

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, March 5, 2014

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Puslinch Municipal Complex
7404 Wellington Rd. 34

FILE NUMBER: CO1-ELE

MEMBERS: Mayor Dennis Lever – Chair
Councillor Susan Fielding
Councillor Ken Roth
Councillor Jerry Schmidt
Councillor Wayne Stokley

The Chair reminded attendees to ensure that they have signed in and provided their contact information.

The Chair advised the attendees that those who wished to make comments should stand, state their name for the record and address their comments to those in attendance.

The Chair asked those in attendance as to whether any had a disclosure of a pecuniary interest.

None was declared.

Presentations

The Chair introduced Ms. Karen Landry, CAO/Clerk for the Township of Puslinch.

Ms. Landry advised that the purpose of the proposed Election Sign By-law is to establish a common standard in the Township with the Township's Election Sign By-law regulations and the County of Wellington's Sign By-law.

Ms. Landry advised that the Township's current Sign By-Law does not specify the period of time where an election sign can be erected. The proposed Election Sign By-law's purpose is to incorporate into the Township's Sign By-law the practice that Election Signs are not erected prior to the issuing of a writ for a provincial or federal election; and Six (6) weeks before the date of a municipal election

Ms. Landry advised that the regulations included in the proposed Election Sign By-Law include:

That election signs may not be erected prior to:

The issuing of a writ for a provincial or federal election.

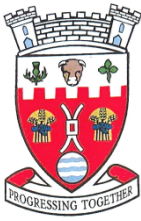
Signs may not be erected until six (6) weeks before the date of a municipal election (in the case of the 2014 Municipal Election – September 15, 2014)

Election signs are to be removed within two (2) days following the election.

The sign area/copy area of an election sign is not to exceed 1.5 square metres

An election sign on a Highway shall not:

impede, hinder or obstruct the view of a pedestrian or the driver of a Vehicle;
constitute a danger or hazard; and



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be affixed to any Official Sign or Official Sign structure.

Ms. Landry advised that the purpose of this meeting was to seek the public's comments and questions with respect to the proposed by-law.

Questions/Comments

The Chair asked if there were any members of the public who wished to voice a comment or question.

Ms. Kathy White inquired as to clarification of the meaning of erection of an election sign on a "highway".

Ms. Landry advised that a highway is as defined under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act.

Don McKay commented that he understood that the Ministry of Transportation did not allow any signs on any Ministry of Transportation Roads.

Mr. McKay inquired as to what the results would be if someone were to not remove their signs within 2 days of the election and whether there would be a fine associated with non-removal of the signs within the required time.

Ms. Landry advised that the election sign by-law would include an enforcement provision and Township staff would first endeavor to work with the individual in removal of the signs before any enforcement and penalties would be issued.

Ms. Daina Makinson commented that the Township's current Sign By-Law states that all signs shall maintain a minimum set back of 27 metres from the centre line of any road allowance and inquired as to whether this requirement would apply to election signs.

Ms. Landry advised that this provision would not apply to election signs and that clarification would be made with respect to location.

Mr. Kevin Johnson, requested clarification as to the Township's jurisdiction with respect to restricting signs placed on a vehicle.

Ms. Landry advised that further clarification would be made with respect to signs on vehicles.

Ms. Landry advised that in other municipalities signs would be placed on vehicles which would remain stationary. Clarification would be provided with respect to stationary and non-stationary vehicles.

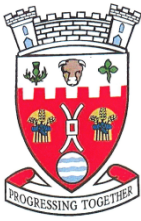
Ms. Landry advised that election signs which were placed on vehicles would be prohibited from entering and parking on Township lands.

The Chair asked if there were any members of Council who wished to voice a comment or concern regarding the proposed by-law.

Councillor Schmidt inquired as to whether the proposed by-law applied only to municipal elections.

Ms. Landry advised that the proposed by-law applies to municipal, provincial and federal elections.

The Chair inquired as to calculation of the date of September 15, 2014 for the erection of election signs.



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Ms. Landry advised that September 15, 2014, was Monday following the September 12, 2014 nomination day and was 6 weeks before the municipal election.

The Chair inquired as to the proposed maximum size of the sign being 1.5 metres and advised that car wraps may be in excess of this maximum.

Ms. Landry advised that further clarification would be made with respect to maximum sign size requirements.

The Chair thanked those in attendance for their comments and questions and advised that written comments can be submitted to the Township.

The Chair reminded those in attendance to sign in and advised that those who have signed in will be notified when the by-law returns for consideration.

The Chair inquired as to whether there were any additional comments or questions.

There were no further comments or questions.

Ms. Landry advised that the next steps were to report back to Council on the comments raised at the public meeting and recommend the enactment of a By-law to establish regulations specific to Election Signs.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.