



# **Committee Report**

## **The Blue Mountains**

### **Accountability and Transparency Committee**

**Date:** Monday, November 25, 2024  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Virtual Meeting, Teams  
**Prepared By:**  
Carrie Fairley, Legislative Coordinator

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#### **Accountability and Transparency Committee Recommendations**

Note: The following are recommendations from the Accountability and Transparency Committee to be considered for adoption by Council:

#### **D. Matters for Discussion**

##### **D.2 Corporate Strategic Task Force Update**

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information and consideration, the following recommendation from the Accountability and Transparency Committee dated November 25, 2024:

THAT the Accountability and Transparency Committee requests a copy of the Staff Report regarding the current and expiring Strategic Plan, be provided to this Committee, when available. CARRIED.

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information and consideration, the following recommendation from the Accountability and Transparency Committee dated November 25, 2024:

THAT the Accountability and Transparency Committee requests Council to review the suggested reporting format provided by Councillor Ardiel and Chair Porter provided at the October 31, 2024, Strategic Task Force meeting for updating the current and expiring Strategic Plan. CARRIED.

### **D.3 Lobbyist Registry**

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information and consideration, the following recommendation from the Accountability and Transparency Committee dated November 25, 2024:

THAT the Accountability and Transparency Committee requests that Council direct staff to publish the training video from the Lobbyist Registrar's training being held on November 26, 2024, in the Lobbyist Registry's section on the website.

AND THAT the Accountability and Transparency Committee request Council to direct staff to exam additional means of communication for educating the public and promoting the Lobbyist Registry including the potential for the creation of a tutorial video. CARRIED.

### **D.4 Corrina Giles, Town Clerk, Re: Update Regarding Timeline for Council Code of Conduct (Verbal)**

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information and consideration, the following recommendation from the Accountability and Transparency Committee November 25, 2024:

THAT the Accountability and Transparency Committee strongly encourage Council to direct staff to review and update the Council Staff Relationship Protocol Policy in conjunction with the Council Code of Conduct, and the Staff Code of Conduct to foster and create a safe and constructive environment. CARRIED.

### **D.7 Communicating Town Priorities Through the Lens of Accountability and Transparency, Re: Committee Mandate and Recommendations**

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information and consideration, the following recommendation from the Accountability and Transparency Committee dated November 25, 2024:

THAT the Accountability and Transparency Committee recommends that elected members and staff proactively seek out more opportunities to communicate to residents and stakeholders the Town's commitment to transparency and accountability by, for example and not limited to:

- A) consistently and strategically using the quarterly Town News to educate residents on the Town's big issues and strategic priorities (housing, infrastructure, etc.). The monthly online newsletter also offers a platform for elected officials including the mayor and for appropriate senior staffers to inform and educate the public;
- B) creating a dedicated website section on Accountability and Transparency, featuring the Codes of Conduct for staff and council; the Lobbyist Registry

section; the Accountability and Transparency of Town Actions to the Public Policy; and the Freedom of Information page. CARRIED.

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information and consideration, the following recommendation from the Accountability and Transparency Committee dated November 25, 2024:

THAT the Accountability and Transparency Committee cannot effectively discharge its responsibilities to provide recommendations unless its input takes place prior to Council consideration and decision making i.e. voting. Given that this Committee consists of 3 elected Members this would place the committee in the position of advising on matters its 3 elected members, absent the independent public members, had already discussed or voted on.

THEREFORE the Accountability and Transparency Committee recommends that where Council and staff seek its views through the lens of transparency and accountability that these matters be brought to it in a timely fashion, i.e. early in the process so that Council and staff can consider, i.e. accept or reject, its recommendations. CARRIED.

## **G. On-going and Continuous Monitoring of Accountability and Transparency Trends and Issues**

### **G.1 Freedom of Information (FOI), Re: The Town's FOI Information**

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information and consideration, the following recommendation from the Accountability and Transparency Committee dated November 25, 2024:

THAT The Accountability and Transparency Committee requests Council to direct staff to modify the Town's current website page on Freedom of Information to include annual FOI reporting data. This data is currently available on the website of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario. CARRIED.