



REPORT

TO: Members of Council

FROM: Suzanne Huschilt, Acting Deputy Clerk

DATE: April 19, 2017, Regular Meeting of Council, Operations

Re: Bylaw # 2017 – 038 Telephone and Internet Voting as Alternative Method for 2018 Municipal and School Board Election

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council accepts this report “Bylaw # 2017 – 038 Telephone and Internet Voting as Alternative Method for 2018 Municipal and School Board Election”, as submitted by the Acting Deputy Clerk as information; and

THAT Council approves Bylaw # 2017 - 038 being a bylaw to authorize the use of telephone and internet voting as an alternative voting method for the year 2018 Municipal Election and School Board Election be read a first, second, third time and finally passed.

ORIGIN:

At the March 22, 2017 Regular Meeting of Council, Operations, Council passed the following resolution:

Matheson/Walder (144-2017)

THAT Council accepts this Report “Alternative Method of Voting – Elections 2018,” as submitted by the CAO/Clerk and the Acting Deputy Clerk as information; and

THAT Council approves a bylaw be prepared to authorize the use of Internet/Telephone voting for the 2018 Municipal Election.

BACKGROUND:

As of April 11, 2017 the following Municipalities have agreed and/or have passed a bylaw authorizing the use of Telephone/Internet Voting:

Limerick
Centre Hastings
Tweed

Marmora & Lake
Carlow-Mayo

The Hastings County Clerks believe that the convenience and accessibility inherent in internet/telephone voting can provide enhanced opportunity for all electors to participate in the democratic process, including electors that are non-resident or with diminished mobility and accessibility constraints.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Regardless of the method of voting used, there will be costs associated with advertising, preparation of the Voters' List, and preparing procedures and policies for Candidates and electors. There are cost savings possibilities available through advertising in conjunction with other municipalities in North Hastings. Furthermore, several vendors have indicated their willingness to offer pricing based on the population of several Hastings County municipalities should a joint RFP for services is issued. Pricing for Internet/Telephone voting services is based on population, and there are significant savings available as the number of voters increases. As of publication of this report, Five (5) Hastings County Municipalities have committed to Internet/Telephone voting, with several more expected to do the same.

Initial quotes are between \$1.50 and \$2.00 per vote, plus Canada Post costs to mail out the vote packages. There will be savings incurred here as there are no return-postage costs as there are with vote by mail. As the Municipality and voters become more familiar with Internet voting, there is potential for further cost reductions and efficiencies utilizing Internet/telephone voting in subsequent elections.

ATTACHMENTS:

n/a

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne Huschilt".