



Staff Report to Council - for Direction

Title: Procedural By-law - Term of the Warden and Deputy Warden

From: Linda White, Clerk

Date: September 5, 2024

Report Number: CAO-2024-019

Staff Recommendation:

That the Procedural By-law be amended to change the term of the Warden and Deputy Warden's positions from a one-year term to a two-year term.

Report Summary:

The Striking Committee met on August 1st to review proposed changes to the Procedural By-law. As part of the review, staff brought forward the opportunity to discuss changing the term of the Warden and Deputy Warden from a one-year term to a two-year term.

The Striking Committee did not make a recommendation in this matter, but rather referred the matter to Council for its consideration.

The above recommendation to change to a two-year term for the positions of Warden and Deputy Warden is reflective of the results of the elections held since 2010.

Background/Analysis:

The current governance structure provides for an annual election of the Warden and Deputy Warden positions, resulting in 4 elections being held during each term of council. This structure serves the County well and allows an annual opportunity for the members to be nominated for the position of Warden or Deputy Warden. An annual election also provides an opportunity for the workload of these positions to be shared over the term of council.

However, since 2010, except for 2014, members have served more than one year as Warden. Historical election results:

2010, 2011 Mike Smith

2012, 2013 David Inglis

2014 John Close

2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 Mitch Twolan

2021, 2022 Janice Jackson

2023, 2024 Chris Peabody

Creating a two-year term offers the following advantages:

- Continuity in leadership and government relations
- Benefits from greater experience and expertise
- Allows for longer-term goals to be accomplished
- Eliminates the annual transition period before and after the election
- Reduces staff time holding an annual election and providing orientation

Disadvantages of a two-year term:

- Potential for reduced accountability or loss of interest
- Reduces the opportunity for other members of council to serve

If the report recommendation is approved, a by-law to amend the Procedural By-law will be brought forth at a future council meeting.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are minimal cost savings associated with implementing the recommendation.

Report Author:

Linda White, Clerk

Departmental Approval:

Approved for Submission:

Sean Morphy, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments: None