



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Proposed Election Signs By-Law

You are invited to attend a Public Information Meeting on March 5, 2014, as the Township of Puslinch is seeking your input and comments on a proposed by-law to regulate Election Signs.

Your attendance and comments at this meeting are welcome as it is your opportunity to learn more about the proposed by-law and express any opinions that you may have.

Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: Municipal Complex 7404 Wellington Road 34, Guelph, ON

Additional Information:

For further information or to obtain a copy of the draft Election Sign By-Law, please visit the Township's website at www.puslinch.ca or contact the Township at (519)-763-1226 ext. 207

Notification:

If you wish to be notified of the adoption of the proposed Election Signs By-Law you must make a written request to the Township of Puslinch, Clerk's Department, 7404 Wellington Road 34, Guelph, ON N1H 6H9 or by email at admin@puslinch.ca.



REPORT ADM-2014-007

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Karen Landry, CAO/Clerk

SUBJECT: Proposed By-law to Regulate Election Signs
File No. C01ELE

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Report ADM-2014-007 regarding a proposed By-law to regulate Election Signs be received; and

That Council directs staff to proceed with holding a Public Meeting on March 5, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at the Municipal Complex with regard to the regulating Election Signs; and

That staff publish notice in the newspaper to advise any persons that may have an interest in this matter of the Public Meeting.

DISCUSSION

Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to obtain direction from Council to proceed with holding a public meeting to seek input from the public on the proposed By-law to regulate election signs.

Background

It has come to the attention of staff that the past practice has been to advise municipal candidates that the erection of an election sign is not permitted until 6 weeks prior to the date of the election.

Township Sign By-law

Township Sign By-law 9/91 does not specify the period of time where an election sign can be erected but indicates that an election sign is considered a temporary sign that does not require the owner of the sign to obtain permission from the Township to be

erected. As a result, it is recommended that the Township pass a By-law to incorporate this practice into the Township's Sign By-law.

County Sign By-law

The County of Wellington Sign By-law 4555-03 regulates the erection and location of signs or advertising devices on and adjacent to County roads. The County By-law regulates the period of time election signs may be displayed to six weeks prior to the issuing of a writ for a provincial or federal election, or within six (6) weeks immediately preceding a municipal election. An election sign is to be removed within forty-eight (48) hours after the day of the election.

Staff recommend the adoption of a By-law to amend the Township's current sign by-law to establish similar regulations with regard to election signs for the purpose of providing a clear understanding and application of the regulations regarding election signs in the Township to the public and candidates.

The proposed By-law states that an Election Sign is not to be erected prior to the issuing of a writ for a provincial or federal election, or prior to six (6) weeks before the date of a municipal election. An election sign is to be removed within two (2) days after the day of the election. A restriction on the size of an election sign has been established at 1.5 square metres. A copy of the proposed By-law is attached as Schedule A.

Prior to adoption of a by-law, it is recommended that Council direct staff to proceed with a public meeting on the proposed by-law to regulate election signs. The proposed date for the Public Meeting is Wednesday, March 5th at 3:00 p.m. There is also a Council meeting scheduled for this date which commences at 1:00 p.m.

Staff will publish notice in the newspaper regarding the date and time of the public meeting.

Upon conclusion of the public meeting staff will report back to Council on the feedback received and the proposed by-law.

Financial Implications

n/a

Applicable Legislation and Requirements

Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c. 25

SCHEDULE "A"

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH

BY-LAW NUMBER 2014-

A By-law to amend By-law 9/91 being a By-law to Regulate the erection and location of signs or advertising Devices in the Township of Puslinch.

WHEREAS Council passed By-law 9/91 on December 19, 1990; and

WHEREAS Section 11(3) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, authorizes a municipality to pass by-laws regarding signs; and

WHEREAS the County of Wellington Sign By-law 4555-03 regulates the erection and location of signs or advertising devices on and adjacent to County roads; and

WHEREAS the County of Wellington Sign By-law 4555-03 regulates the period of time election signs may be displayed;

WHEREAS the Township deems it appropriate to establish similar regulations with regard to election signs for the purpose of providing a clear understanding and application of election sign regulations throughout the Township;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch enacts as follows:

1. That By-law 9/91 be amended by adding the following:

"5.2 For the purpose of this section:

Election Sign means:

- (a) any sign advertising or promoting a candidate in a federal, provincial or municipal election;
- (b) any sign intended to influence persons to vote for or against any candidate or any question or by-law submitted to the electors in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996 as amended*;
- (c) a Vehicle used for the purpose outlined in (a) and (b) above.

Highway includes a common and public highway, street, avenue, parkway, driveway, square, place, bridge, viaduct or trestle, any part of which is intended for or used by the general public for the passage of Vehicles and includes the area between the lateral property lines thereof.

Official Sign means any sign erected pursuant to any statute, by-law, regulation or other directive or any federal, provincial or municipal government or agency, board or commission thereof.

Roadway means the part of the Highway that is improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic, but does not include the shoulder, and, where a Highway includes two or more separate roadways, the term "Roadway" refers to any one roadway separately and not to all of the roadways collectively.

Vehicle includes a motor vehicle, trailer, traction engine, farm tractor, road-building machine, bicycle and any vehicle drawn, propelled or driven by any kind of power, including muscular power.

- 5.3 Notwithstanding any other provision of this By-law, no person shall affix, erect, display or permit or cause to be affixed, erected or displayed an Election Sign:
- (a) prior to the issuing of a writ for a provincial or federal election;
 - (b) no earlier than six (6) weeks prior to the day of the municipal election;
 - (c) on a Highway that impedes, hinders or obstructs the view of a pedestrian or the driver of a Vehicle;
 - (d) on a Highway that constitutes a danger or hazard;
 - (e) greater than 1.5 square metres in copy area;
 - (f) on any Official Sign or Official Sign structure;
 - (g) on a Roadway;
 - (h) two (2) days after the day of an election."

2. That Section 5.1 iii) of By-law 9/91 be deleted.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS XX DAY OF XXXX XXX, 2014.

Dennis Lever, Mayor

Karen M. Landry, CAO/Clerk

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