

STAFF REPORT: Administration



REPORT TO: Finance and Administration
MEETING DATE: August 18, 2009
REPORT NO.: A.09.09
SUBJECT: Town Hall Meeting
PREPARED BY: Stephen Keast, Clerk

A. Recommendations

THAT the Finance and Administration Committee receive Staff Report A.09.09, "Town Hall Meeting" and give direction as to organization and format of The Blue Mountains Town Hall Meeting.

B. Background

On June 24, 2009, the Committee considered to revisions to the Procedural By-law that included a reference to an annual Public Meeting/Forum on Council Priorities based on a similar meeting annually organized by Wasaga Beach.

The Committee concurred to delete the meeting reference from the Procedural By-law and consider the organization of such a meeting on a stand-alone basis. The deleted meeting reference is as follows:

3.0 Locations, Meeting Times and Notice

3. Council shall have an annual special meeting known as The Blue Mountains Public Meeting/Forum on Council Priorities at the Beaver Valley Community Centre or other designated location. This Public Meeting/Forum shall be organized prior to the annual Service Delivery Review and Budget preparation process. At the Public Meeting/Forum members of the public will first be provided with an overview of Town operations and Committee activities and initiatives over the previous year and proposed for the coming year. The Public Meeting/Forum will then field questions and hear suggestions from the public regarding future operations and initiatives. The Public Meeting/Forum will then have a break-out session with tables identified by Committee to further hear suggestions and take questions on a one-one basis with Committee members and Town Staff. The Chair will make clear that public complaints will not be taken or addressed during the initial phase of the Public Meeting/Forum and that a dedicated complaints table will be available during the break-out session. Suggestions and questions received at the Public Meeting/Forum will then be considered by Council and Staff during the annual Service Delivery Review and Budget preparation process.

Among other comments on June 24, the Committee noted any such meeting should be considered more of a Town Hall Meeting with residents, should feature an independent moderator, should be separate from any Council meeting considering priorities and should be further discussed and refined with stakeholder groups to gauge acceptance of the proposal.

The Committee could now consider the matter further and give direction as to organization and format of The Blue Mountains Town Hall Meeting.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Providing a strong, well-managed municipal government.

D. Environmental Impacts

None

E. Budget Impact

None

F. Attached

None

Respectfully submitted,

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