



# TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

# REPORT

Item No.

**REPORT TO:** Reeve Vincent and Members of Council  
**PREPARED BY:** Sharon Chambers, CAO  
**DATE:** 16/03/2016  
**SUBJECT:** Administration Activity Report  
**ATTACHMENTS:** County of Huron Economic Development Work Plans 2016-2017

---

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby accepts the Activity Report of the CAO for information purposes.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The CAO provides periodic updates to Council within the Administration Department and overall Operations of the Township.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Economic Development:**

- a. **Strategic Plan:** The North Huron Economic Development Strategic Plan is presented for Council's consideration. The Plan has identified priorities that were brought forward by North Huron Stakeholders. As Council is aware, the Countywide Strategic Planning Project was enacted under very tight timelines in order to meet the departmental restructuring initiatives that were undertaken by the County. The County has now released their Economic Development Work Plans which based on the County and Municipal Partners' Economic Development Strategic Plans. (attached) Over the next couple of weeks, the County will be developing an organizational chart and job descriptions that will support the needs identified in the Work Plan. The County will be providing support and resources to the lower tier municipalities. Meetings will be held with lower tier CAO's in the upcoming weeks to discuss local needs and a plan on how service is to be delivered. Following the rollout of the County's plans, the CAO will conduct a review of the North Huron Economic Development program, as requested by Council in the 2015 Service Review. The review will include;
  - Review existing program, identify strengths, weaknesses, gaps, opportunities for improvement
  - Measurement of progress and benchmarking of current status
  - Develop a mandate and Business Plan for the North Huron Economic Development Department.
    - Determine the Township's role with respect to;
      - BIA and Business supports
      - Community Development, including festivals, events, Farmer's Market
      - Tourism, marketing and promotion
  - Define the role of County and County Economic Development Staff in North Huron

- Define the role of the North Huron Economic Development Officer in response to County realignment
- Define the future role of the North Huron Strategic Planning Committee
- Explore the opportunity for partnership in Economic Development/Community Development under the Shared Services Agreement

In light of the workload associated with the Shared Services project, it is anticipated that this project will progress slowly and a report will be brought forward later in 2016

**b. Blyth Redevelopment:**

- i. **Cowbell Brewing Company:** There have been significant advances achieved in the redevelopment of Blyth over the past month, beginning with the announcement of the Cowbell Brewing Company by the Sparling Family. The development (in Central Huron) is expected to break ground in April. The Developer commissioned a Servicing Options report which explored various scenarios for water and wastewater services to the development. A review of the Blyth water and wastewater system capacity and wastewater treatment capability was undertaken. Ultimately, the decision was made to supply the development's water by constructing a drilled well onsite and to manage all of the development's wastewater onsite. This supports the project's goal of being the most energy efficient and self-reliant brewery in Ontario. The Developer is proposing the use of municipal water to service the restaurant and commercial portion of the development. A proposal for the service extension has been submitted by the Developer's Consultant and has been reviewed by BM Ross and Associates. This Development will be subject to a Cross Border Services Agreement with the Municipality of Central Huron and a further report shall be considered in the closed session to discuss Agreement negotiations.
  - ii. **14/19 Initiative/Memorial Hall Renovation:** Deputy Premier Deb Matthews was present in Blyth on March 15<sup>th</sup> to announce a \$3.3 million dollar contribution to 14/19 Inc. for Blyth redevelopment and cultural initiatives, including the renovation of Memorial Hall. Further details will be brought forward as 14/19 works to finalize the Letter of Intent with the Province. The CAO touched base with the contact from the Department of Heritage regarding the Cultural Spaces Federal funding program and was advised that the Township's application is still at the regional level but will soon be moving to the next cohort. This Federal funding program would cover only those parts of the renovation that support cultural spaces such as the theatre and art gallery.
2. **OPP Costing – Policing Review Committee:** A By-law establishing the Policing Review Committee is included on the March 21<sup>st</sup> agenda for Council's consideration. Since the March 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, it has been suggested that a representative from the Police Association be included on the committee. The By-law has been amended to include this additional appointment. An introductory meeting will be arranged early in April to outline the process for receiving the costing for OPP services.
  3. **Blyth Well Upgrade Tender:** Tenders are due at 1:00 p.m. on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Project Engineer Jeremy Taylor of RJ Burnside will review the tenders and prepare a recommendation to award the contract at the March 29<sup>th</sup> budget meeting.

4. **Morris Turnberry/North Huron Shared Services Project:** The Shared Services Steering Committee met on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The CAO's are continuing to work with the Human Resources Committee on employment matters related to the Shared Services Project. In order to provide an update to staff on the progress to date, an all staff meeting has been scheduled for April 5th, 2016 at 10 am at the Knights of Columbus Centre in Wingham. On April 7th, 2016, 11:30 am, the first Implementation Team meeting will be held to begin discussions on how implementation will proceed. The Director of Public Works hiring process is ongoing.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

n/a

**FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

n/a

**RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Goal #1 – Our Community is attractive to new business and residents

Goal #4 – Our Administration is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence.

---

Sharon Chambers, CAO