

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Monday, December 17, 2018

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Puslinch Community Centre, 23 Brock Road South

FILE: Public Meeting – Cannabis – Retail Stores

MEMBERS: Mayor James Seeley – Chair
Councillor Matthew Bulmer
Councillor Jessica Goyda
Councillor Ken Roth
Councillor John Sepulis

The Public Information Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Presentations:

Karen Landry, CAO/Clerk advised and remarked the purpose of this Public Information Meeting is to inform and provide the public with the opportunity to express views with respect to the opting-out of hosting of Cannabis Retail Stores. The members of Council are here to observe and listen to the public's comments. Council will not make any decisions this evening.

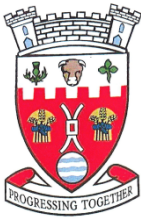
Karen Landry, CAO/Clerk presented the following information:

1. Overview of the Cannabis Standards – Retail Stores – Opt-Out Deadline
 - January 22, 2019
 - The AGCO will begin to accept expressions of interest on-line between January 7 and January 9, 2019 for the initial phase for 25 retail stores
2. Registrar's Standards for the Private Retail Sale of Cannabis Overview
 - Not allowed within 150m of property line of a public or private school
 - No limit on number of retail stores in a municipality – for AGCO to determine – maximum 75 stores per operator
 - Operators cannot allow those under 19 years to enter the store
 - Stores can be open 9 a.m. – 11 p.m. (same hours as LCBO and beer/wine sales)

Note: As recreational cannabis is a legal, controlled and regulated product, cannabis stores will be considered like any other type of retail and as such, no zoning changes are needed. Municipal provisions that apply to retail stores would apply to cannabis retail stores.

The Cannabis Licence Act, 2018 and Regulation 468/18 provide the Registrar with authority to establish standards and requirements in the following areas:

- General Standards
- Store premises, equipment and facilities, including security
- The prevention of unlawful activities
- Advertising and promotional activities
- Training related to responsible use and sale of cannabis
- Protection of assets
- Record-Keeping, confidentiality and security of records
- Compliance with the Federal Cannabis Tracking System
- Cannot sell products other than cannabis and accessories
- Must display provincial authorization sticker



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3. Licensing Public Notice Process

- When a licensed operator submits a request for a store location to be authorized, the AGCO will require the applicant to follow a public notice process
- A public notice will be posted on the AGCO website and a placard must be displayed at the proposed retail store location for a 15 day period
- Note there is no direct notification sent to a municipality. A municipality will need to establish a process of daily monitoring of the AGCO website
- Local residents and municipalities will have 15 days to provide written submissions to the AGCO with respect to the application
- The Registrar will consider concerns raised in the matter of public interest pertaining to: protecting public health and safety, protecting youth and restricting their access to cannabis and protecting illicit activities in relation to cannabis when making its final decision to grant approval for a location

4. Recommendations for a Municipality that Opts-in – Policy Statement

- For a municipality, that opts-in, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) recommends that a municipality consider establishing a “Municipal Cannabis Retail Policy Statement” identifying specific and significant locally sensitive considerations or uses that best represent the expectations of the community in allowing cannabis retail. For example, a policy statement may identify specific sensitive uses and express parameters to consider proximity to these sensitive issues e.g. store concentration in certain areas of the community.

5. Surrounding Municipalities

Municipality	Opt-Out
Guelph	Will make a decision on December 17
Guelph-Eramosa	Will make a decision in January
Milton	Will make a decision on December 17
Cambridge	Will make a decision in January
North Dumfries	Will make a decision on January 21
Hamilton	Will make a decision on January 14
Centre Wellington	Will make a decision on December 17
Erin	Yes
Minto	Will make a decision on January 22
Wellington North	Will make a decision in January
Mapleton	Will make a decision in January

6. Financial Consideration

- First payment of \$15 million on a per household basis, adjusted so that a minimum of \$5,000 is provided. For the Township, this amount is calculated as follows:
 - Number of Households (2018 MPAC Returned Roll) – 3,101
 - Funding Amount per 100 Households - \$127.50
 - Calculation per above - \$3,954
 - Minimum funding allocation - \$5000



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- Second Payment of \$15 million on a per household basis.
 - If the Township has not opted-out (opted-in) as of January 22, 2019 it will receive this funding to support initial costs related to hosting retail storefronts. * Also eligible for additional funding
 - If the Township has opted out, it will only receive a second maximum of \$5,000 (Based on MPAC household numbers \$3,954). *Not eligible for additional funding.
- The province is setting aside \$10 million of municipal funding to address unforeseen circumstances related to recreational cannabis legalization with priority given to municipalities that have not opted-out.
- If Ontario's portion of the federal excise duty on recreational cannabis over the first two years of legalization exceeds \$100 million, the Province will provide 50 per cent of the surplus only to municipalities that have not opted-out as of January 22, 2019.
- The Township will be required to share 50% of its allocation with the County based on the splitting of household numbers between the Township and the County. The County will only receive funding in relation to opt-out decisions made by its lower tier municipalities.
- Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Funding must be used to address the implementation costs that directly relate to the legalization of recreational cannabis (ie. increased enforcement, increased public inquiries, increased fire services, by-law/policy development, etc.).

Mayor Seeley then invited members of the public to provide comments.

Comments:

Joseph Hutter provided information regarding recreational cannabis and enforcement and stated it makes sense to opt-in.

Manfred Ganning stated what do we really gain by opting-in.

Vinnie Klimkosz indicated he does not think we will have a problem if we opt-in, and also noted we should watch to see what the City of Guelph does.

Steve Dorgo advised the Township has a prime economic location for retail sales of cannabis.

Rob Stark requested that the convenience of retail cannabis for those who require cannabis for medical reasons be considered.

Siobhan Bulmer noted that recreational cannabis is legal and confirmed the City of Guelph would be making a decision this evening.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.