

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes

Council Report

Report Number CORP2018-009

Date: May 22, 2018
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Council Chambers

Ward Community Identifier: All

Title: High Water Bill Adjustment Appeals Committee

Author and Title: Jennifer Stover, Director of Corporate Services

Recommendation(s):

That Report CORP2018-009, High Water Bill Adjustment Appeals Committee, be received;

That Councillor James, Councillor Veale and Councillor Breadner be appointed to the High Water Bill Adjustment Appeals Committee, in accordance with By-law 2018-039, for the remainder of this term of Council.

Department Head:_____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other:_____

Chief Administrative Officer:_____

Background:

At the Council Meeting of June 6, 2017, Council adopted the following resolution:

CR2017-497

RESOLVED THAT Report CORP2017-017, High Water Bill Appeals, be received;

THAT an Appeal Body for High Water Bills be established to hear and adjudicate applications relating to high water bill appeals with the same decision making powers as the Property Standards Committee; and

THAT staff provide an establishing by-law by the end of Q3, 2017 for consideration.

Further to that, at the Council Meeting of October 10, 2017, Council adopted the following resolution:

CR2017-878

RESOLVED THAT Report CORP2017-026, High Water Bill Adjustment Appeals Committee, be received;

THAT By-law 2011-260, being a By-law to Govern Water and Wastewater Services in the City of Kawartha Lakes, be amended to include terms of reference a High Water Bill Adjustment Appeals Committee by adding the following:

High Water Bill Adjustment Appeals Committee: A High Water Bill Adjustment Appeals Committee is established to hear and rule on appeals against High Water Bill Adjustment decisions.

Authority: The High Water Bill Adjustment Appeals Committee may recommend to Council approval of high water bill adjustments without prejudice or precedent to any other similar matter.

Composition and Appointment: The High Water Bill Adjustment Appeals Committee shall be comprised of three members of Council appointed by Council.

Term: The Term of the Appointment of the High Water Bill Adjustment Appeals Committee shall be the same as the term of Council.

Administration: The High Water Bill Adjustment Appeals Committee shall

ensure that a member of City staff is assigned the role of secretary to the Committee with duties and obligations required in accordance with the Municipal Act.

Governance: The High Water Bill Adjustment Committee shall be governed by this by-law and the City's Procedural By-Law, as amended from time to time by Council.

And;

THAT the necessary amending by-Law be brought forward for adoption.

The terms of reference are included in the By-law 2018-039. This report addresses the establishment of the High Water Bill Adjustment Appeals Committee.

Rationale:

Council approved a High Water Bill Policy in April, 2017 to provide staff with direction on providing relief to property owners. The terms of reference were approved in October 2017 however the Committee was never formally established.

The Management Directive, attached as Appendix A, establishes a guideline for the appeal process.

Other Alternatives Considered:

As the Committee does not have the authority to approve relief, Council could opt to disband the Committee and have any/all high water bill adjustment appeals be heard directly to Council.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

As the high water bill adjustments are limited to one per property, the financial implications of providing relief are minimal relative to the total water/wastewater revenue.

Relationship of Recommendation(s) To The 2016-2019 Strategic Plan:

Strategic Enabler – Responsible Fiscal Resource

Attachments:



Appendix A – Management Directive

MD2018-xx High
Water Appeals Comm

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Department Head: Jennifer Stover