



Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Memo No.
2020-M-101

Memorandum to Council

Subject: Proxies

Agenda Date: August 27, 2020

Attachments:

RECOMMENDATION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the report on the use of Proxy voting at Council meetings.

INFORMATION

As noted previously, Bill 197 of the Province of Ontario has received Royal Assent. Part of this legislation provides municipalities with the flexibility to incorporate the use of proxy voting during meetings of Council. Council has expanded the use of electronic participation as permitted under Bill 197 so the first question that needs to be answered by Council is which the enhanced electronic participation in meetings of Council, is there a need to also have proxy voting available to Council?

If there is a need then there are a few steps towards this. The legislation provides some limitations. For example, a Member can only appoint another Member as their Proxyholder. In other words, a Member cannot select a member of the Public who is not on Council as their Proxyholder. As well, once a Member has agreed to act as the Proxyholder for a Member they cannot then act for a second Member at the same time. As well, the Member who has appointed a Proxy and is absent from the meeting will not be included when determining quorum.

Appointing a proxy would not provide relief from the absence rules contained in the Municipal Act 2001, as amended. That is, if a Member is absent for three successive months without being authorized to do so by Council resolution, their seat would still be automatically deemed to be vacant.

The legislation does state that the Clerk would develop the process for appointing a revoking proxies. For meeting functionality, should Council wish to proceed with the ability to appoint a proxy, the order of speaking to a motion could be altered to provide that the mover of the motion is afforded the ability to speak first to the motion, followed by the seconder, and then followed by statements read by Proxyholders if comments were prepared by the Member who as appointed them.

There are documents other than the Procedural By-Law that need to be examined to ensure appropriate modifications are recommended for Council's consideration should Council deem that enhanced electronic participation at meetings is not sufficient to ensure Members are able to address agenda items. During this term of Council, absences have been rare and with our use of Zoom, electronic participation is easier than calling in to the conference line.

While the recommendation is for this report to be received (meaning no further work would be done), if Council directs, Staff would start reviewing pertinent By-Laws that may require alterations as well as establishing rules for the use of Proxies which Council could consider in due course.

Respectfully Submitted
Craig Davidson
Treasurer/Administrator