

## **Township of Southgate**

### **Administration Office**

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## **Staff Report CAO2020-054**

**Title of Report:** Southgate CAO Update

**Department:** Administration

**Council Date:** September 2, 2020

### **Council Recommendation:**

**Be it resolved that** Council receive Staff Report CAO2020-054 as information; and  
**That** Council approve the Grey County-Southgate Bus Stop Agreement by By-law.

### **Background:**

The CAO is providing this report as an update of COVID-19 impacts, business restart planning, important information, decisions, and actions taken by staff in the last 30 days. This report also provides information about the virtual AMO Conference attended by the CAO, the Ministry of Infrastructure delegation meeting, Grey County Transit update and Grey County Buy Local Campaign in Southgate.

### **Staff Comments:**

#### **Southgate's Municipal Business Phase C Opening Update**

A number of Southgate staff returned to the Municipal Office on July 20, 2020 as part of the Township's Phase B opening to deliver customer counter services. We are not holding meetings with members of the public in the inner office area. Not all administrative staff are working in the office at the present time. External office staff and Council members are all restricted from entering the inner office bubble during office hours. Those external staff presently working from home are attending some outdoor site meetings in person with face mask PPE.

The Restart Committee met recently to make further plans for the Phase C Municipal Office reopening and the Library increased service to patrons. The Committee reviewed the Library Plan to open the front doors to controlled access to the front counter and limited computer use. The Committee has requested the Library provide more distance between the computer users and proceed with the other opening plans as presented with a limited number of people in the library with the use of face masks required.

The Restart Committee made the decision to push back the start of Phase C for more staff to return to the Municipal Office to September 21, 2020. The concern was raised that it would be wise to wait and see the impact of the kids return to school based on their present restart plan and proceed with the delayed start of Southgate's Phase C if we do not see any impacts.

### **AMO Conference Report**

The CAO attended the 2020 AMO Virtual Conference on Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup> through to Wednesday August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We attended the TAPMO AGM on August 16<sup>th</sup>, with presentations from Gravel Watch, Wellington County on Gravel Pit Assessment Evaluations, Dufferin Aggregates on Pit Rehabilitation Practices.

On Monday August 17<sup>th</sup> the conference started off with the keynote speaker for the day being Lital Marom, and she spoke about Innovation, Disruption and Municipal Government. She spoke on how COVID-19 is a big wake up call for most organizations and certainly for municipalities. She suggested that it is time to innovate and reconstruct our future and those business that do not will be left behind. Organizations need to make significant changes to their traditional business model in order to build their breakthrough, future-ready business. She shared the proactive methods and leadership required by all leaders operating in today's high-velocity digital era of constant disruptive change. The future will see dramatic change that will likely follow coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. The future will create a framework of new insights and a wide set of options for innovation and business model transformation.

Next, Premier Doug Ford and Health Minister Christine Elliott spoke to the conference attendees about many issues, but a lot of reporting on the COVID-19 recovery and plans going forward.

The first Ministers' Forum was about Supporting Community Well-being with Health, Social Services and Education with the following Ministers or Parliamentary Assistants attending:

- Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier
- Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General
- Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
- Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility
- Jill Dunlop, Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues
- Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care
- Ross Romano, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities
- Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

The CAO attended a concurrent session this same day on "The Undeniable Need for Broadband Connectivity in a Pandemic World". This was an informative session on the added demand, the challenges related to security, pressure to deliver and investment required to increase service in rural communities. Following the concurrent session, the CAO spent time visiting the virtual trade show booths.

At 4:20 pm on Monday August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Southgate had a delegation with the MPP Stephen Crawford the Parliamentary Assistant for the Ministry of Infrastructure. This was a good meeting and representing Southgate was Mayor John Woodbury,

Deputy Mayor Brian Milne, MPP Bill Walker SWIFT Executive Director Barry Field, Grey County SWIFT Board Member & Deputy Mayor of Hanover Selwyn Hicks, Grey County CAO Kim Wingrove and Southgate's CAO. The link for the meeting was provided through the AMO Conference virtual platform. The delegation briefing document presented to the Ministry of Infrastructure is included in this report as Attachment #1.

We had Mr. Barry Field the Executive Director of SWIFT lead a very informative discussion on our behalf getting into some technical side of the discussion and the challenges of present funding criteria and restrictions related to 50/10 service with the Parliamentary Assistant and Ministry of Infrastructure staff. Our goal of this meeting was to summarize our concerns that some internet service providers are making claims that they can deliver a 50/10 service to their wireless served areas, which restricts government funding for fibre project investments by the private sector we believe were met.

On Tuesday of the AMO Virtual Conference the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Steve Clark delivered his message to the delegates with the takeaway that we would not be seeing in the future stable funding we have been asking for like 1% of HST or similar taxes for municipal governments.

Next was a session titled the "Women's Leadership Forum". This was AMO's first ever Women's Leadership Forum featuring these extraordinary leaders. The session was moderated by a leader in Canadian broadcasting, Nora Young, the host of CBC Radio One's Spark. This session explored insights and perspectives of three of Canada's most influential and impactful public policy leaders being Lisa Raitt, former MP, Cabinet Minister & Deputy Opposition Leader, Ava Hill, former Chief of Six Nations of the Grand River and Janice Baker, recently retired Mississauga City Manager.

We next heard from Andrea Howarth, Leader of the Official Opposition, Steven Del Duca, Leader of the Liberal Party of Ontario and the Honourable Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure.

Next was the Ministers' Forum #2 on the topics of Infrastructure, Transit and Resource Development with the following Ministers and Parliamentary Assistants attending:

- Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure
- Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation and Minister of Francophone Affairs
- King Surma, Associate Minister of Transportation
- Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and Minister of Indigenous Affairs
- Bill Walker, Associate Minister of Energy
- John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks

- Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

The concurrent session of the day that the CAO attended was the Municipal Role in Climate Change. In this session they discussed the impacts of pollution on public health and the environment and the actions we should take to improve telecommunications and connectivity. They promote the use of active transportation, electric vehicles and municipal decisions related to energy uses to protect the environment, lower Greenhouse Gas emissions, and benefit of economic growth.

On Wednesday, the final day of 2020 AMO Virtual Conference, the day started with a session titled “The Path to Economic Recovery in Ontario Panel”. This was a session moderated by TVO host and journalist Steve Paikin and included discussions with Finance Minister Rod Phillips, Retail Council of Canada President & CEO Diane J. Brisebois, and Ontario Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Rocco Rossi. This was a very informative session about the retail economy and the impact of COVID-19 to date and what could happen if we see a second wave of the pandemic.

Next, we heard from the Honorable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and was followed by the presentation of the Federal Gas Tax Awards. Mike Schreiner, leader of the Green Party of Ontario also spoke on his opinions for Ontario during the COVID challenges and his vision for the province.

The keynote speaker for the final day of the conference was Jamil Jivani, Advocate for Community Opportunities and Special Advisor to the Premier. He is an award-winning author, activist and lawyer appointed by the Premier of Ontario to lead important change in addressing inequity and racism in Ontario. In this role Mr. Jivani will focus on breaking down barriers for Black, Indigenous, and racialized students to provide all students with an equal opportunity to succeed. He is the province’s Advocate for Community Opportunities and works to build bridges between vulnerable communities and the government of Ontario.

He spoke about the work and action he is taking for Ontario’s disadvantaged and disenfranchised communities and provided insight into his objectives and strategies for doing so.

The final Ministers' Forum #3, was on the topic of Economic Recovery in Ontario with the following Ministers attending:

- Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Rod Philips, Minister of Finance
- Peter Bethlenfalvy, President of the Treasury Board
- Doug Downey, Attorney General
- Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Businesses and for Red Tape Reduction

- Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
- Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development
- Lisa Thompson, Minister of Government and Consumer Services

We received an invitation from the Mayor of London, Ontario to attend the AMO Conference 2021.

The final concurrent session was a lead into the new 911 service technology required to support future emergency calls from cells phone and text messages.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) developed new legislated requirement for 911 service to replace the present dated technology being used in the 911 call centres. The discussion was that it will cost a lot of money and it is badly needed to keep in step with our present day communication technologies. It is unclear who will pay, but it was clear that it would be a municipal cost to the taxpayer. I suspect it will be the municipalities that have the call centres who will pay for the new technology investments and we will pay an increase in rates for our emergency dispatch services for Fire and EMS, plus it will likely impact our police service budgets in time.

### **Grey County Public Transit Update**

Southgate staff have been working with the County of Grey Transit Department staff to execute a Bus Stop Agreement in Dundalk on the Arena property to establish parking and stop location. It is a simple agreement and has been executed by staff because of the timelines to start the service September 14, 2020. We have also placed into this Council agenda a By-law for Council to approve and execute the agreement officially.

The County has also released a press release to announcement the start up of the transit service and is included in the staff report as Attachment 2.

### **Southgate Week - Grey County Buy Local Promotion**

Staff have been working with County Economic staff to promote the Southgate area businesses and the Buy Local Campaign that will feature our community the week of September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. You will hear local radio advertising and draws for two \$150 dollar gift baskets with redeemable gift certificates to some of our area retail and food services businesses.

### **Financial Impact or Long-Term Implications**

There is no financial impact to the municipality as a result of this report other than staff time and the registration fees for the AMO Virtual Conference to participate in the events and the Ministry of Infrastructure delegation.

### **Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:**

This report has been written and presented to Council to communicate accurate information to the public.

### **Concluding Comments**

1. That Council receive staff report CAO2020-054 as information.
2. That Council approve the By-law to execute the Grey County-Southgate Dundalk Bus Stop Agreement.

Respectfully Submitted,

**CAO approval:** Original Signed By

Dave Milliner – CAO

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- Attachment 1 –Minister of Infrastructure AMO Delegation briefing document
- Attachment 2 – Grey County Transit Press Release dated August 18, 2020