



Bruce County Council Minutes

Date: November 7, 2024

Location: Council Chambers

County Administration Centre, Walkerton

Present	Chris Peabody, Warden Kenneth Craig, Councillor Mark Goetz, Councillor Steve Hammell, Councillor	Jay Kirkland, Councillor Milt McIver, Councillor Don Murray, Councillor Alternate Councillor Diane Huber
Regrets	Luke Charbonneau, Deputy Warden	
Staff	Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer Sean Morphy, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Claire Dodds, Commissioner of Community Development Megan Garland, Director of Long- Term Care and Senior Services Cathy McGirr, Director of Museum & Cultural Services Brooke McLean, Director of Library Services Tina Metcalfe, Director of Human Services Jenn Robinson, Director of Human Resources	Steve Schaus, Director and Chief of Paramedic Services Adam Stanley, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services Aaron Stauch, Director of Government Relations Jack Van Dorp, Director of Planning and Development Sam Dinsmore, Director of Corporate Services Lynn Hatten, Deputy Treasurer Jeffrey Loney, Manager of Economic Development Linda White, Clerk Julie Ireland, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

The meeting of Bruce County Council was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

The minutes were recorded by the Deputy Clerk.

2. Additions, Deletions, Amendments to Agenda

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. Public Notice

5. Announcements

a. Explore the Bruce Rewards - Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) Award Recognition

Warden Peabody congratulated the Economic Development Division on winning the Economic Development Association of Canada (EDAC) Award of Excellence in Digital Marketing for the Explore the Bruce Rewards app. The award was presented to Jeffrey Loney, Manager of Economic Development.

6. Adoption of Minutes

October 10 and October 17, 2024

Resolution # C-2024-173

Moved by Councillor Steve Hammell

Seconded by Councillor Don Murray

That the minutes of the October 10, 2024 and October 17, 2024 Council meetings be approved as circulated.

Carried

7. Public Meeting

8. Delegations

9. Reports - for Information

The following reports were presented for information:

- a. **Transportation & Environmental Services - Short-term Winter Operations Changes - Walkerton Patrol**
- b. **Museum Information Report - November 2024**

10. Reports - for Direction

- a. **Corporate Services - 2025-2029 Operating and Capital Budget Follow-up**

At the October 10, 2024 Council meeting, staff presented the 2025 Operating and Capital Budget, and projections for 2026-2029 for Council's consideration. The budget, at that time, had a 6.81% increase to the tax levy over 2024. Staff presented revised projections with a proposed increase of 6.53% over 2024. The revisions did not remove any items from the budget, but instead proposed using alternate funding sources for some of the items.

Council and staff reviewed the individual items proposed and the associated levy increase with each item. Staff provided additional information and clarification on the following items:

- Facilities Assessments and Resources – includes funding for the condition assessment of the Administration Centre and Cayley Street building, as well as upgrading of tools and supplies for Facilities staff. It does not include the cost of staff resources.
- Facility repair and replacement – the County is moving from scheduling renovation projects based solely on the age of the facility to the condition of the facility, in accordance with the asset management plan.
- Collaboration between the County and lower-tier municipalities for IT systems and software – staff advised that County staff work with local municipalities on an ongoing basis to determine areas of shared interest and consider when it may be appropriate for local municipalities to adopt systems or services that the County is investing in, although often the requirements of the County differ from the lower-tiers.
- Use of consultants – staff will report back to a future meeting with information about the overall use of consultants by the County for plans, studies and programs.
- Health Care Funding Reserve – Council discussed reducing the funding to allow for current commitments to be met, but to not increase the reserve balance to fund future commitments at this time.
- Budgeted wages for positions – include salary, benefits, pension at the top of the pay band, for budgeting purposes.

- Paramedic Services – training staff would provide core training programming to paramedics, as well as the option to provide training to local firefighters to complement or replace current external training programs.
- Internal Debt Repayments – refers to upgrades and repairs at the Lakeshore Hub.
- Trail Development – funds in 2025 budget are earmarked for tract/nature trails, not the rail trail, which is a trail that provide linkages between areas/communities.
- Voluntary donations at trail parking lots – not under consideration in the 2025 budget but may be investigated in the next Trails Master Plan.
- Transfer to Reserves for Museum Expansion – a Council resolution from 2018 committed to adding \$2 million over a 10-year term, but did not commit to a specific project (expansion of current location vs. additional facilities at other locations).
- Council discussed reducing the contribution to the Museum reserve from \$285,000 to \$100,000 for 2025

Council recessed at 11:00 a.m.

Council resumed meeting at 11:20 a.m.

A further inquiry from Council was discussed:

- Funding for the Community Safety and Well-being Committee Coordinator has been requested from the Province but no further information has been received. If funding is received from the Province mid-year then the budget will be amended to reflect those changes.

The following resolutions were approved:

Resolution # C-2024-174

Moved by Councillor Don Murray

Seconded by Councillor Kenneth Craig

That Council direct staff to remove the Health Care Funding in the amount of \$75,000.

Carried

Resolution # C-2024-175

Moved by Councillor Mark Goetz

Seconded by Councillor Jay Kirkland

That Council direct staff to defer the Internal Debt Repayments for Administrative Facility Needs in the amount of \$165,750.

Carried

Resolution # C-2024-176

Moved by Councillor Steve Hammell

Seconded by Councillor Mark Goetz

That Council direct staff to reduce the contribution to the transfer to Reserve for the Museum Expansion from \$285,000 to \$100,000.

Carried

Resolution # C-2024-177

Moved by Councillor Don Murray

Seconded by Councillor Jay Kirkland

That Council direct staff to defer the Lead Infrastructure, Networks and Design Analyst position in the amount of \$145,642 from 2025 to a future year.

Carried

Resolution # C-2024-178

Moved by Councillor Mark Goetz

Seconded by Councillor Kenneth Craig

That Council direct staff to defer the Records Management & Digital Archivist Coordinator position in the amount of \$106,178 from 2025 to a future year.

Carried

Resolution # C-2024-179

Moved by Councillor Don Murray

Seconded by Councillor Mark Goetz

That Council direct staff to remove Support Asset Lifecycle Management item in the amount of \$77,000 to a future year.

Carried

Resolution # C-2024-180

Moved by Councillor Don Murray

Seconded by Councillor Jay Kirkland

That Council direct staff to bring forward the Budget By-law to the January 9, 2025, Council meeting;

That Council direct staff to set the 2025 tax levy increase to 5.00%.

Carried

11. Motions and Notice of Motions

12. By-laws

By-laws 2024-060, 2024-061, 2024-062, 2024-063, 2024-064

Resolution # C-2024-181

Moved by Councillor Milt McIver

Seconded by Alternate Councillor Diane Huber

That the following by-laws be approved:

By-law 2024-060, being a by-law to authorize a Loan Agreement with the 2026 International Plowing Match & Rural Expo Local Committee Inc.

By-law 2024-061, being a by-law to authorize the execution of a Primary Public Safety Answering Point agreement between the Corporation of the County of Bruce and the Owen Sound Police Services Board

By-law 2024-062, being a by-law to authorize the execution of a Project Funding Agreement between the Corporation of the County of Bruce and

Russell Meadows Non-Profit Accommodations for the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) - Repair Component

By-law 2024-063, being a by-law to authorize the execution of a Project Funding Agreement between the Corporation of the County of Bruce and Russell Meadows Non-Profit Accommodations for the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) - Repair Component

By-law 2024-064, being a by-law to authorize the execution of a Project Funding Agreement between the Corporation of the County of Bruce and Bruce County Housing Corporation for the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative

Carried

13. Communications (including Minutes of Boards & Committees)

- a. **Town of Tillsonburg - Cellular Coverage Concerns**
- b. **Municipality of Kincardine - Request County Accessibility Coordinator position**
- c. **Grey Bruce Public Health - 2024 Report on Food Affordability**
- d. **Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing - Response to Inquiry Re Status of Housing and Homelessness Plan Reviews**
- e. **Grey Bruce Public Health Board Minutes - September 27**

14. Closed Session

Item 14 a. Closed session - Training - CAO Performance Evaluation Process was cancelled. Warden Peabody advised that all members of Council had received the materials in the Closed Session agenda and, if needed, a follow-up session can be scheduled to provide further information and answer any questions.

Item 14 b. Closed Session - Approval of Minutes - September 19, 2024, was deferred to a future meeting.

- a. **Section 239(3.1) Educational or Training Sessions**
- b. **Approval of Minutes - September 19, 2024**

15. Report from Closed Session

16. Confirmation of Proceedings

By-law 2024-065

Resolution # C-2024-182

Moved by Councillor Jay Kirkland

Seconded by Councillor Kenneth Craig

That the following by-law be approved:

By-law 2024-065, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the County of Bruce at the meeting held on the 7th day of November, 2024.

Carried

17. Adjournment

Resolution # C-2024-183

Moved by Councillor Steve Hammell

Seconded by Councillor Don Murray

That the meeting of Bruce County Council adjourn at 1:11 p.m.

Carried

Chris Peabody, Warden

Linda White, Clerk