

**Report from** Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk

**Date of Report:** January 10, 2017

**Date of Meeting:** January 25, 2017

**Report Number:** LCS-B002-2017

**File:** 10.50.99

**Subject:** Municipal Election Expenses – cost sharing with the Region of Niagara

## Recommendation

That the BSC receive the information contained in Report LCS-B002-2017 Municipal Election Expenses, cost sharing with the Region of Niagara; and

That the Clerk be directed to continue to work with the Regional Clerk as it relates to cost and in-kind sharing with the Region of Niagara for the 2018 Municipal Election.

## Summary

This report contains the findings from Regional government staff relating to the sharing of municipal election costs.

## Background

At the Budget Standing Committee on December 13, 2016, the Committee asked staff to send a letter from the Budget Standing Committee (BSC) to the Region of Niagara requesting consideration of shared election expenses.

Further the BSC asked staff to report back regarding other region's practices in this regard.

## Report

Staff forwarded emails to the Regional Clerks offices in Durham, Halton, Peel, Waterloo and York regions.

Staff asked if they (the above-noted regions) provide any financial or in-kind assistance to the municipalities; given the new legislation prescribes directly elected Chairs in all regions, are there any discussions taking place about this and what provisions will be offered to municipalities; and if you do contribute financially what formula do you use to determine the amount. Staff took advantage of this opportunity to gather other information and asked other questions related to where the regional councillors and chairs will file their nomination papers, and who will ultimately be responsible for determining their financial expenditures and who will review their campaign finances after the election.

Waterloo and Durham Region responded at the time of writing this report. Peel Region will be meeting with the municipalities to consider the new directly elected chair and its impact on the municipalities. They will be forwarding their response at a later date. None of the two respondents provided any financial resources for municipalities running their elections, however, some in-kind assistance was provided. Neither reported any plans for cost sharing for the 2018 election at this time.

For Council's information only, staff have had informal discussions with the Regional Clerk in Niagara about this request from the BSC and the Clerk will be meeting with the Regional Clerk to discuss this further.

## **Financial Implications**

Not applicable

## **Conclusion**

At this time staff recommend that these discussions take place following Regional Council's consideration of the dual duty councillors for St. Catharines.

**Prepared by:** Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, City Clerk

**Submitted & Approved by:** Heather Salter, Interim, Director of Legal and Clerks Services, City Clerk