



Staff Report

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Report To:	General Government Committee		
Date of Meeting:	January 4, 2021	Report Number:	LGS-002-21
Submitted By:	Rob Maciver, Director of Legislative Services		
Reviewed By:	Andrew C. Allison, CAO	Resolution#:	
File Number:		By-law Number:	
Report Subject:	Ward Boundary Review – Final Report		

Recommendations:

1. That Report LGS-002-21 be received;
2. That the Final Report on Clarington's Ward Boundary Review, of Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., be received;
3. That, should Committee wish to change Clarington's Ward Boundaries, Council directs Staff to prepare a by-law for the January 18, 2020 Council meeting for Ward Boundary Option _____; and
4. That all interested parties listed in Report LGS-002-21 and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

Report Overview

This Report provides background information on Clarington's Ward Boundary Review, including the final report from the consultants and public engagement. The final report includes recommendations from the Consultants, based on information gathered to date, on different options for ward boundaries within Clarington. This Report also contains information on the next steps of the project.

1. Background

Council Direction

- 1.1 In November, 2016, arising out of [Report CLD-036-16](#), Council approved the following Resolution #GG-574-16:
 - That Report CLD-036-16 be received;
 - That Council authorize a ward boundary review;
 - That the ward boundary review be undertaken by Staff in 2019 such that any recommended ward boundary changes may be considered by Council such that they can be in effect for the 2022 Municipal Elections;
 - That all interested parties be advised of Council's decision.
- 1.2 In 2019, the Provincial government undertook a Regional Governance Review project which may have resulted in an effect on Clarington and ultimately the ward boundary review. As a result, the Ward Boundary Review was delayed until after the release of the Regional Governance Review, which took place October 25, 2019. The Review did not affect Clarington, so the Ward Boundary Review proceeded.
- 1.3 Since there was a delay between 2016 and 2020, Staff canvassed other municipalities to gather an understanding of work involved and possible costs. As a result, it was determined that Staff do not have the experience or resources to undertake the review in-house.
- 1.4 Based on the review, Staff estimated that costs had increased since 2016 (from \$50,000 to \$65,000), Staff included the item in the 2020 Budget with a recommendation to use \$50,000 from the Election Reserve and \$15,000 from tax levy. This matter was approved at the March 2, 2020 Council meeting, as part of the budget.

- 1.5 With the approval of [Report COD-014-20](#) on May 4, 2020, regarding the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Ward Boundary Review, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd (Watson) were awarded the contract.
- 1.6 Watson submitted their [interim report](#) as part of [Report CLD-014-20](#) to the Joint Committees Meeting of September 14, 2020, which was received for information.

2. Next Steps

- 2.1 Based on the recommendations contained in Watson's Final Report (Attachment 1), Council may choose to either:
 - Adopt one of the proposed options and direct Staff to prepare a by-law for the January 18, 2020 Council meeting; or
 - Direct the Consultants to prepare a different option (NOTE: This work is outside of the scope of the RFP and would require further funds.); or
 - Direct the Consultants to obtain further public engagement (NOTE: This work is outside of the scope of the RFP and would require further funds.); or
 - Receive the report for information (resulting in an end to the Ward Boundary Review process).
- 2.2 Should Council decide to make a change to the Clarington ward boundaries, and the by-law is passed at the January 18, 2021 Council, and if there is no appeal, the end of the appeal period will be complete by the third week of March. If there is a delay in Council's consideration of the final report, or passing a by-law, or there is an appeal, the process is lengthened.
- 2.3 As noted in Report CLD-014-020, although legislatively, any changes to ward boundaries need to be in place prior to December 31, 2021, realistically any changes need to be in place (including the appeal period) by May 1, 2021 in time for planning of the 2022 municipal elections. This timing is necessary because the Clerk's Procedures for the Municipal Elections must be in place prior to December 31, 2021, in accordance with the *Municipal Act*. The creation of the Clerk's Procedures will be more of a "from scratch" approach due to the switch to internet/telephone voting and therefore will take time to research and develop.

3. Concurrence

Not Applicable.

4. Conclusion

It is respectfully recommended that Council provide direction on what action to take regarding the recommendations on the Ward Boundary Review.

Staff Contact: June Gallagher, Municipal Clerk, 905-623-3379 ext. 2102 or jgallagher@clarington.net.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Ward Boundary Review – Final Report from Watson

Interested Parties:

Persons subscribed to the webpage, www.clarington.net/wardboundaryreview

Committees and Groups that took an interest in the process, or participated in the consultation process:

- Agricultural Advisory Committee of Clarington
- Clarington's Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Clarington's Diversity Advisory Committee
- Bowmanville Older Adult Association