

Report CAOR-CC-04-16

To: Warden Barfoot and Members of Grey County Council
From: Kim Wingrove, CAO
Meeting Date: November 22, 2016
Subject: **Economic Development Staff Transition**
Status: Recommendation adopted by County Council as presented per Resolution CC151-16 November 22, 2016;

Recommendation

Whereas economic development is a key strategic priority for Grey County;

And whereas the City of Owen Sound and the County of Grey wish to work collaboratively on economic development initiatives for the benefit of all member municipalities;

Be it Resolved That the complement of Grey County economic development staff be increased by one position effective January 1, 2017 and staff be directed to complete the necessary transition agreement between the City of Owen Sound and the County of Grey.

Background

Through its strategic planning process, Grey County Council has identified growing the Grey County economy as one of three primary goals. This work is further defined as enhancing and diversifying economic opportunities by becoming investment ready, building relationships with the business community, supporting workforce development and promoting Grey County's exceptional natural assets.

The work to be undertaken by the economic development department was outlined in the 37 recommendations in the approved 2015 Economic Development Strategic Plan. While many of these initiatives are longer term deliverables, in the near term Council has requested the department focus on providing/facilitating:

- A clear vision for growth and investment across the County
- Increased business innovation and use of technology

- Expanding the role for the County in promoting economic development and tourism
- A positive business environment that increases jobs and labour force

Creating a Manager, Economic Development role was an important first step in resourcing this important work. It's recognized however, that in order to make any significant impact on such a broad mandate, all economic development resources across the County will need to be working more closely together. Furthermore, there are synergies and efficiencies that can be found by co-locating and working together as one team. Recognizing this, Grey County and the City of Owen Sound wish to transition one full-time economic development position from the City to the County beginning in 2017.

This change will benefit both organizations. Creating an economic development team will improve services to the business community by providing a backup resource to follow up on inquiries and new initiatives. It will enable more marketing and promotional efforts and greater support for economic development initiatives being undertaken by member municipalities.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/Information Technology Considerations

The transition agreement between the City of Owen Sound and Grey County will reflect that the County is responsible for all travel and work related expenses (cell phone, computer, etc.) for one staff person for 2017. Grey County will be responsible for salary and benefits commencing in 2018. This will be considered as part of the 2018 budget deliberations.

Link to Strategic Goals/Priorities

Goal 1 - Grow the Grey County Economy

Enhance and diversify economic opportunities by becoming investment ready, building relationships with the business community, supporting workforce development and promoting Grey County's exceptional natural assets.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kim Wingrove
Chief Administrative Officer