

Supplemental Report – Governance Review – Other Bodies – Board of Revision

ISSUE

The Leadership Team Governance Subcommittee (the “Governance Subcommittee”) tabled a report at the May 19, 2020 meeting of the Governance and Priorities Committee (“GPC”) making recommendations with a view to improve the governance and function of the Board of Revision (“BOR”). GPC resolved that the report be forwarded to the BOR members for their review and comment. This report presents the engagement results.

In addition, this report provides an update regarding the potential for a Provincial board of revision and recommends repeal of a historical policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend to City Council that Policy No, C01-011, *Remuneration – Members of Board of Revision* be repealed.

BACKGROUND

This report is intended to be considered alongside the companion report “Governance Review – Other Bodies – Board of Revision”, which was tabled with GPC on May 19, 2020. The detailed history of this matter is described in that report.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

a. Engagement with BOR

The Governance Subcommittee shared the May 19, 2020 “Governance Review – Other Bodies – Board of Revision” report with the BOR for review and comment. The Core Committee of the Governance Subcommittee met with the members of the BOR via telephone on May 21, 2020 to discuss the report contents and field any questions. BOR members were encouraged to submit written comments to ensure that the comments heard during the meeting would not be misinterpreted or misrepresented. The BOR was also encouraged to submit a request to speak at the August meeting of GPC.

The BOR members’ written feedback is attached to this report as Appendix 1. In general, current BOR members appear to be supportive of the Governance Subcommittee’s recommendations. The largest debate concerns the suitability of some of the proposed qualifications criteria; in particular, the inclusion of previous real estate and property assessment or appraisal experience. While interpreted this way, the proposed list of qualifications was not intended to be presented in order of priority. Suggestions for the inclusion of other qualifications were also provided; namely, experience in statistical analysis and modelling and basic micro-economics. More than

one BOR member commented on the importance of decision writing. Likewise, the importance of proper training and remuneration were also recognized by BOR members. Specific training opportunities were identified for consideration as outlined in the attached comments.

b. Update – Potential Provincial Board of Revision

Bill 194, *The Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, 2019*, which proposed various amendments to *The Cities Act* as discussed in the May 19, 2020 report, received Royal Assent on July 3, 2020. The following amendments were included:

- The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations relating to the appointment of, training and qualifications of members of a board of revision. Regulations may also be made prescribing rules for a board of revision. This amendment is effective upon the date of Royal Assent (subsection 192(12)).
- New section 193.1(1) allows the Lieutenant Governor in Council to establish a Provincial Office of the Registrar for the purposes of receiving, reviewing and processing appeals for any board of revision. In doing so, the Minister may outfit the Registrar with any supplies or employees to carry out the duties of that Office. The rules of how such an Office would function will be prescribed in the regulations. This amendment is effective upon Order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.
- The Lieutenant Governor in Council may establish a Provincial board of revision for any city whose members would be required to meet defined qualifications and complete the prescribed training. This amendment is effective upon Order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council (new section 194.1).

It remains unclear whether the Province will actually establish a Provincial board of revision and whether Saskatoon would be required to use that Provincial board of revision or whether it will be allowed to continue status quo if one is established. No information has been shared about the regulations or their contents.

c. Policy No. C01-011, *Remuneration – Members of Board of Revision*

Subsequent to tabling the May 19, 2020 report, the Core Committee identified that Policy No. C01-011, *Remuneration – Members Board of Revision* should be repealed as part of this update process. This Policy was passed in 1989 and has not been updated since that time. A copy of this Policy is attached to this report as Appendix 2 for ease of reference.

Given the age of the Policy, the fact that it has not been updated to reflect subsequent City Council resolutions regarding the BOR's remuneration, and the fact that it does not reflect the requirements of *The Cities Act* (contemplates members of City Council as members of the BOR, which is prohibited), it is recommended that the Policy be repealed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications resulting from implementation of the recommendations to improve the governance and function of the BOR are as described in the main report “Governance Review – Other Bodies – Board of Revision” tabled at the May 19, 2020 meeting of GPC.

NEXT STEPS

The Governance Subcommittee will continue to research, report and implement decisions as City Council directs throughout the governance review project. The Governance Subcommittee will also continue to monitor any developments associated with implementation of the recent amendments to *The Cities Act* and report as needed.

APPENDICES

1. Comments Received from the Board of Revision Members
2. Policy No. C01-011, *Remuneration – Members Board of Revision*

Report Approval

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