

Talisman task force in place

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The Municipality of Grey Highlands has named the Talisman Advisory Task Force.

Grey Highlands council made the announcement at its regular meeting on Monday November 18th.

The members of the task force that will study options for the former Talisman Mountain Resorts property and make recommendations are: Peter Zinkan, Philip Allanson, Jim Halliday, Russell Severnuk, Gary Gingras, Erica Ferguson and Grant McGlaughlin. The panel that conducted the interviews also advised council to have four people available to the task force as needed. They are: Jake Hammer, Kerry Baskey, Rhonda Iadinardi and Ray Robertson.

CAO Dan Best explained to council that an Interview Panel consisting of Cheryl Brine (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs), Bryan Plumstead (Grey County Tourism) and Randy Scherzer (Grey County Planning) spent an entire day meeting with candidates about the task force.

Best and the Task Force would start its work on the Talisman file immediately. “The back taxes on the property will be written off at the end of 2013. At that time we will determine how to deal with the education and county taxes,” Best said.

Grey Highlands recently took ownership of the Talisman lands, which means all outstanding taxes owed to the municipality will be wiped off the books. However, over the years – as the Talisman property fell further and further behind on its taxes – Grey Highlands paid amounts the property owed to the school board in Grey County. Now that Grey Highlands owns the property there is a process that allows the municipality to recover the amounts paid to the county and the school board.

The CAO also told council now that the property is municipally owned there will no longer be taxes paid and an application is being prepared to have the property’s value re-assessed – due to the extreme damage of the buildings and equipment on site.

“I’m overwhelmed and very pleased with the feedback from the community. I think there are great opportunities moving forward,” Best told council.

Grey Highlands Wayne Fitzgerald thanked everybody involved with the process to date.

“We want to express our gratitude and sincere thanks to the members of our community that came forward to help with determining a future for the former Talisman property,” said Fitzgerald.