

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

Date of Report: November 13, 2017 **Date of Meeting:** November 20, 2017

Report Number: LCS-B056-2017 **File:** 10.50.6

Subject: Dominion Voting Services Leasing Agreement

Recommendation

That the Budget Standing Committee support the increased amount of \$15,485, plus taxes (for one election) and that this be added to the Elections Budget for 2018; and

That the Budget Standing Committee support that staff enter into a lease agreement with Dominion Voting Inc. (DV) at the negotiated price; and

That the Budget Standing Committee support the transition to a provincial lease should the price provided from the province is more advantageous; and

That the Budget Standing Committee refer this report to Council for early approval; and

Further, that the City Solicitor prepare the necessary documents.

Background

On May 1, 2017 Council authorized the City Clerk to use optical vote scanning equipment, and that the equipment, in this case vote tabulators, be supplied by Dominion Voting (DV) through Elections Ontario, when that is made available.

At the time of this reporting the best information about the availability of the tabulators was October, 2017. Staff have been in discussion with DV, as time has lapsed, they have offered to enter into lease agreements for a two (2) election contract with municipalities across the province at a reduced rate. When the Province is prepared to lease their tabulators to the municipalities and should the cost be lower than DV could offer, the lease can be transitioned to the Province for the tabulators and DV will provide support to the municipalities.

Report

During the preparation of the 2018 Operating Budget staff were advised by DV that the provincial leasing number would be advantageous to the municipalities and to meet the BSC's guidelines for budget preparation, staff made a conscientious decision to

decrease the number for the 2018 leasing agreement with DV to \$90,000 as the discussions at that time presumed this amount would suffice.

Staff contacted DV once again as it is felt that it is time to enter into an agreement for tabulators sooner rather than later as to not have an issue obtaining the number of tabulators required to run an efficient election. During the most recent discussion, this new price was negotiated if St. Catharines signs an agreement for a two (2) election lease for the tabulators. Potentially, this lease could transition to the province should the province offer a reduced rate. The draft agreement stipulates this so the City of St. Catharines is not tied into an agreement that locks in DV's price.

Financial Implications

The amount that is being requested at this time is \$15,485 (plus taxes) to be included in the rental portion of the 2018 Election operating budget.

Conclusion

Staff support entering into an agreement at this time to ensure that the equipment and staff support from DV is available at the time of the Municipal Election.

Prepared by:

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Submitted & Approved by:

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