

	Report Title	MMAH – Regional Government Review
	Report No.	MYR 19-06
	Author	Mayor Molnar
	Meeting Type	Open Session
	Council Date	April 8, 2019
	Attachments	Various – As attached

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario (MMAH) has begun a Regional Government Reform initiative that includes Oxford County and hence the Town of Tillsonburg;

AND Whereas the Council for the Town of Tillsonburg supports an open, transparent and fact-based approach to identifying any areas of operational efficiencies and financial savings;

And WHEREAS the Town of Tillsonburg is committed to both protect and enhance, in a responsible manner, the proud legacy of our municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Council for the Town of Tillsonburg opposes a One Tier Governance structure in Oxford County as historical indications suggest it will not result in better decision making, will not result in improved services or level of customer service and will not provide any overall net cost efficiencies;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Tillsonburg supports the continuation of a Two Tier Governance structure and supports an open and transparent approach to identify local and regional efficiencies;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Town of Tillsonburg endorses any opportunity to reinforce and enhance a Two-tier Governance structure in Oxford County;

AND FURTHER THAT the material contained within this report be made available to the CAO for his subsequent report as anticipated;

AND FURTHER THAT Council endorses the opportunity for enhanced Public Engagement by hosting an Open House session as to be facilitated by Town staff

AND FURTHER THAT this report be forward to the other municipalities in Oxford, including the County of Oxford as information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 15, 2019 (Attachment 1) the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the Province of Ontario announced that the Government is moving ahead with a review of Regional Government. While a “County” by name, Oxford is a Regional government as referenced in the Municipal Act. Two special advisors (Michael Fenn and Ken Seiling)

have been appointed to consult broadly over the coming weeks and to provide recommendations to improve governance, decision-making and service delivery. Recommendations to the Government of Ontario are expected by early summer of 2019.

The last official review of municipal governance structure occurred some twenty years ago as expected within the Savings and Restructuring Act, 1996. At this time a service delivery review was undertaken by KPMG regarding 11 specific municipal services to identify any opportunities for operation symmetry and/or financial savings. At this same time period the size of Tillsonburg's Municipal Council was reduced from 9 members to 5, while County Council was reduced from 20 members to 10.

Subsequent to the last official review, some local services were uploaded to the County of Oxford for both operation efficiency and financial savings. Primary among these were Solid Waste Management and Recycling, Tourism and Strategic Long-term Planning. Examples of reviewed services that remained status quo included Fire, Policing, By-law Enforcement Economic Development, Airport, Building Inspection and a modified Roads partnership.

As the Town of Tillsonburg works proactively with our municipal partners in Oxford County we remain committed to continuous improvement and the identification of operational efficiencies on a regular basis.

The statistical approach to finding reasonable and achievable solutions was reinforced by the objective studies conducted by KPMG (October 2000) and the parallel report by CN Watson of April 2000. It would be unfortunate that any amendment to the current governance structure of Tillsonburg and Oxford County was not based on a similar fact based analysis.

OBJECTIVE

Council will be reminded that at the regular Council meeting of February 28, 2019 the following resolution was approved relative to Correspondence from the City of Woodstock. (Attachment 2)

12.4 Regional Reform Report - Woodstock City Council

Oxford CAO's will be meeting to discuss the regional governance review.

The CAO will report back to Council prior to a report being submitted to County Council.

Stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide input.

Resolution # 7 Moved By: Councillor Luciani Seconded By: Councillor Esseltine

THAT Council receives the report for Woodstock City Council regarding regional government review, as information;

AND THAT Council direct the CAO to participate with Oxford County CAO's in discussions regarding the regional governance review;

AND THAT this initiative be added to the 2019 Business Plans.

The CAO has been in meetings with the other 8 CAOs in Oxford and while awaiting his more comprehensive operational report, this author feels it is important to share any progress that has been made at County Council and to encourage local dialogue on this very important review.

BACKGROUND

Attached to this report as information are various documents and resolutions that hope to bring some clarity to the process to date and share publicly the material that would hopefully stimulate open and transparent dialogue within our community.

Attached as referenced;

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| Attachment 1) | Letter from Minister Clark (January 15, 2019) |
| Attachment 2) | Correspondence from City of Woodstock (February 26, 2019) |
| Attachment 3) | Correspondence from Zorra Township (March 6, 2019) |
| Attachment 4) | County Report CAO 2019-03 (March 27, 2019) |
| Attachment 5) | Amended Resolution Report CAO 2019-03 (Attachment 4) |
| Attachment 6) | County Resolution regarding “One-time” Funding from MMAH |
| Attachment 7) | Correspondence from Minister Clark re; Tillsonburg “One-time” Funding |

FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

There is no immediate Financial Impact based on receiving the information in this report.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) IMPACT

1. Excellence in Local Government
 - ☒ Demonstrate strong leadership in Town initiatives
 - ☒ Demonstrate accountability
2. Economic Sustainability
 - ☒ Support new and existing businesses and provide a variety of employment opportunities
3. Demographic Balance
 - ☒ Make Tillsonburg an attractive place to live for youth and young professionals
 - ☒ Provide opportunities for families to thrive
 - ☒ Support the aging population and an active senior citizenship

