



22 March 2010

City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor & Council

Fr: Joanne L. McMillin, City Clerk

Re: By-law to Regulate Election Signs

Recommendation:

That Council give three readings to a by-law to regulate election signs in the City of Kenora.

Background:

As a result of the comprehensive review of the City's Sign By-law, it was suggested by the Clerk's Office that the matter of election signs be adopted by Council as a stand-alone by-law. As in past Sign By-laws, there is no charge contemplated for election signs and therefore it is a more simplified process and is best addressed in its own regulatory by-law.

The terms of the by-law are in keeping with many other election sign by-laws in the province, including one sample provided by the AMCTO Election's Team. The by-law addresses municipal election signs as well as signs for federal and provincial election.

Rationale:

Consideration had been given to a permit fee for these signs or a refundable deposit, but this could potentially be problematic from an accounting perspective, as well as being difficult to police due to fees and number of allowable signs, etc., not to mention complaints from candidates who may only post one sign as opposed to others who post numerous ones. As my office does not have the wherewithal to manage this aspect of the election, it is recommended to adopt the by-law without any fees. It should be noted there is a fee required if signs are to be posted on mobile or portable signs, and the City will charge any candidate the cost of removal/disposal of signs should they not be removed after 7 days of the event.

Ultimately this by-law encourages the use of private property for the display of signs rather than public property as you will note in the general prohibitions and the 'timing' section.

The draft has also been reviewed by the City's Solicitor who agrees if we have not had problems in the past with the control and display of signs, then we should continue as we have in the past.

Budget:

N/A

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

N/A