



REQUEST FOR DECISION

File # 4200-20

Report To: Mayor and Council
From: Director of Legislative and Administrative Services
Presenter: Director of Legislative and Administrative Services
Subject: Administration Report No. 0202/17
2017 By-Election Official Results
Meeting: Special Open Council Meeting
Meeting Date: 22 Sep 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

"THAT, the official results of the 2017 Local Government By-Election be received."

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Support recommendation with a thanks to Election staff.

KEY ISSUES(S)/ CONCEPTS DEFINED: To formally receive the by-election results in accordance with the *Local Government Act*.

RELEVANT POLICY: *Local Government Act*

ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION: None

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC GOALS: A vibrant and diversified economy where local businesses are retained and business opportunities are expanded; citizens' interests are represented and promoted efficiently through political and economic spheres; and the vitality of downtown is maintained and enhanced as a commercial and cultural destination.

A safe, healthy, active and family-friendly community.

A planned and sustainable community where community infrastructure is well-maintained to meet the needs of both current and future generations; the natural environment is preserved, protected and enhanced; and where municipal spending and tax policies are affordable and sustainable over time.

COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: N/A

GENERAL:

The City held a by-election on September 9, 2017 to replace Councillor Davies who resigned due to being elected as an MLA for the Province of BC.

The voter turnout was 1,120 which translates into 7.32% of the estimated number of eligible voters (15,287). This voter turnout was less than the 2006 By-Election which was 1,186 equaling 9.09%. The population increase between 2006 and 2017 was 2,242.

The polls were steady all day for the number of election staff scheduled although the number of staff was less than what would be scheduled for a general election. A complement of seven experienced election staff with the addition of three new poll clerks were part of succession planning. The City is fortunate that there are experienced and competent election staff that make the voting process quick, fun and painless!

Facebook comments after the election indicated that many residents were unaware of the by-election taking place. By-election advertising included physical signage located at City Hall and Centennial Park; electronic signage at the North Peace Leisure Pool and Pomeroy Sport Centre; Facebook/website posts and event notices; radio and newspaper ads; and advertising in the PSC building. The Lido and Moose FM co-hosted the All Candidates Forum since the Chamber was unable to do this as two members from their organization were candidates. Comments were made about the forum being scheduled on the last day of the advance polls although from a corporate point of view, it is greatly appreciated that these two businesses provided this event.

Many people in the oil and gas industry subscribe to Sirius radio due to connectivity problems with local stations when in rural industrial locations. This could be one reason why some residents were unaware of the by-election because they are not listening to local radio.

In the next year, staff will be brainstorming additional ways to get the

message out that there is an election taking place and perhaps incentives to vote.

One misconceived perception is that voting takes a long time to complete and electors could be basing this on experiences at the provincial and federal elections since it does take longer at these polls. The average time that it took a voter to complete voting is a total of six minutes. Fort St. John has same day registration so if an elector has two pieces of ID one of which has the current address, registering is quick and easy. It would take longer for the elector to drive to and from the voting place than it does to vote.

The other misconceived perception is that their vote does not count when in actuality every elector's vote counts. Imagine if every person who thought that would have voted in the last federal, provincial, municipal elections - who knows what the outcomes would have been. Unfortunately voter apathy continues to rise for all elections.

Councillor Elect Hansen's term is from September 2017 to October 2018 and the local government general election will take place on October 20, 2018.

ORGANIZATIONAL:

FINANCIAL: The by-election was funded from the election reserve account.

FOLLOW UP ACTION: Councillor Hansen completed her Oath of Office earlier in today's meeting.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION: N/A

COMMUNICATION: N/A

OTHER COMMENTS:

Attachments:
Official Election Results

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Janet Prestley, Director of Legislative and Administrative Services
11 Sep 2017



Form No. 6-3

Local Government Act
Section 146(2)(a)

DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BY-ELECTION – 2017

COUNCILLOR

I, Janet Prestley, Chief Election Officer, do hereby declare elected, Lilia Hansen, who received the highest number of valid votes for the office of Councillor.

Dated at Fort St. John, BC
this 11th day of September, 2017



Janet Prestley
Chief Election Officer

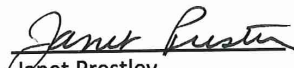


2017 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BY-ELECTION
September 9, 2017
OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

COUNCILLORS	Advance Voting	General Voting	General Voting	TOTAL NUMBER OF VALID VOTES CAST
Nearhood, Edwina	89	68	79	236
Vincent, Randy	4	9	6	19
Grimsrud, Becky	68	72	102	242
Dettling, Cindy	71	29	62	162
Hansen, Lilia	71	86	99	256
Flury, Christopher	39	32	77	148
Wilkinson, Barry	24	18	14	56

Calculated May 2017

Estimated Number of Eligible Voters	15, 287
Voter Turnout	1,120
%	7.32%


 Janet Prestley
 Chief Election Officer
 September 11, 2017