MINUTES
Municipality of West Grey Committee of the Whole
Held on Tuesday, June 25, 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; Mark Turner, Clerk Brent Glasier, Director of Infrastructure and Public Works; Kerri Mighton, Director of Finance/Treasurer; Jennifer Watson, By-law Enforcement & Property Standards Officer

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest - None

Closed Session
Hergert-Deputy Mayor Hutchinson, Whereas, the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, Section 239 (2), as amended, authorizes Councils of municipalities to close to the public a meeting or part of a meeting for dealing with certain subject matters, Now therefore be it resolved that, the Committee of the Whole of the Municipality of West Grey, does now go into a closed session at 2:18 p.m., with the CAO/Deputy Clerk, and Clerk, to discuss an item that relates to a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board (Durham Carnegie Public Library property et al). #COW 35-19 Carried.

Hergert-Shea, Be it resolved that, the Committee of the Whole of the Municipality of West Grey hereby returns to Open Session at 3:30 p.m. #COW 36-19 Carried.

(Mayor Robinson confirmed that only closed session items identified were discussed in closed session.)

REGULAR AGENDA:

Matters Arising from the Closed Session - None

Public Meetings

Committee Report – CAO 05/25/19 re: Urban Chicken Survey Results (NOTE: Following percentages are rounded off.)

The CAO provided the results of the urban chicken survey, noting over 300 survey responses were received. Seventy-five (75%) are in favour of allowing urban chickens in West Grey, and 60% indicated there should be a limit of 6 chickens per urban household. Suggested conditions for licensing of urban chickens include fenced area
for roaming (86%), specifications regarding coop size (60%), no roosters (59%), and
limiting the amount of licensed keepers (16%).

Primary concerns with urban chickens in urban areas include odour (72%), noise
(50%), illness/disease (51%), appearance (34%), and safety (29%).

Ninety-four percent (94%) of survey respondents are residents of West Grey, and 66%
reside within the urban areas of Ayton, Durham, Elmwood, and Neustadt. Individual
comments were also received as part of the survey.

The CAO stated that if Council is prepared to approve urban chickens, an urban
chicken by-law will need to be passed, as well as a Public Meeting will be required in
order to amend provisions of the West Grey Comprehensive Zoning By-law Number 37-
2006, as amended, to facilitate urban chickens.

Norman White noted his support for urban chickens; and presented a signed petition of
approximately 175 individuals in favor of urban chickens.

The Committee noted in a previous delegation to Council, Mr. White submitted a
sample urban chicken by-law passed by another municipality (Saugeen Shores), and
questioned if West Grey would use this by-law. The Clerk replied that staff will consider
Saugeen Shores and Meaford’s urban chicken by-law when preparing a draft by-law for
consideration, and direction will be needed from Council in terms of what provisions will
be included in the by-law. The Clerk suggested further discussions respecting urban
chickens be held during the July 9 Committee of the Whole (Planning) meeting, as the
Municipal Planner will provide some details regarding needed amendments to the West
Grey Comprehensive Zoning By-law. The By-law Enforcement & Property Standards
Officer should also be invited to this meeting.

Dorothea Eppler stated she does not reside in Durham, however, she has raised
chickens at her rural property, and opined that there should not be problems if a
chicken coop is well-kept. Ms. Eppler suggested not permitting roosters due to the
noise. Ms. Eppler indicated she has never had predators that came after their chickens,
and questioned if a predator would come after chickens in town. Ms. Eppler also opined
that rodents should not be a problem if chicken coops are kept clean.

Kathleen Hoggarth stated she lives in town on a 1.5 acre property, and has kept
chickens in town since 2016. Well-kept chicken coops will not cause odour or noise
problems. Ms. Hoggarth offered some suggestions including regulating the size of
coops, having a distance setback requirement for coops from abutting dwellings, and
not counting chicks and juveniles in the maximum number of chickens permitted on a
property, Ms. Hoggarth noted urban chickens provide fresh meat and eggs for
sustainability, and suggested not permitting urban chicken meat/eggs to be sold to
neighbours, but just raised for their own use.
Caitlin Woolcott indicated she is an animal welfare specialist for New Life Mills, and noted her opposition to urban chickens due to the lack of disease controls. Farms raising chickens are considered clean zones to ensure diseases aren’t brought into barns; and they require flock health plans; as well as vaccinations. Ms. Woolcott stated West Grey should communicate with stakeholders to address these concerns, and recommended not permitting roosters if there will be a limitation on the number of urban chickens. Ms. Woolcott also cited her concerns with what plan will be in place for dead or diseased birds so they are not just put into the garbage. New Life has rigorous protocols to ensure the welfare of the fowl.

The Committee asked how conditions in the inside of commercial fowl facilities compare to backyard chicken coops. Ms. Woolcott replied there are different types of systems, as some meat birds such as turkeys and chickens are in large open barns with ventilation and litter cleaned regularly with fresh bedding; with ample feed and water, spacing requirements; nest boxes, and perches. Ms. Woolcott extended an offer to the Committee to come to their barns to witness steps they take to ensure welfare of chickens.

The Committee suggested obtaining input from the Grey Bruce Health Unit respecting urban chickens.

The Committee noted some concerns with the cost of monitoring complaints.

**Hergert-Townsend, Resolved that, the Committee of the Whole defers a decision respecting urban chickens for further discussion during the July 9, 2019 Committee of the Whole (Planning) meeting. #COW 30-19 Carried.**

**Delegations**

**Marian Ratcliffe, Chair, West Grey Dark Sky Committee**

Marian Ratcliffe, Chair, West Grey Dark Sky Committee, introduced Dark Sky Committee members, being Roger Gannon, Bev Falcao and Councillor Beth Hamilton, noting the resolution passed in 2016 by the former Council proclaiming West Grey as a “Dark Sky Friendly Community”, and updated the Committee of the Whole respecting their activities to protect the night skies of West Grey.

Light pollution impacts humans, and all types of animals and plant species. The elimination of wasted light will also result in cost savings. The primary goal of the Committee is to educate regarding night skies and minimize light pollution in West Grey.

The Committee proposes to establish a Dark Sky Policy for West Grey that will promote thoughtful lighting standards and reduce light pollution. The colour of lights is also an important feature.
The Dark Sky Committee has three asks of Council, being, development of a municipal lighting policy, development of a lit sign policy, and allowing the Committee to communicate with the public.

Mayor Robinson thanked Ms. Ratcliffe for her delegation, noting support for consideration of a municipal lighting policy, however, the Mayor stated communications respecting Dark Sky matters will be through West Grey.

Mayor Robinson indicated she has contacted Grey County to determine if the County has any Dark Sky provisions. There is a section in the new Grey County Official Plan regarding minimization of the impact of lighting on dark skies. West Grey can address this issue through site plan approvals for large scale developments. (i.e. subdivision plans, condominium plans.)

Councillor Hamilton, Council representative on the Dark Sky Committee, noted they have dedicated members on the Committee, and want clarification on the mandate/terms of reference of the Dark Sky Committee.

The Committee echoed support for the Dark Sky Committee, noting the importance of having a municipal lighting policy to minimize light pollution and ensure efficient lighting.

The Committee suggested an information package respecting lighting best practices to reduce light pollution and provide efficient lighting be developed for release to builders.

The Committee indicated a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) might include incentives for more efficient and less intrusive lighting.

Mayor Robinson suggested the Dark Sky Committee provide a revised resolution to Council to more accurately reflect the mandate/terms of reference of the Committee. The Clerk suggested the Committee/Council may wish to consider approval of a Dark Sky Committee mandate and terms of reference prior to crafting a new resolution.

The Committee questioned if the Dark Sky Committee has any guidelines/suggestions that can be transferred to developers prior to any adoption of a Dark Sky Policy. The Clerk suggested some of the pamphlet information provided by Ms. Ratcliffe as part of her delegation could be provided to developers.

The CAO mentioned future projects such as the purchase of Christmas lights, will be discussed with the Dark Sky Committee.

The Committee suggested municipal properties and buildings be appraised for lighting, including the new lighting for the Bentinck and Normanby sheds. Mayor Robinson informed the Committee that the Bentinck and Normanby sheds already have the new lighting installed.
Marian Ratcliffe reported that the North York Astronomical Society is holding their Starfest event on August 22-25 at the River Place campground in Ayton. Starfest is Canada’s largest annual amateur astronomy conference and the star party attracts hundreds of individuals. It is ranked as one of North America’s top star parties.

Lydia Dyck
Lydia Dyck came before the Committee of the Whole to encourage composting in West Grey.

Compost is decayed organic material used as plant fertilizer, with the assistance of the right kind of microbes. Soil is the upper layer of earth on which plants grow, containing air, water, minerals and organic matter. Ms. Dyck extolled the benefits of composting, including diverting waste from the landfill site, reduction in greenhouse gases, and economic benefits. The Made-in-Ontario Environmental Plan of 2018 includes the goal to reduce carbon emissions to 30% below 2005 levels by 2030.

The full spectrum of composting would include individual composting, composting as a business, town-wide composting systems, and possible pilot project at Elmwood Community Centre.

Possible actions to pursue include passing of a by-law to regulate composting, education of school students, survey with options, and broader waste management system. The goal is to keep as much waste as possible from municipal landfill sites.

Mayor Robinson this initiative could be a possible social enterprise opportunity. Mayor Robinson and the CAO are meeting with Molok North America in West Grey to discuss waste/recycling opportunities. The Durham & District Horticultural Society is also involved in a reduction of waste initiative. Mayor Robinson suggested utilizing a West Grey property as a pilot project.

The Committee questioned if the Sustainability Committee is in place. The CAO replied that she will verify when the ad seeking sustainability committee members was placed.

The Director of Infrastructure and Public Works stated he obtained pricing on composting bins, and completed a comprehensive composting report to the previous Council. The Director noted he previously informed Council that additional staffing resources will be needed to further this endeavor.

The Committee questioned why the Elmwood Community Centre is suggested for a composting pilot project. Ms. Dyck replied that it is a good site due to it size, however, she is not sure who would take the lead on the pilot project. Ms Dyck noted she would support a West Grey initiative as well.
June 25, 2019

The Committee noted schools and institutional facilities would be a good focus for educational initiatives respecting composting.

The Committee questioned if West Grey is permitted to establish a composting site outside of approved landfill sites. The Director of Infrastructure and Public Works responded that he will have to verify if this would be permitted.

The Committee indicated the Sustainability Committee once established can deal with composting initiatives. There may be opportunities to partner with environmental networks established in other lower-tier Grey County municipalities.

Business Arising From Previous Meeting – n/a

Staff Reports

Director of Infrastructure and Public Works – Report COW #06/25/19
Contracted Work (received for information)
Staff Update – Jim Holm, former Normanby & West Grey Public Works employee retired June 21, 2019 after 33 years of faithful service (received for information)
Purchase of Float Trailer – resolution #COW 31-19, #COW 32-19
Purchase of Sewer Camera – resolution #33-19 (This item will be brought forward for 2020 budget discussions)
Single Source Supply of Body Builder and Snow Plow Equipment – Viking Cives – resolution #COW 34-19

Hamlet Recognition Signs (The Director of Infrastructure and Public Works will send a letter to the requester indicating the Municipality of West Grey is not able to facilitate the placement of additional Hamlet Recognition Signs at this time due to budget constraints. A letter will be forwarded to Grey County to determine if the County is willing to erect additional Hamlet signs, possibly through a Grey County Tourism initiative. The Directors’ Report was amended to remove the reference to the word “regulatory” contained in the recommendations relating to signage.)

Hergert-Councillor Hutchinson, Resolved that, the Committee of the Whole hereby recommends Council approves the purchase of a float trailer at a cost of $7373.00 excluding taxes, with the revenue of 2019 equipment sales being utilized to offset the purchase. #COW 31-19 Postponed Indefinitely.

Hergert-Councillor Hutchinson, Resolved that, the Committee of the Whole postpones indefinitely resolution #COW 31-19;
And further that, the revenue from the 2019 equipment sales, less the sale price from the loader, be allocated to the equipment reserve. COW #32-19 Carried.
Councillor Hutchinson-Townsend, Resolved that, the Committee of the Whole hereby recommends Council approves the purchase of a sewer camera based on the best overall demonstration at an estimated cost between $12,000 to $13,000, with the purchase of the sewer camera being funded from the water/sewer user account split 2/3 Durham and 1/3 Neustadt. #COW 33-19 DEFEATED.

Hergert-Townsend, Resolved that, the Committee of the Whole hereby recommends Council approves the supply of the truck box and winter equipment for the 2019 single axle truck from Viking Cives for a 2020 expenditure; And further that, the unspent levy funding for the 2019 single axle truck be transferred to the equipment reserve. #COW 34-19 Carried.

Director of Finance/Treasurer – Report COW #06/25/19
Building Department Vehicle Purchase – resolution #COW 29-19

Hergert-Townsend, Resolved that, the Committee of the Whole hereby recommends Council approves the purchase of a Kia Sorento from Owen Sound Kia in the amount of $26,945 for the West Grey Building Department. #COW 29-19 Carried.

CAO/Deputy Clerk – Report COW #06/25/19
Municipal Delegations at the 2019 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference (The CAO will submit delegations to the appropriate Ministers regarding infrastructure funding, Provincial improvements for communication/consultation with municipalities, water/sewer grant formula, organic waste/blue box program, and reduction in SVCA funding for flood control.

By-law Enforcement & Property Standards Officer – Report COW #06/25/19
Complaint Statistics from January-June 2019 – 18 complaint files to date (Ms. Watson explained her duties as By-law Enforcement & Property Standards Officer, and the West Grey complaint process. The Committee posed a number of questions regarding the compliance process, and the need to educate the public regarding the complaint process. The Committee requested consideration of having the municipalities that the by-law enforcement & property standards officer provides service to approve placement of the municipal decals on her vehicle. Council can request the By-law Enforcement Officer to investigate possible by-law enforcement and property standards violations.)

New Business
  ➢ Major Conferences – Council update (maximum three minutes/Council member) (n/a)
June 25, 2019

Adjournment
Shea-Deputy Mayor Hutchinson, Resolved that, we do now adjourn at 3:31 p.m.,
to meet again on July 30, 2019, 9:00 a.m., or at the call of the Mayor. Carried.

(Signed) (Signed)
Christine Robinson, Mayor Mark Turner, Clerk