



**31 March 2010**

## **City Council Committee Report**

**To: Mayor & Council**

**Fr: Joanne L. McMillin, City Clerk**

**Re: Various Municipal Election By-laws**

### **Recommendation:**

**That** Council give three readings to the following by-laws in preparation for the upcoming Municipal Elections:

- i) To authorize the use of Vote by Mail for the October 25, 2010 Municipal Election;
- ii) To authorize the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Comprint Systems Inc. (cob as DataFix) for Municipal VoterView (MVV) Services in conjunction with the 2010 Municipal Election;
- iii) To authorize the execution of a contract with Dominion Voting for a ballot scanning and tabulation system.

### **Background:**

#### **Use of Vote by Mail:**

Council is legislated to adopt a by-law to authorize the use of vote by mail in the municipal election, and again this year as done in the last few elections, vote by mail is recommended. With the use of vote by mail there is no requirement for proxy voting or providing for 'advance polling' as essentially there is early and continuous voting available at the Revision Centre (Council Chambers) for approximately two to three weeks prior to Election Day. The vote by mail trend has about doubled Kenora's voter turn-out each election.

#### **Agreement for Election Services:**

In conjunction with the vote by mail system and on an ongoing maintenance basis, the City has had a contract with DataFix for a variety of items associated with the election process for a number of years. For all intents and purposes, this agreement is a continuation of that contract with the addition of various enhancements required during an election year. For example, DataFix will provide the necessary tools for the City to manage the vote by mail system including, but not limited to such things as: web hosting platforms; voter list management; voter kit preparation and mail-out services.

## Page Two

The DataFix contract cost is \$10,880, plus applicable taxes, based on the estimated number of eligible electors of 11,600.

The City will be further responsible for the cost of business reply postage (mail-out/mail-in), which has been estimated for budget purposes at approx. \$10,000.

### **Optical Scanning for Tabulating Results:**

With respect to the rental of optical scanners again, I have been working with the City of Dryden and the Town of Fort Frances as done in 2006 with respect to hiring the same company, Dominion Voting for the leasing of the voting tabulators; which includes cost-sharing for the required training from Dominion. It should be noted that as done in 2006, Dominion Voting is a sole-sourced acquisition as they are the only company compatible with our election management provider, DataFix.

The Dominion contract cost is approx. \$9,970, plus applicable taxes, however there will be other miscellaneous costs associated with the tabulators, such as the use of the audio assist marker device; a device needed to meet the legislative accessible voting requirements, additional memory cards, and various supplies.

### **Other By-laws in Effect:**

The City has in place two fixed by-laws for municipal elections that do not require to be adopted for each event, namely:-

**#82-2000** - authorizes early voting at the required institutions and retirement homes as legislated by the Municipal Elections Act; and

**#46-2006** - authorizes the use of optical scanning vote tabulators for tabulating municipal election results.

### **Budget:**

All items referred to above have been included and approved in the 2010 municipal operating budget.

### **Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:**

**N/A**