



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

Public Hearing Minutes – Municipal and School Board Elections By-law, RE-001

July 28, 2020 6:00 pm

Virtual Meeting – via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:09 pm.

Council Present:

Abraham Zebian, Mayor

Rupert Jannasch, Councillor, District 1

Scott McLean, Councillor, District 2

Mark McLean, Councillor, District 3

Jeff Hartt, Councillor, District 4

Debbie Francis, District 5

Paul Morton, Deputy Mayor, District 8

Bob Morton, Councillor, District 6

Ed Sherman, Councillor, District 7

Richard Murphy, Councillor, District 9

Laurie Murley, Councillor, District 10

Jim Ivey, Councillor, District 11

Staff and Guests Present:

Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer

Kathy Kehoe, Dir. Community Development

Shelleena Thornton, Administrative
Supervisor

Saira Shah, Planner

Carlee Rochon, Dir. Financial Services

Rhonda Brown, Municipal Clerk

Madelyn LeMay, Dir. Planning &
Development

Regrets:

Todd Richard, Dir. Public Works

Members of the public watched the meeting using Facebook Live.

2. Introduction

Mayor Zebian advised that Public Hearings for this By-law is required by Section 168 of the Municipal Government Act and Section 15.5 of the Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy. The virtual public hearing is hosted by Council.

When the Public Hearing is complete, the Council meeting will resume, and proceed to Second Reading of the By-law where members of Council may then ask questions and make comments.

3. Presentation

Shelleena Thornton, Administrative Supervisor, reviewed the presentation (attached) noting it was posted publicly prior to the Public Hearing for comments from the public. She noted the By-law provides Council with options for elections with paper ballots

always being an option as provided in the Municipal Election Act. There were no comments received for or against the By-law from the public.

4. Public Hearing Adjournment

Mayor Zebian declared the Public Hearing closed.

The meeting ended at 7:13 pm.

(Refer to the 2020-07-28 Council Meeting minutes for the next step, Second Reading)

Abraham Zebian, Mayor

Rhonda Brown, Municipal Clerk



Municipal and School Board Elections Voting By-law

Public Hearing

July 28, 2020

Authority for a Municipal and School Board Elections Voting By-law

- ▶ *Municipal Elections Act*, Section 146A - Vote by mail or other voting method





History

- ▶ Former Town of Windsor
 - ▶ Had an Electronic Voting By-law since 2008 and has explored many voting combinations for electors to cast their ballots (i.e. internet, telephone and paper ballot).
- ▶ Former Municipality of the District of West Hants
 - ▶ Has used the traditional paper ballot in all elections
- ▶ The former Town of Windsor Electronic Voting By-law was repealed in June 2019 due to the March 2020 Municipal Election related to consolidation

Proposed Municipal and School Board Elections Voting By-law

- ▶ Provides alternatives in which electors can cast their ballot.
- ▶ Currently just one School Board, *Conseil scolaire acadien provincial* (CSAP).
- ▶ 'Alternative Voting' is defined as by internet, telephone, and/or by mail. Paper ballot is always still an option as per the *Municipal Elections Act* (and a by-law is not required to vote by paper).





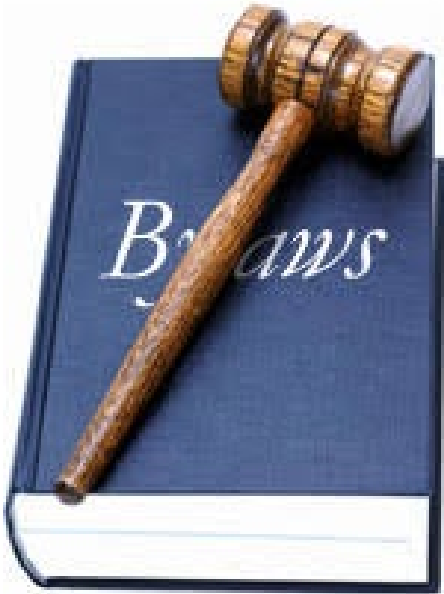
Proposed Municipal and School Board Elections Voting By-law

- ▶ Does not commit council to solely using 'alternative voting.' Each election, council can decide which method is to be used (internet, telephone, mail, paper, and/or combination thereof).
- ▶ If choosing an "alternative" method, at least TWO methods must be available.





By-law Approval Process



- ▶ *Municipal Government Act, Section 168*
 - ▶ By-law must be read twice.
 - ▶ Notice of Councils intent to approve a by-law is published in the newspaper 14 days before the Second Reading, which states the date & time of when the by-law will be considered and where it may be inspected.
 - ▶ That Council may by policy determine other procedures to be followed.
- ▶ Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy, Section 15.5 a)
 - ▶ Requires all by-laws to have Public Hearing before Second Reading.
- ▶ Other notifications may be required dependent on the by-law.



Process Timeline

The Public Hearing was advertised in the Chronicle Herald on June 27, 2020 as well as on the Regional website and Facebook page starting June 26th.





Questions and Comments

- ▶ Residents and members of the public can submit all questions and comments related to this proposed by-law by Noon, July 28th to Shelleena Thornton.
 - ▶ E-mail: sthornton@westhants.ca
 - ▶ Mail: Shelleena Thornton
c/o West Hants Regional Municipality
PO Box 3000, Windsor, NS B0N 2T0



Questions and Comments Received

No comments or questions were received as of 5:30pm,
Tuesday, July 28, 2020.



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TOGETHER

Recommendation

Should Council wish to proceed with the Municipal and School Board Elections Voting By-law after the Public Hearing and consideration of any comments made by the public, the recommended motion would be:

- ▶ **...that Council give Second Reading and approves the Municipal and School Board Elections Voting By-law RE-001, substantively the same as that presented to Council on June 23, 2020.**