



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Corporate Report

Report from Economic Development and Customer Service, Office of the City Clerk

Date of Report: April 16, 2013

Date of Meeting: April 29, 2013

Report Number: EDCS-113-2013

File: 10.50.99

Subject: DataFix – Memorandum of Understanding

Recommendation

That Council direct staff to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DataFix for Municipal VoterView (MVV) List Management Services to support the 2014 election; and

That the City Solicitor be directed to prepare the necessary by-law. FORTHWITH

Summary

This report is to ask Council to enter into a MOU with DataFix for MVV List Management Services to support the 2014 municipal election in St. Catharines.

Background

On November 30, 2009, City Council authorized the rental agreement for the CF200 Poll Count Tabulation System from Dominion Voting Systems for the 2010 and 2014 Municipal and School Board Elections. Dominion Voting Systems has partnered with DataFix for the provision of the election management software for MVV.

MVV is an internet-based application designed to provide municipal election officials with an electronic view of their electoral information including the ability to make corrections to the voters list, to access various voter counts needed for electoral planning, and the capability to provide an electronic copy of all changes to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) at the end of the electoral event.

Report

The MOU is intended to identify and confirm the service levels and support technology requirements of the MVV application.

Within the MOU DataFix declares that the MVV application complies with all applicable requirements for provincial and municipal election laws.

The basic software allows:

- Internet Voter Lookup - allows municipal voters to check to see if they are registered to vote
- Mobile/electronic voter strikeoff - is a Windows application that enables the municipality to use the electronic voter strike-off capabilities of MVV at off-site locations. MVV Mobile provided backup capabilities in the event that Internet connectivity is unavailable or lost during an advance poll. Once connection is restored the updates will be uploaded.
- Enhanced electronic Worker Management System - provides the tools necessary to manage all aspects of the list of workers employed by the municipality as part of the 2014 election process.

Staff has participated in a webinar (these will be on-going throughout this year) that DataFix hosted that provided an update of all the new upgrades, here are a few that are now available:

- Extract Service – this provides additional functionality to save and load templates based on the user's selection criteria
- “enhanced” worker management – allows the municipality to monitor the recruitment, scheduling and associated pay requirements for workers hired to support the election
- Suite of new reports – recorded electors by age; recorded electors by location/hour; recorded electors by location and date

At this time staff is recommending that we enter into this MOU and begin working on the data that is available ‘in-house’ (ie: deceased records, tax records).

Entering into this MOU at this time will give staff an opportunity to begin updating and cleansing the data prior to MPAC running the preliminary list of electors which is available in July of 2014. It is staff's feeling that beginning early we can lessen the number of residents that will need to attend City Hall to declare their corrections.

Most municipalities in the Region use this software continuously. All the participating municipalities feel the on-going attention to the upgrades of the list has been extremely positive. As well there is an overall sense that the recent upgrades are an excellent addition to the basic software package.

Financial Implications

Council approved the cost of the software in the 2014 Operating Budget. There are no additional financial implications. Within (20) twenty days of signing the MOU \$5,100 must be paid to DataFix and an additional \$5,100 in January and November of the 2014 election year.

Conclusion

Staff is recommending the purchase of DataFix MVV software at this time for the reasons outlined in the report.

Notification

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