



Huron County Council

Minutes - December 30, 2013

Public Meeting

GODERICH, ONTARIO



PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES HURON COUNTY COUNCIL

Goderich, Ontario
December 30th, 2013

Warden J. Steffler acted as Chair for this Public Meeting and called the Public Meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

All members of Council were present .

Chair Steffler advised the purpose of the Public Meeting was for the Council of the County of Huron to consider changing the term of Warden for the Council of the Corporation of the County of Huron from two years to one year which will take effect after the next municipal election.

Declarations of Pecuniary Conflict of Interest:

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest stated.

CAO Orchard reviewed the proposed By-law No. 2014-08; being a By-law of the Corporation of the County of Huron to establish the term of Warden for the Council of the Corporation of the County of Huron to be one year.

It is noted that legislation requiring formal notice and a public meeting be held in order to implement the proposed by-law was adhered to.

Public Comments:

Chair Steffler requested anyone present from the public in favour of the proposed By-law No. 2014-08; to step to the lectern and state their name; and provide their comments to Council for the record.

There are no comments from the public.

Chair Steffler requested anyone present from the public opposed to the proposed By-law No. 2014-08; step to the lectern and state their name; and provide their comments to Council for the record.

There are no comments from the public.

Correspondence:

Clerk Susan Cronin stated that no **correspondence was received in the Clerk's** office prior to 3:00 p.m. on Friday December 27th, 2013.

Council Comments:

Members of Huron County Council were given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

Councillor Hessel stated that he supported a two year term because this was one of the recommendations referenced in the Cuff Report and that a two year term shows that the County is moving forward.

Huron County Council
Term of County Warden Public Meeting Minutes
Monday December 30th, 2013

Councillor Vincent stated that a two year term has some advantages but a one year term allows for choices. An individual can run for a second term.

Councillor Gowing stated that it is the will of Council as to who holds the position of Warden and that if someone wishes they may run for a second term.

Councillor Jewitt stated that he is supportive of a two year term because there is stability and consistency between the CAO, Warden and staff. Results are better achieved with stability and consistency.

Councillor MacLellan stated that County Council need to look at who is best for the job not whose turn it is. A two year term was a Cuff recommendation that should be tried.

Councillor Klopp stated that County Council is a business and discussion regarding past decisions was an important. Not all Cuff recommendations were followed but they were discussed.

Councillor Ginn notes that he is supportive of a two year term because it takes time to understand the role of Warden, to develop relationships with partners and the wheels of government turn slowly.

Councillor Grace notes that he is supportive of a two year term because it provides continuity over the longer term and it would set direction for Council. It is also noted that the relationships with other orders of Government and associations would be maintained having a two year term.

Councillor Shewfelt stated that he is supportive of a two year term because many groups have a two year term for the head position and it would enable the Warden to work with organizations and other orders of Government.

Councillor Klopp stated that Huron County Council should not be compared to lobbyist groups.

Councillor Hessel stated that there was a lot of respect by everyone around the table and that most of the new councillors were in favour of a two year term.

Councillor Van Diepenbeek stated that he **appreciated everyone's point of view**. A one year term takes strength to get issues resolved.

Councillor MacLellan stated that the decisions are made by Council as a whole.

Councillor Robertson stated that during his one year term all the Cuff recommendations were addressed by Council. Council makes the decisions not the Warden.

Councillor Versteeg notes that he is supportive of a two year term as this is required to learn the position. This will hopefully address past issues with staff. He was concerned with a choice being made as to it's **"his turn" and not** on the best candidate for the position.

Huron County Council
Term of County Warden Public Meeting Minutes
Monday December 30th, 2013

Councillor Dowson notes that he is against a two year term as he is of the opinion that a two year term is not necessary. Many counties have a one year term and the decision should be based on what is best for Huron County.

Warden Steffler advises that there are arguments that have merit for and against changing back to a one year position for Warden. With no further comments forthcoming, Warden Steffler asked for a motion to adjourn this Public Meeting.

MOTION: #24-14

Moved by: Councillor Vincent and Seconded by: Councillor Versteeg

THAT:

The Public Meeting to consider extending the term of Warden for the County of Huron to two years adjourn at 9:38 a.m.

CARRIED

Warden Joe Steffler

Clerk Susan Cronin