

Media Release

Municipality of Grey Highlands enters into a sale agreement on the former Talisman Property.

May 12, 2014

Following a closed session, called under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, Section 239 (2) (c) regarding a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Municipality, Council in open session adopted the following resolution in a recorded vote:

“Resolve That Council confirms the actions of the Closed Session as follows: Direction provided to Staff;

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign back the Offer of Purchase and Sale with 2418201 Ontario Ltd for two (2) corporations to be named prior to completion for the former Talisman property as outlined in the Agreement and the appropriate by-law be presented at the next regular Council meeting. ”

At a previous meeting, Council reviewed the Municipality of Grey Highlands Corporate Policy A09-L-01 “Sale and Disposition of Land Policy”. Council chose to exercise its authority and right under Policy to exempt the sale and disposition of the former Talisman property due to the financial impacts of the sale, representing a unique opportunity for economic growth, community development and employment.

The sale of the property to a group headed by Mr. Brian Ellis outlines a renewal of the property to a Hotel/Spa Resort and Convention Center and is defined as follows:

“This use will make the New Talisman a destination property that will add amenities to serve the local communities and bring clientele into the

region to stay and enjoy the amenities that the resort and surrounding community offers.

The New Talisman will include updated facilities in a rejuvenated main lodge with its established convention rooms. Also upgraded rooms in the adjoining building where most of the current hotel rooms are located and a first class Spa and Wellness Center in the current day lodge building. Additionally, it is the desire of the Principals to make the New Talisman an important education and training center for the Hospitality industry, culinary arts and massage training. Working in coordination with the local Agri-Industry, the New Talisman will showcase local products as part of the destination experience”.

In addition, it is anticipated that the first phase of the project will result in the establishment of up to 75 new jobs for Grey Highlands.

Mayor Fitzgerald stated, “The proposal submitted by Mr. Ellis provides a great development and renewal opportunity that meets the needs of the Municipal Corporation, is supported by initiatives identified through public consultations held by the Task Force, and will stimulate our local economy and bring significant employment opportunities to our Municipality”.

It is important to note that not all properties have been sold. The Municipality has retained lands by the Lagoon in order to support its municipal infrastructure for the future. In addition, the Municipality is retaining lands at the top of the hill for future use considerations and other potential partnerships.

Mr. Ellis can be reached at 416-574-8369 for further comments regarding the redevelopment of the property.

For further information, contact the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Dan Best by email at bestd@greyhighlands.ca or by phone at 519-986-2811.