

Town of Riverview

COUNCIL REPORT FORM



Presented to: Mayor & Council

Department: Corporate Services

Date: October 16, 2018

Subject: Electronic Meetings

BACKGROUND

Introduced at the Committee of the Whole Meeting – October 22, 2018

Section 69-Electronic Meetings of the new Local Governance Act allows council members to attend Council and Committee of the Whole meetings remotely using technology, such as teleconference or video conference. Should municipalities wish to take advantage of the new electronic meeting provisions, an amendment to the Council procedural by-law is required.

Staff has completed some research on providing Council with this opportunity, however, with our existing electronic cueing and voting system, one video screen and the lack of phone access, outfitting the Council Chambers for this could prove to be a costly venture. Preliminary investigation indicates audio conferencing would be in the range of \$10,000 and video conferencing would cost in excess of \$15,000. None of these options would allow for remote voting.

Staff has also reached out to other communities to see if they are offering this option to their Council and it appears from the replies we've received, the only ones currently doing it are the ones with Council Chambers already equipped.

Some communities who are in the same situation as us have adopted a resolution to only provide electronic meetings in the case of an emergency where an existing boardroom with a telephone for the conference call could be used.

CONSIDERATIONS

Legal:

Should Council agree with Staff's recommendation, they would still be in compliance with the Local Governance Act as this section does not require the use of electronic meetings, it just gives permission to use them.

Financial:

The cost to reconfigure the cueing and voting system and install phone lines and/or video screens.

Policy:

None.

Stakeholders:

Council and staff.

Strategic Plan:

None.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Discussions between Corporate Services and CAO.

Communication Plan:

None required.

OPTIONS

- 1) Council can adopt a resolution to only use electronic meetings in case of an emergency.
- 2) Council can instruct staff to get quotes to reconfigure Council Chambers to allow for electronic meetings.

RECOMMENDATION FROM STAFF

Staff recommends that Council not proceed at this time with changing its procedural by-law to allow for remote electronic participation in Regular or Committee of the Whole meetings but allow for remote participation using teleconference for Emergency meetings of Council.