



Committee of the Whole

Minutes - January 9, 2009 Special Meeting

GODERICH, ONTARIO



Goderich, Ontario
January 9, 2009

A Special Committee of the Whole met in the Court House Council Chambers, in Goderich at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the Huron County Budget with all members present except Councillors J. Grace, G. Robertson and J. Seili. *The Warden's Task Force on County Council Restructuring met immediately following the meeting.*

1. Delegations

1.1. GATEWAY

At the May 20, 2008 Committee of the Whole meeting a presentation was made regarding the GATEWAY Rural Research Education Academic Teaching (GRREAT) Centre Project. There was a motion at that time that the delegation be requested to update Council on their project progress; and further that the request for \$500,000 be presented again during the 2009 Budget deliberations. Gwen Devereaux, Recruitment Development Leader, Dr. Claudio Munoz and Lin Steffler updated Council and viewed a DVD regarding the project.

A discussion ensued after the presentation. It was noted that funding would be for operational costs only. The group delegation also informed Council that they do have a commitment in favour of the project from Ben Lobb, Huron-Bruce M.P., John Wilkinson and Gerard Kennedy. Ms. Steffler stated that their sister centre in Kentucky saw their population triple with huge economic impact. Members suggested that the GATEWAY business plan be reviewed by the Treasurer and that they partner with the Huron County Health Unit to plan progressing forward. The group is still seeking funding from various sources and the Counties of Grey, Bruce and Perth. Council was informed they have \$14,000 left in their bank account. It was stressed that the centres research is specific to the County and its communities.

Moved by B. Siemon
Seconded by N. Vincent
That the presentation be received.

CARRIED

1.2. Blue Water Rest Home

Mr. Ron Heimrich, Chair of the Board of Directors of Blue Water Rest Home in Zurich, and Martha Craig, Administrator, made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the request to the County for \$1.246 million in funding for the rest home.

A lengthy discussion ensued. It was noted that should Council wish to proceed staff would need to meet with Blue Water Rest Home staff to discuss choices around cash flow options.

Moved by B. MacLellan
Seconded by D. Kelly
That County of Huron pay up to a maximum of \$500,000 pending matching contribution from the Municipality of Blue Water.

Motion Withdrawn

**Moved by Bill Dowson
Seconded by B. Van Diepenbeek
That the motion be tabled.**

CARRIED

**Moved by B. Siemon
Seconded by N. Vincent
That the presentation be received.**

CARRIED

2. Budget Deliberations

The consolidated Draft 2009 Budget was distributed to members January 7, 2009 for their review. The Treasurer gave an overview of the budget, which was prepared in full PSAB compliance (full accrual basis) and the fact that there are now three budgets to review. Councillors were given a brief description of each of the three budgets: Operating, Capital and Future Sustainability.

The Treasurer presented the following options as follows:

		% YoY
Current draft levy	\$33,795,261	5.87%
Less:		
• Facilities request for additional \$500,000 to accumulated surplus	(500,000)	-1.57%
• Homes Structural Compliance Premium to accumulated reserve	(202,000)	-0.62%
• Future Sustainability Funding	(500,000)	-1.57%
• Increase to Waste Management accumulated surplus	(50,000)	-0.16%
Possible Levy for 2009	\$32,543,261	1.95%

Council was informed that the budget as presented excludes funding requests from Blue Water Rest Home for \$1,246,000 grant and Gateway request for \$500,000 grant. Council was requested to decide whether to fund or not and at what level and how i.e. all levy; all accumulated surplus; or a combination of levy and accumulated surplus.

The committee broke for lunch at noon and resumed at 12:45 p.m.

A lengthy discussion ensued with the Treasurer answering questions of the committee. Topics included service delivery review, budget approaches and how funding is provided by the province.

**Moved by D. Shewfelt
Seconded by J. Fergusson
That the options recommended by Treasurer D. Carey amounting to a \$1,252,000 reduction be incorporated into the 2009 Budget to an overall increase of 0.96% be endorsed.**

CARRIED

Moved by B Siemon

Seconded by B. Van Diepenbeek

That the motion on the funding for the Blue Water Rest Home be raised from the table for discussion.

CARRIED

Moved by B. Siemon

Seconded by B. Van Diepenbeek

That the request from GATEWAY for \$500,000 be provided from the levy over a five (5) year period.

Councillor Bezaire requested a recorded vote.

RECORDED VOTE

YEAS: Kelly, Rintoul, Johnston, Dowson, Vincent, Shewfelt, MacLellan, Fergusson, Siemon, Scott, Oke, Van Diepenbeek = 12

NAYS: Demaray, Collyer, Dietrich, Bezaire, Dykstra = 5

ABSENT: Robertson, Grace, Seili = 3

CARRIED

The committee had a ten minute break and resumed at 12:45 p.m. The CAO prepared a motion presented by Warden K. Oke. There was a brief discussion regarding procedure and decisions of the chair.

Moved by B. Siemon

Seconded by B. MacLellan

That the Blue Water Rest Home request for \$1.246 million be granted over a five (5) year period.

Councillor Bezaire requested a recorded vote.

RECORDED VOTE

YEAS: Kelly, Rintoul, Johnston, Dowson, Vincent, Shewfelt, MacLellan, Fergusson, Siemon, Scott, Oke, Van Diepenbeek = 12

NAYS: Demaray, Collyer, Dietrich, Bezaire, Dykstra = 5

ABSENT: Robertson, Grace, Seili = 3

CARRIED

Warden K. Oke requested a brief synopsis of each department. Each Senior Team Manager gave a brief of their budget. The committee had a brief break at 2:20 p.m. and resumed at 2:30 p.m.

Moved by J. Bezaire

Seconded by N. Vincent

That the total hours of operation for the library services remain the same as in 2008 and that the budget be modified to accommodate this direction.

DEFEATED

Treasurer D. Carey advises that the summary of today's deliberation is a 2.1% tax increase.

Moved by B. Van Diepenbeek

Seconded by B. Siemon

That Council recommend staff prepare the 2009 Budget at a 2.1% increase based on the review of the draft budget today.

CARRIED

3. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting regular Committee of the Whole meeting is Day 1 in Goderich on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. in the Court House Council Chambers.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by J. Fergusson

Seconded by D. Kelly

That the meeting adjourn at 2:45 p.m.

CARRIED

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Chair

**Huron County Council
February 4, 2009**

Clause #2 – Budget Deliberations

David Carey, Treasurer, brought to the attention of Council that there has been additional money given for EMS funding. This would bring an increase of 1.79% to the County levy.

Discussion took place whether to remain at the 2.1% increase in the original motion.

Moved by Councillor B. MacLellan

Seconded by Councillor B. Siemon

That the 2009 budget be left at the 2.1% increase with the new funds being placed into operating surplus.

Councillor J. Bezaire requested a Recorded Vote.

RECORDED VOTE

YEAS: Oke, Rintoul, MacLellan, Siemon = 4

NAYS: Vincent, Collyer, Dietrich, Grace, Scott, Bezaire,
Dowson, Johnston, Demaray, Fergusson, Van Diepenbeek,
Kelly, Shewfelt, Robertson, Dykstra = 15

ABSENT: Seili = 1

Motion Defeated

Moved by Councillor B. Van Diepenbeek

Seconded by Councillor D. Kelly

That the budget be set at a 1.79% increase.

Councillor J. Bezaire requested a Recorded Vote.

RECORDED VOTE

YEAS: MacLellan, Scott, Robertson, Oke, Fergusson, Rintoul,
Vincent, Kelly, Johnston, Grace, Demaray, Van Diepenbeek,
Dowson, Shewfelt, Collyer = 15

NAYS: Bezaire, Dietrich, Siemon, Dykstra = 4

ABSENT: Seili = 1

Carried

Councillor J. Bezaire requested that the following withdrawn motion be added to the official minutes regarding the Bluewater Rest Home:

“Moved by J. Bezaire

Seconded by J. Dietrich

That the County of Huron enter into an agreement with Bluewater Rest Home to assist with the current redevelopment of the facility. The County of Huron will agree to grant \$2.95 per bed, per day, for a period of 25 (twenty-five) years and further that no re-negotiation of these terms shall occur over the life of the agreement.

MOTION WITHDRAWN”