



Council Report

Report Number: CLK2025-001
Meeting Date: January 14, 2025
Title: **By-Law for the 2025 By-Election and Internet Voting Method**
Description: 2025 Ward 5 By-Election (MA S.263 Alternative Voting Method (MEA S.42))
Author and Title: Cathie Ritchie, City Clerk

Recommendation(s):

That Report CLK2025-001, **By-Law for the 2025 By-Election and Internet Voting Method**, be received;

That the necessary by-law to authorize the 2025 By-Election and Alternative Voting Method attached as Appendix B to Report CLK2024-001, be brought forward to Council for adoption.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

At the Regular Council Meeting of November 19, 2024, Council considered Report CLK2024-003, being the Declaration of Vacancy and Options for Replacement – Councillor Ward 5, a copy of which has been attached as Appendix A. The purpose of Report CLK2024-003 was to declare the Office of Councillor for Ward 5 as vacant and to provide the legislative options that were available to Council so the method to fill the vacant position could be determined. The following resolution was adopted at the Regular Council Meeting of November 19, 2024:

CLK2024-003

CR2024-664

Moved By Councillor Warren

Seconded By Deputy Mayor McDonald

That Report CLK2024-003, **Declaration of Vacancy and Options for Replacement – Councillor Ward 5**, be received;

That the Council seat for Ward 5 in the City of Kawartha Lakes be declared vacant under 262 (1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S. O. 2001, as amended, for the reason outlined within Section 259 (1)(d) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S. O. 2001; and

That City of Kawartha Lakes Council, in accordance with Section 263 (1) (a) of the Municipal Act, 2001 shall fill the vacant position of Ward 5 through Option #2, namely a By-Election with internet voting.

Carried

This report addresses that direction.

Rationale:

Council passed the motion on November 19, 2024 as required, declaring the Councillor vacancy in Ward 5. In addition, Council selected a By-Election to fill the vacancy. The Municipal Act, 2001 S. 263 (5.1.ii) requires the municipality to pass a by-law should a by-election be selected to fill the vacancy, within 60 days after the day a declaration of vacancy is made.

The City Clerk would be responsible for conducting a by-election in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act and all applicable City policies and procedures. Further, pursuant to Section 42 of the MEA an alternative voting method shall be identified in the by-law.

Timelines:

Ward 5 Vacancy Declared – November 19, 2024

By-Law for a By-Election and Alternative Voting Method – January 14, 2025

Voters List Updates – Ongoing

Nominations Open – following the By-Law adoption (January 15, 2025 9:00 AM)

Beginning of Candidate Campaign Period – upon nomination certification of qualifications

Nomination Day: not less than 30 days and not more than 60 days after a By-law is passed

Voter Information Letters – to be determined

Voting Period – April 1 to 10, 2025

Voting Day – Thursday April 10, 2025, closed at 8:00 PM

Candidate Elect, Oath of Office – April 22, 2025

Other Alternatives Considered:

No other alternatives are being recommended.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

Good Government:

Applying a democratic process to fill the Ward 5 Councillor vacancy.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

Any costs associated with a By-Election would be expensed through the Election Reserve. The reserve would be reconciled in the 2026 budget to fund the forecasted expenditures to implement the 2026 General Election.

Accessibility issues will be considered in the planning and implementation of this decision to ensure that the vote is accessible to all voters in accordance with legislation.

Consultations:

Deputy Clerks

Elections Ontario

Attachments:

Appendix A – Report CLK2024-003, Declaration of Vacancy and Options for Replacement Councillor – Ward 5



CLK2024-003.docx

Appendix B – Draft By-Law to authorize the 2025 By-Election and Alternative Voting Method



2025-XXX By-law to
Authorize a By-Electio

Department Head email: rtaylor@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Ron Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer