

Bylaw 34-2017, Boards and Committees Honorarium Bylaw (New)**Report Purpose**

To give three readings to a bylaw that proposes to prescribe honoraria payable to citizen members of Council Committees.

Recommendation

1. THAT Bylaw 34-2017, the Boards and Committees Honorarium Bylaw, be given first reading;
2. THAT Bylaw 34-2017 be given second reading;
3. THAT Bylaw 34-2017 be considered for third reading; and
4. THAT Bylaw 34-2017 be given third reading.

Council History

December 8, 1998 - Council passed resolution 698/98 prescribing remuneration to be paid to public members of boards and committees.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: n/a

Governance: Prescribing honoraria paid to residents serving on Council Committees increases transparency for residents.

Social: Prescribing honoraria will help ensure that residents who want to serve on Council Committees are not prohibited from doing so by incidental costs related to such service.

Culture: n/a

Environment: n/a

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: Section 145 of the MGA provides that Council may pass bylaws in relation to the establishment and functions of council committees as well as to procedure and conduct.

Interdepartmental: The proposed effective date for the Boards and Committees Honorarium Bylaw is January 1, 2018, which will allow departments sufficient time to budget for paying the honoraria.

Summary

As part of a Boards and Committees management process review, Legislative and Legal Services examined practices related to remuneration paid to public members of boards and committees in Strathcona County and other municipalities in the region. Currently, there is no consistent practice for remuneration to public members of Strathcona County Council boards and committees. To ensure consistency across all Council boards and committees, and to ensure honoraria paid are regionally consistent, Legislative and Legal Services recommends passing Bylaw 34-2017, the Boards and Committees Honorarium Bylaw.

Certain Council Committees act in an advisory capacity to Council and do not have delegated decision making power. The Council Committees that fall into this classification and have citizens as members include: Community Living Advisory Committee, Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee, Energy Exploration Advisory Committee, and Finance Advisory Committee. Honoraria paid to the public members of these Council Committees is intended to offset any incidental costs related to service and attendance at meetings, such as parking, mileage, and childcare.

The Agricultural Services Board acts in an advisory capacity to Council, but it also has certain decision making powers. Accordingly, in addition to offsetting members' incidental costs, the honorarium should recognize the contribution of these members in their decision making capacity for the County.

Certain Council Committees act in a quasi-judicial capacity and make decisions in accordance with natural justice, procedure fairness and applicable legislation. These bodies are responsible for adjudicating hearings and thus the committee positions require a specific set of skills, knowledge, and training. The Council Committees that fall into this classification include: Assessment Review Board, Bylaw Enforcement Order Review Committee, General Appeals and Review Committee, and Subdivision and Development Appeal Board. Accordingly, in addition to offsetting members' incidental costs, the honorarium acknowledges the contribution of these members.

Enclosure 1 to this report is the proposed Boards and Committees Honorarium Bylaw and sets out when and to whom an honorarium is payable. The bylaw also prescribes the rates using a schedule. Enclosure 2 to this report sets out rates currently paid by Strathcona County, and rates paid by other municipalities for members of the public serving in similar capacities. Based on the information in Enclosure 2, modest increases in the rates paid to members of the County's quasi-judicial boards and committees are proposed in the Boards and Committees Honorarium Bylaw.

Enclosure

- 1 Bylaw 34-2017 - Boards and Committees Honorarium Bylaw
- 2 Honorarium Rates
- 3 Honorarium Presentation