

Staff Report 2022-0143

Meeting Date: April 19, 2022

Subject: Proposed By-law to Establish, Maintain and Operate the Town's Fire and Emergency Services and to Repeal By-law 2021-61

Submitted By: Dave Forfar, Fire Chief, Fire and Emergency Services

RECOMMENDATION

That a By-law be enacted to establish, maintain and operate the Town's Fire and Emergency Services and to repeal By-law 2021-61; and

That the requirement for a Public Open House pursuant to the Town's Public Notice Policy for the purpose of soliciting public input regarding the enactment of the proposed By-law, be waived.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Fire Protection in Ontario is mandated and is a municipal responsibility.
- It is the responsibility of municipal councils to be familiar with general fire protection requirements, practices and procedures (i.e. The Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997).
- Where a municipality establishes and maintains a fire department, it is required that an "Establishing and Regulating Bylaw" be created.
- The draft By-law is consistent with the recommendations of the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management and is comparable with other municipal fire department establishing and regulating By-laws

DISCUSSION

Fire Protection in Ontario is Provincially mandated and is a municipal responsibility. It is the responsibility of municipal councils to be familiar with general fire protection requirements, practices and procedures (i.e. The Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997). Where a municipality establishes and maintains a fire department, it is required that a By-law be enacted to set out the duties of the Fire Department with respect to the establishment, maintenance and operation of the service.

On July 13, 2021, Council enacted By-law 2021-61, being a by-law to Establish and Regulate a Fire Department. The By-law was enacted in response to the Fire Master Plan and the completion of a Community Risk Assessment. After further review, and to remediate administrative discrepancies, it is being recommended to repeal and replace By-law 2021-61.

Staff Report 2022-0143

A highlight of revised changes includes but is not limited to the following:

- Removal of the 'Assistant Deputy Fire Chief' position,
- Separating out Fire Prevention and Public Fire and Life Safety Education into its own sections
- Modifications to Core Services outlined in Schedule A to the proposed by-law

The proposed by-law is consistent with the recommendations of the Office of the Fire Marshal and is comparable with other municipal fire department establishing and regulating by-laws.

Due to the level of public consultation that formed part of the preparation of the final Fire Master Plan, staff are recommending waiving the requirement to host an Open House Meeting to solicit public input as per the Town's Public Notice Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications associated with this report.

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Improved Service Delivery – Update and standardize by-laws, including implementation, to meet the best practices of other municipalities

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule A: Proposed Fire Department Establishing, Maintaining and Operating By-law