

Report to Council

Date: 7/14/2025
From: Julia McCaugherty-Jansman, Clerk
Re: Integrity Commissioner Services and Solicitor Options

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford receive for information the report regarding options for Integrity Commissioner Services and legal services;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to bring back Option _____ to the September 8th Committee of the Whole Meeting for further information.

BACKGROUND

The municipality's current Integrity Commissioner is Tony Fleming from Cunningham Swan Lawyers. Tony Fleming is also retained as the municipality's Solicitor. There have been a few discussions surrounding the fact that Mr. Fleming serves as both the Integrity Commissioner and the Solicitor for the municipality. This is a common pattern across various municipalities, but there are proposed changes to the *Municipal Accountability Act*, 2025 which would amend the *Municipal Act* in 2026. The purpose of these changes are to strengthen the municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner framework. Staff are recommending that Council be proactive and evaluate the services provided for integrity commissioner services and legal services of the municipality and determine a path forward. Council reserves the right to evaluate the current services provided by the Integrity Commissioner and the Village Solicitor and to provide direction to staff on how they wish to proceed.

ANALYSIS

There are three (3) options for Committee to discuss and consider:

Option 1: Direct staff to maintain current legal services and keep Tony Fleming as the municipality's Solicitor and opt to retain a new Integrity Commissioner. This would mean that staff would explore options of retaining a new Integrity Commissioner for the Village.

Option 2: Direct staff to maintain the current integrity commissioner services and keep Tony Fleming retained as the municipality's Integrity Commissioner. This would mean that staff would explore options of retaining a new Solicitor for the Village.

Option 3: Direct staff to explore options of a new Integrity Commissioner and a new Solicitor.

BUDGET/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There is currently no budget impact.

CONCLUSION

Staff are requesting that all options are discussed and that direction is provided on which Option to proceed with to bring back to Council for further discussion.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

Submitted by:

Julia McCaugherty-Jansman, Clerk

Approved by:

Darlene Plumley, CAO