



Date: 2019-12-18

From: Brittany Drury, Deputy Clerk

Subject Grey Bruce Joint Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

Report LEG2019-40

Recommendation

That Council receive report LEG2019-40 – Grey Bruce Joint Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, from the Deputy Clerk, and

That Deputy Clerk, Brittany Drury be appointed the municipal representative for the Township of Georgian Bluffs on the Joint Advisory Committee, and

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign the municipal participation agreement, approving the Township's participation in the Joint Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, and

That a by-law to authorize the agreement be presented at a future meeting, upon signing of all participating parties.

Background

Changes to the *Police Services Act, 1990*, (Act) which came into effect on January 1, 2019, require that the council of each municipality prepare and by resolution, adopt a community safety and well-being plan (Section 143.1). As stated in the Act, the plan shall:

- Identify risk factors in the municipality
- Identify which risk factors the municipality will treat as a priority
- Identify strategies to reduce the prioritized risk factors
- Set out measurable outcomes that the strategies are intended to produce
- Address any other issues that may be prescribed.

Section 143 (2) of the Act provides the opportunity for a joint plan, created in consultation with other municipal councils and mandated organizations. In September of 2019, Grey and Bruce Counties, along with their corresponding lower-tier municipalities and various community organizations, began the process of formulating a joint plan, to be applied throughout the region. The Township, specifically the Deputy Clerk, has been involved in discussions regarding the plan, since the commencement of deliberations in September of this year.

Analysis

The Act further requires that each municipality establish an advisory committee to facilitate preparation of the plan, and where a joint plan is established, a joint committee shall be created. The Grey Bruce Joint Advisory Committee held its first meeting on September 27, 2019 and has since grown to include 56 participating entities, including all lower-tier municipalities, with the exception of the Municipality of Meaford, Public Health, First Nations Band members, OPP, Board of Education, social and family services throughout the region, and etc. The Act clearly identifies the required parties which are to be involved in the planning process and further, participate in the advisory committee. Grey and Bruce Counties have outsourced coordination and administration of the plan and advisory committee to an external consultant, Sarah Cowley. Ms. Cowley has developed a sub-committee of the members of the advisory committee, entitled the steering committee, which facilitates the administrative responsibilities of the larger advisory committee. Both advisory and steering committee meeting minutes have been included on previous consent agendas for Council's information.

On November 29, 2019, representatives of municipalities involved in the joint plan met to discuss the scope of the amended legislation, terms of reference for the advisory committee, public engagement tools and methods of formalizing participation in formulating the plan. As a result of said discussions, the following decisions were made:

- Each municipality shall formally enter into a joint agreement (Appendix A), authorizing participation in the Joint Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and advisory committee. This agreement will be signed by all participating municipalities and adopted by by-law upon signing of all authorizing parties.
- Each municipality shall appoint a municipal representative to sit on the advisory committee and assist in formulating the final plan, as required by the Act.
- Each municipal Police Services Board shall appoint a representative to sit on the advisory committee and assist in formulating the final plan, as required by the Act.
 - Note: The Township of Georgian Bluffs Police Services Board delegated representation of the Board on the advisory committee to the Deputy Clerk / Board Secretary, by Resolution Number PSB2019-16, at their meeting on December 9, 2019.

- Each municipality will host two (2) public engagement sessions regarding the plan, to identify prominent risks within the community. Ms. Cowley will facilitate each session in combination with virtual and hardcopy surveys to be made available on the Township website and at the Township Administration office.
 - Note: Public engagement sessions will commence in the New Year, starting in January and ending in May. It has been requested that the Township public engagement sessions occur in late April or early May to accommodate seasonal residents.

As required by the Act, the plan must be completed and adopted by each municipal Council prior to January 1, 2021. Since initial discussions in September, significant progress has been made to ensure compliance with the deadline, and further identify the methods in which the plan will be tailored to determine risks in each, individual municipality. To accomplish this, the joint plan will be overarching, identifying risks affecting the entirety of the Grey Bruce Region. A 'municipal specific' schedule for each participating municipality will be appended to the overarching joint plan to address local area concerns. Issues specific to the Township of Georgian Bluffs will be identified through the public engagement process, in conjunction with the OPP, and will be taken into consideration when identifying risks throughout the region.

Appended to this report as 'Appendix B' is an informational PowerPoint presentation, prepared by Ms. Cowley, for Council's information. The presentation outlines information additional to this report, including legislated requirements, anticipated timelines, process and outcomes. Continuous updates will be provided to Council throughout the planning process as they are available.

Financial Impact

Grey County contributed \$55,000.00 on behalf of the Grey municipalities to facilitate the hiring of the coordinator, develop the plan and accompanying appendices, and for associated administrative costs. At this time, there is no anticipated costs to the Township. The costs associated with the public engagement sessions and tools are incorporated in the initial contribution of Grey County.

Strategic Priorities

Development of a community safety and well-being plan achieves objective 4.2 of strategic goal 4 – Increase Available Community, Recreational and Social Opportunities.

Conclusion

The *Police Services Act, 1990* requires that each municipality create and adopt a community safety and well-being plan prior to January 1, 2021. It is recommended that Council approve participating in the creation of a plan jointly, with the assistance of Grey

and Bruce Counties, and that the Deputy Clerk be appointed as the municipal representative to the advisory committee.

Appendix A – Municipal Participation Agreement

Appendix B – Informational PowerPoint Presentation

Respectfully Submitted:

Reviewed by:

Brittany Drury
Deputy Clerk

Wendi Hunter
Acting CAO / Clerk