MINUTES
Municipality of West Grey Committee of the Whole
Held on Friday, January 18, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.
At the Council Chambers – West Grey Municipal Office

Council  Mayor Christine Robinson, Deputy Mayor Tom Hutchinson, Councillor Beth Hamilton, Councillor Rebecca Hergert, Councillor Doug Hutchinson, Councillor Geoffrey Shea, Councillor Stephen Townsend
Staff  Laura Johnston, CAO/Deputy Clerk; Kerri Mighton, Director of Finance/Treasurer; Mark Turner, Clerk (arrived at 1:10 p.m.)

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof - None

Items of Business

1) 2019 Preliminary Budget – Admin., et al

Discussions ensued on the elimination of the one third income tax exemption on Council remuneration. It was suggested that a remuneration report be reviewed before the next budget year. For 2019, Council remuneration will be adjusted by the 1.8% cost of living. It was questioned whether a T1010 Form could be filed to allow Council members to claim office expenses.

One of the new items in the Administration budget is the addition of a new Communications/Office of the CAO position which would focus on enhanced communications for the municipality as well as some administrative support for Council. Some concerns were expressed with adding additional staff, however it would be necessary in order to enhance services. Discussions ensued on improvements to the website.

The committee temporarily adjourned at 10:30 a.m., and reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

The administration consultant expense includes a Wage Grid Market/Compensation Review. It was noted that the industry standard for completion of market review is on a five year cycle and it was decided to reduce the consultant fees by $20,000 to defer the market review to the 2020 budget year which would be within the five year cycle. Discussions ensued on legal fees and audit fees. It was suggested that the process for awarding Grants to Organizations be reviewed and a policy and/or application form be developed for a future meeting.
COW temporarily adjourned for lunch at 12:30 p.m., and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Discussions ensued on advertising methods and frequency. It was decided to allocate $2,500 to the volunteer appreciation day expense and to increase the corporate advertising by $5,000. The CAO will report back on costs and details of enhanced advertising campaigns.

The transfer to the Health Care Reserve of $7,500 was removed and it was decided to transfer $50,000 out of Health Care Reserve to be used towards funding a capital project to be determined.

The balance in the police station reserve was $220,000 at the end of 2018.

The Elmwood Fire Budget has been recommended by the Joint Board for approval; 1.4% increase in actual operational budget expenditures – West Grey’s share will depend on assessment updates. The Elmwood Fire Capital expenses total $80,500, which includes a training house.

Fire – Other Budget is a 2.7% estimated increase. The budget includes a $40,000 transfer to reserve for a future Elmwood fire truck purchase.

Airport & Transit – It was noted that a draft budget has not been received from the Saugeen Municipal Airport to date. 7.7% estimated increase.

Canine Control – Discussions ensued on canine/feline control issues/chickens in urban areas. Also suggested was the possibility of one price for dog tags.

Other Protection – no proposed increase.

Crossing Guards – 10.6% increase, largely due to wage increases as a result of the minimum wage increase and steps in pay grid.

Building Department – The source water protection grant eliminated; and $10,000 had been added to a legal reserve. Changes will also have to made to incorporate moving the Building Department back in house.

There is an 3% increase in the Planning Budget and the Economic Development budget remains at $50,000.

Durham Cemetery is self-funded and there is no increase. There is also no increase to the Other Cemetery Department.
Adjournment
Councillor Hutchinson-Hergert, Resolved that, we do now adjourn at 3:38 p.m., to meet again on January 21, 2019, 9:00 a.m., or at the call of the Mayor. Carried.

(Signed)
Christine Robinson, Mayor

(Signed)
Mark Turner, Clerk