



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

REPORT

Item No.

REPORT TO: Reeve Vincent and Members of Council
PREPARED BY: Kathy Adams, Clerk
DATE: 17/07/2017
SUBJECT: Civil Marriage Officiant
ATTACHMENTS: Letter McDowell

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby approve the appointment of Alice McDowell as a Marriage Officiant for the Township of North Huron effective September 5, 2017;

AND FURTHER THAT the Clerk amend By-law No. 10-2017 – A By-law to authorize Civil Marriage Solemnization Services by the Township of North Huron to include the appointment of Alice McDowell as a Marriage Officiant for the Township of North Huron effective September 5, 2017.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September of 2004, the Minister of Consumer and Business Services announced that changes to the regulations under the Marriage Act through O. Reg 285/04, authorized the Clerks of local municipalities to perform civil marriages. Previously, only Judges and Justices of the Peace were allowed to solemnize civil marriages. In addition, should a municipality choose to provide this service, the Clerk has the ability to delegate the responsibility to perform these marriages to any person, other than a member of council, under the authority of Subsection 228(4) of the Municipal Act.

DISCUSSION

In 2005 Council passed a by-law (amended) which authorized the Clerk to solemnize civil marriages and to delegate the responsibility to perform ceremonies to other individuals.

At the January 23, 2017 Council Meeting, an amending By-law was passed to remove the appointment of one of the Marriage Officiants as they no longer wished to provide this service to the Township. We currently have one individual appointed by By-law to perform ceremonies.

A letter was received on July 4, 2017 from Alice McDowell expressing her interest in being appointed as an Officiant for the Township. Ms. McDowell will be taking the Marriage Officiant course in August.

Pending Council's approval to proceed with this appointment, a By-law to amend the current By-law delegating authority to this individual will be prepared for Council's consideration and approval at the September 5, 2017 Council Meeting.

We currently charge a fee of \$250.00 to conduct a civil marriage ceremony with \$100.00 of this fee paid to the delegate performing the ceremony.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2016 budget reflected a revenue of \$4,500.00 to the Township for providing civil marriage services with an expenditure of \$1,800.00 to pay our Marriage Officiants to perform ceremonies.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

None for consideration at this time.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #4 – The Clerk's Department is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence.



Kathy Adams, Clerk



Larry McGregor,
Interim CAO/Director of Public Works