



Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Memo No.
2020-M-126

Memorandum to Council

Subject: Types of Structures for Economic Development

Agenda Date: October 8, 2020

Attachments:

RECOMMENDATION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct Staff to prepare a business case supporting the establishment of an Economic Development Corporation as required by Provincial Regulation.

INFORMATION

From discussions surrounding the Strategic Plan the establishment of an economic development entity has been raised. At the time, a report outlining the different structural options was requested.

Council can establish an ad hoc or standing committee at any time. Committees of Council would follow the same rules of engagement as outlined in the Procedural By-Law in that meetings need to be scheduled with the agenda available at least 24 hours prior to the meeting so the Public can be adequately informed (as governed by our Procedural By-Law).

A Committee makes recommendations to Council which would be considered and voted on at the next available Council meeting. Depending on the timing of the Committee Meeting this could add as much as one month for recommendations/decisions to be implemented. This assumes no special meetings are called.

Often, especially in the world of economic development, one month can be the difference between moving forward with an initiative or missing out on an opportunity.

Should the decision be made to establish a Corporation for Economic Development, a Board of Directors would tend to economic development activities. A corporation is able to make their own decisions without the need for the recommendation to be adopted by Council. The Corporation would be responsible to Council by way of reports, at least annual, and by various reports throughout the year.

Regardless of the structure, Council would appoint people. This would be done by seeking applications to ensure that the right skills are present in the collective. Council would also assign tasks to be tended to. While the scope of the Committee could be expanded or contracted by Council resolution, adding or deleting tasks for a Corporation may require changes to the base documents, depending on how the Corporation was established.

An Economic Development Corporation is also governed by Ontario Regulation 599/06. This regulation governs municipal corporations and, as it relates specifically to Economic Development Corporations, limits the definition of economic development services. The regulation defines economic development services as:

1. The promotion of the municipality for any purpose, including by the collection and dissemination of information and the development of economic development strategic plans;
2. The acquisition, development and disposal of sites in the municipality for residential, industrial, commercial and institutional uses;
3. The provision of public transportation systems;
4. The provision of residential housing;
5. The provision of general parking facilities;

6. The provision of counselling services to or encouraging the establishment and initial growth of small businesses operating or proposing to operate in the municipality;
7. The undertaking of community improvement consistent with a community improvement plan approved by the municipality;
8. The improvement, beautification and maintenance of municipally-owned land, buildings and structures in an area designated by the municipality beyond the standard provided at the expense of the municipality generally, and promotion of any area of the municipality as a business of shopping area;
9. The provision of facilities for amusement or for conventions and visitors' bureaus; and
10. The provision of culture and heritage systems.

While there are items that need to be completed prior to establishing a Corporation, such as development of a business case and the articles of incorporation, which are not present with the establishment of a Committee, in my opinion, this would be a worthy investment with the result being a municipally owned corporation that can be as responsive as possible when working to improve the economic future of the Municipality of Temagami.

By adopting the recommendation, Staff can start work on a business case which should be ready for review at the same time as the discussions and direction from the Strategic Plan and Service Delivery Review are nearing completion.

Respectfully Submitted:
Craig Davidson
Treasurer/Administrator