



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

REPORT

Item No.

REPORT TO: Reeve Vincent and Members of Council
PREPARED BY: Sharon Chambers, CAO
DATE: 02/03/2016
SUBJECT: Administration Activities
ATTACHMENTS: none

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby accepts the report of the CAO for information purposes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CAO provides periodic updates for Council on activities within the Administration Department and the overall operation of the Township.

DISCUSSION

Economic Development:

County-wide Strategic Planning Project:

North Huron Strategic Plan: The CAO and Economic Development Officer met with Vicki Lass of OMAFRA and Natasha Fritzley, County of Huron Economic Development Manager to get their feedback on the draft Economic Development Strategic Plan for North Huron. The CAO and EDO have scheduled a meeting to discuss the prioritization of the goals and actions in the plan before it is presented for review by Council on March 21st.

OGRA/ROMA Presentation: Vicki Lass and Helen Scutt of OMAFRA spearheaded a workshop at the OGRA/ROMA Combined Conference on February 22nd to present an overview of the Huron County Economic Development Strategic Planning Pilot Project, with the goal of OMAFRA finding their next participant. Natasha Fritzley, Huron County Economic Development Manager presented the County perspective and Sharon Chambers, North Huron CAO presented the lower tier perspective. The presentation was very well received, with several questions being fielded from the audience. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be available on the OGRA/ROMA Conference website in the near future. There was significant interest following the presentation about North Huron and Morris Turnberry's success in reaching agreement over cross border services and the CAO received several requests for a copy of North Huron's Cross Border Services Policy.

County Economic Development Work Plans: The work plan for the revised Huron County Economic Development Department will be presented to County Council in the very near future. New job descriptions are still under development and when complete, the lower tier municipalities have to consider how they will utilize the staff resources that are provided by the County. At that time, a review of the North Huron Economic Development program should be undertaken through consultation with Council, BIA's, staff and the Economic Development Strategic Planning Committee. Further information will be brought forward with a recommended review process when the County plans are known.

Personnel – Director of Public Works Hire: Applications for the Shared Service Director of Public Works position were due on February 26th. The CAO's from Morris Turnberry and North Huron and Ben Cornell of Ward and Uptigrove have selected qualified candidates to go through an initial telephone screening before a short list of applicants are selected for interviews. Interviews have been tentatively scheduled for March 10th. If the hiring process is successful, it is hoped that the new Director could be in place by the beginning of May.

Water/Wastewater Operations: As directed by Council, the CAO has entered into discussions with Veolia Water Canada (Veolia) to investigate the possibility of entering into a contract for the Operation and Maintenance of the Township's water and wastewater operations. The rationale for considering a single source contract at this time is due to the impending workload of the Shared Services Project for a new Director, Veolia has been the contractor operator of North Huron systems in the past and are familiar with the systems, Veolia would be willing to transition all existing Township staff to their employment and retain them in their existing capacity within the North Huron systems, and there is the potential to merge the North Huron contract with the Morris Turnberry contract (Belgrave system) for potential cost savings, Discussions are continuing and the provisions of a proposed contract have been provided by Veolia for review. Comments have been received by the Township Solicitor, the Township's contracted water/wastewater engineering firm BM Ross and Associates and the Township's insurer. The CAO will meet with Veolia representatives on March 11th to discuss the costs associated with a contract. Following that meeting, the CAO will prepare a report for Council regarding the provisions of the proposed contract and advantages and disadvantages of outsourcing versus continuing operations in-house with a revised organizational structure. A presentation will be arranged by Veolia to Council and Council can decide if they wish to proceed with the single source contract with Veolia, initiate an RFP process or continue operations in-house.

Airport Feasibility Study: The CAO has inquired to Goderich CAO Larry McCabe regarding a possible presentation to the County of Huron pertaining to the future of airports and is awaiting a response.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial impact of outsourcing utilities operations versus in-house operations shall be determined in a future report

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Future considerations for Utilities Department shall be determined in a future report

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

GOAL #4 - Our municipality is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence.

Outcome: We have a responsible and accountable local government