

Municipal Governance Structure

Hastings Highlands

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WHO ARE WE

- *Gary*
 - Political science and rural planning
- *Beate*
 - Public involvement and urban planning
- *Both*
 - Ward boundary reviews (Ottawa; York Region; Toronto)

INTRODUCTION

- Extensive work by staff
- Public survey
- Have some background information, but no detailed knowledge of municipality
- Will not make a recommendation
- Strategic advice instead

STATUS

- Municipality has problem with voter parity
- December 14, 2016 Petition is valid
- Petition can be referred to OMB after March 16, 2017
- Petitioners have to make proposal/give reasons to cause OMB Hearing

OPTIONS & IMPLICATIONS

- **Option 1:** Receive Petition - Consider public input – Maintain status quo
- Implications:
 - Maintains voter parity problem
 - OMB may impose solution
 - OMB may award costs to municipality

OPTIONS & IMPLICATIONS

- **Option 2:** Reduce Monteagle Ward to 1 representative – elect Deputy Mayor at-large
- Implications:
 - Voter parity within +/- 10%; acceptable
 - Can be implemented for 2018
 - Limited grounds for OMB appeal of by-law
 - If petition is referred to OMB, report to OMB on municipality's plans

OPTIONS & IMPLICATIONS

- **Option 3:** Switch from wards to at-large system
- Implications:
 - Determine Council size (minimum of 5 required; choose odd number)
 - Decide to elect or appoint Deputy Mayor
 - Can be implemented for 2018

OPTIONS & IMPLICATIONS

- **Option 3:** Switch from wards to at-large system
- Implications cont'd:
 - Council size cannot be appealed
 - Limited grounds for appeal of by-law
 - If petition is referred to OMB, report to OMB on municipality's plans

OPTIONS & IMPLICATIONS

- **Option 4:** Undertake ward boundary review
- Process:
 - Should last for several municipal elections
 - Start with a blank slate
 - Use population projections from Watson & Associates 2013 study (slow growth)
 - Generate Options for re-aligned wards (public process)
 - Determine Preferred Option (public process)

OPTIONS & IMPLICATIONS

- **Option 4:** Undertake ward boundary review
- Process cont'd:
 - Recommendation to Council
 - Council decision/by-law
 - Potential appeal(s)/OMB Hearing
 - If petition is referred to OMB, report to OMB on municipality's plans

OPTIONS & IMPLICATIONS

- **Option 4:** Undertake ward boundary review
- Implications:
 - Implementation for 2018 highly unlikely
 - New ward boundaries may need surveys
 - Old municipal boundaries unlikely to be maintained
 - Cost: \$25,000 plus costs of potential OMB Hearing

CONCLUSIONS

- Voter parity is a problem; Petition is valid
- **Option 2:** Reduce Monteagle Ward to 1 representative – elect Deputy Mayor at-large (implementable for 2018)
- **Option 3:** Switch from wards to at-large system (implementable for 2018)
- **Option 4:** Undertake ward boundary review, including accepted public process (not implementable for 2018)

CONCLUSIONS

- If ***Option 2 or 3*** is adopted, Council decision in April 2017
- Petition no longer valid
- Potential appeal(s) of by-law to the OMB (limited grounds for appeal)

QUESTIONS ???