Committee meetings be received;

AND THAT staff be directed to further investigate the use of the Town of Orangeville Council Chambers and all the impacts associated with it and report back to Committee.

-Carried-

4. GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES – February 28, 2019 – ITEM #4
Council Staff Relationships Policy

A report from the Clerk/Director of Corporate Services, dated February 28, 2019, to seek approval of a Council Staff Relationship Policy to ensure compliance with new legislated requirements of all municipalities in Ontario to have a Council Staff Relationship protocol.

Moved by Councillor Macintosh, seconded by Councillor Gardhouse

THAT the report from the Clerk/Director of Corporate Services, dated February 28, 2019, with respect to a Council Staff Relationship Policy be received;

AND THAT the draft Council Staff Relationship Policy, as attached, be adopted.

-Carried-

**5. GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES – February 28, 2019 – ITEM #5
Building Division Activity 2018**

A report from the Clerk/Director of Corporate Services, dated February 28, 2019, to report on the activity of the Building Division for the year of 2018, further enhancing communication with County of Dufferin Council and highlighting Building Division staff successes.

Moved by Councillor Macintosh, seconded by Councillor Gardhouse

THAT the report, dated February 28, 2019, from the Clerk/Director of Corporate Services regarding Building Permit Activity 2018, be received.

-Carried-

**6. GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES – February 28, 2019 – ITEM #6
Emergency Management Program Amendment Draft**

A report from the Clerk/Director of Corporate Services, dated February 28, 2019, to present a draft agreement that sets out the general terms regarding the delivery of Emergency Management Services to the local municipalities.

Moved by Councillor Gardhouse, seconded by Warden White

THAT the report of the Clerk/Director of Corporate Services, dated February 28, 2019, with respect to Emergency Management Agreement Draft, be received;

AND THAT draft agreement, be approved in the form substantially attached hereto, and the agreement be circulated to the area municipalities for execution;

AND THAT the necessary by-law be presented.

-Carried-

7. **GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES – February 28, 2019 – ITEM #7**
Memorandum of Understanding – Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure

A report from the Clerk/Director of Corporate Services, dated February 28, 2019, to seek direction regarding a request from CBRE to enter in to a further Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure for the use of Courtroom 103 at 55 Zina Street, Orangeville.

Moved by Warden White, seconded by Councillor Mills

THAT the report of the Clerk/Director of Corporate Services, dated February 28, 2019, regarding Memorandum of Understanding – Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure – Use of Courtroom, be received;

AND THAT the Warden and Clerk be authorized to sign a mutually-agreed upon Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of the Attorney General for the use of the County-owned court space at 55 Zina Street, Orangeville, with the terms discussed in the report.

Moved by Councillor Creelman, seconded by Councillor Macintosh

THAT the main motion be amended by:

Remove: AND THAT the Warden and Clerk be authorized to sign a mutually-agreed upon Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of the Attorney General for the use of the County-owned court space at 55 Zina Street, Orangeville, with the terms discussed in the report.

Insert: AND THAT staff pursue a month to month extension of the Memorandum of Understanding, and to secure Courtroom 103 for two days of week for Provincial Offenses Administration in the New Year.

-Amendment Carried-

MAIN MOTION ADOPTED AS AMENDED

THAT the report of the Clerk/Director of Corporate Services, dated February 28, 2019, regarding Memorandum of Understanding – Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure – Use of Courtroom, be received;

AND THAT staff pursue a month to month extension of the Memorandum of Understanding, and to secure Courtroom 103 for two days of week for Provincial Offenses Administration in the New Year.

-Carried-

8. GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES – February 28, 2019 – ITEM #8
Community Grant Program

A report from the Chief Administrative Officer, dated February 28, 2019, to provide Committee and Council with an update with respect to the Community Grant program.

Moved by Warden White, seconded by Councillor Mills

THAT, the report of the Chief Administrative Officer, Community Grant Program, dated February 28, 2019, be received.

-Carried-

DISCUSSION

9. GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES – February 28, 2019 – ITEM #9
International Plowing Match

Discussion regarding the request from the Ontario Plowmen's Association for Dufferin County to host the International Plowing Match in 2020.

The Warden, CAO, Director of Planning, Economic Development & Culture and the Economic Development Officer met with representatives of the Ontario Plowmen's Association about the International Plowing Match (IPM) last Friday. Additional information with respect to what is required from the host County and local municipality was provided; however a number of details would still need to be clarified. Members from the OPA are confident there is little need for municipal staff to be involved and that the overall municipal commitment can be quite small.

The Warden and staff shared that information from previous hosts continues to indicate that there is a significant commitment required. It may be that this disconnect arises from the fact that what is required by the OPA and what is necessary from the municipal perspective can be different. Municipalities acting as hosts have an obligation to ensure municipal standards are met and that the municipality is presented in the best possible light. Municipalities felt the event was generally positive but stressed it was a very significant commitment requiring a dedicated planning effort. The usual practice is for municipalities to apply/bid to host the event several years in advance.

The proposed locations are in Mono, one location for the tent city and one location for the actual plowing. Town of Mono Council was unaware of the proposed location and has not had the opportunity to consider the local impacts. There would be many implications/financial commitments from the local municipality and the County:

- There is significant financial impact on the County and the host municipality. They include drains, culverts, building permits, waste water, fire services, police services, paramedics, etc.
- Traffic concerns at the proposed locations. They are estimating 7,000 to 8,000 vehicles per day throughout the 5 day event, which is significantly higher than the amount of vehicles for the Para-Pan Am event where it was a traffic nightmare. There is also concerns about having to shuttle people between the different sites.
- We need to be sure we have the timing right when it comes to showcasing the County. Implementation of the Economic Development Strategy is just underway and work on branding and messaging is still being developed. If we are to host, we would like to do it properly.

The CAO suggested that if Council does decide to host the 2020 IPM, there should be a formal agreement on who does what. The Committee discussed that the Town of Mono would need to be a willing host prior to the County making any decision to host the 2020 IPM.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Chief Administrative Officer informed the Committee that further to the announcement from the Minister of Health earlier this week, she has had some discussions with Ms. Stacey Daub, CEO, Headwaters Health Care Centre, to be one of the first communities to form a Health Team to better coordinate and integrate local services. A meeting with the Minister Elliott, Ministry of Health and some of the partners has been set for March 1, 2019 at the hospital, and Ms. Pritchard will report back to Council.

The Chief Administrative Officer also informed the Committee that the SWIFT Board was looking for a Dufferin representative and that Councillor Chris Gerrits has put his name forward.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.
Sutton Room, 55 Zina Street, Orangeville

Respectfully submitted,

.....
Councillor John Creelman, Chair
General Government Services Committee