



Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Memo No.
2018-M-012

Memorandum to Council

Staff
 Committee

Subject: Options for remote attendance in Procedure By-law

Agenda Date: March 13, 2018

Attachments:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive Memo 2018-M-012 - Options for remote attendance in Procedure By-law and provide direction on the extent and manner that Council would like to see incorporated in changes to our by-law.

INFORMATION

Bill 68 amended the Municipal Act to allow electronic participation in Council and/or Committee meetings. Section 238, leaves it up to each individual council to determine the extent and manner of such electronic participation. Some items for consideration are as follows:

At which meetings will electronic participation be allowed: Regular Council, Special Meetings, Committee of the Whole?

How often should each member of Council be allowed to participate electronically?

Will there be a limit on the number of consecutive meetings that a member can participate in electronically?

Do Council members get to vote when participating remotely?

If so, how do you count the votes? [If it is not clear how many voted in favour or against, the results of any vote could be contested, since this is new legislation that has not yet been tested in court.]

Would there be restrictions on when they can vote? [For example: If Council goes into closed session, to receive legal advice prior to the vote, those attending electronically cannot participate. Information might be shared in closed session that might have affect the opinion of a member if they had been present to participate. If a vote is taken after returning from closed session, would council members who did not participate in the closed session be able to vote on an item resulting from information/ discussion they were not privy to?]

What would be the process to move an amendment? Or call a point of order? [There is no ability to show a raised hand-would they be allowed to interrupt? Must the Chair ask for amendments?].

How many can participate electronically at one time? [At least a quorum must be present in person, but does Council want to allow 3 members to participate electronically, or less than that?]

How do you decide who gets to participate electronically if more than the allowed number wish to do so?

How much notice would have to be given to the Clerk?

Should advance notice be provided to the public that certain member(s) will be participating electronically?

How do you deal with electronic connections/service interruptions? [This could happen even by telephone. Will there be a limit, for example: “after 10 minutes not connected, the meeting will resume, no more efforts will be taken to reconnect”]

Would the Head of Council, or Acting Head, be allowed to chair the meeting if participating remotely? [Council this be done effectively?]

How will electronic participation be handled when someone has declared a conflict on an item?

Will Council use conference calling (could be a substantial cost) or add additional phone lines to use with the “bat” phone?

How will this affect the ability of people who want to make telephone delegations?

There may be additional questions that Members of Council would like to add to the above list.

Prepared by:

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