



7 December 2009

City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor and Council

Fr: Joanne L. McMillin, City Clerk

Re: Renewal of Marriage Commissioner Contracts

Recommendation:

That Council give three readings to a by-law to authorize the execution of contracts for the provision of Civil Marriage Solemnization Services by the City of Kenora for a further two year period, commencing January 1, 2010.

Background:

In 2007 you may recall Council agreed to contract out Civil Marriage services from the Clerk's office commencing in 2008 for a two year period. With training to be completed, fees to be implemented and approval required from the Ontario Registrar General's office, we were not actually able to offer the service until May, 2008. Statistically, we conducted 20 ceremonies that year and to-date in 2009 we have completed 37 ceremonies, with already 5 ceremonies booked and paid for in 2010 with our two Commissioners. Needless to say our services are becoming more and more popular and the numbers confirm this is a much needed service in our community. Interestingly our Commissioners have performed ceremonies in various areas outside our municipality such as Sioux Narrows, Sioux Lookout as well as several in the immediate unincorporated area.

The two Commissioners on contract are willing to continue for a further two year period under the same terms and conditions as their present contract. At this point I am not recommending any increase to our civil marriage fees as they are in keeping with what is available in our sister-municipalities of Fort Frances and Dryden. The Commissioners are very comfortable with their duties and responsibilities which has come with the experience of each performing a number of ceremonies and we have not had any conflict with not being able to accommodate any requests. I would therefore like to confirm that two Commissioners at the present time is sufficient and would not suggest any more are required at this time. I was even able to perform my first ceremony this fall and because of my comfort level indicated to the Commissioners that I will act as 'back-up' in the event one of them is not available to perform a ceremony.

Budget:

To be included in the 2010/2011 Budget with revenues to off-set annual expenses.

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

Continue to publicly advertise this service, i.e. such as on the Portal.