

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MUSKOKA LAKES
MINUTES - MUSKOKA COMPLIANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, July 29, 2015

A Meeting of the Muskoka Compliance Audit Committee was held on Wednesday, July 29, 2015, at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers, Municipal Offices, Port Carling, Ontario.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Bob Panizza, Chair
Joan A. Pajunen, Vice Chair
Sandra Monette

**TOWNSHIP OF MUSKOKA
LAKES OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Cheryl Mortimer - Clerk
Wendy Oliver - IT Coordinator

1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chair Panizza at 9:00 a.m.

2. Disclosure of Interest

- a. There were no disclosures made.

3. Consideration of Applications for a Compliance Audit

a. Review Committee Mandate

1. The Chair reviewed the Committee mandate along with the legislative and timeline requirements of the Municipal Elections Act.

b. Compliance Audit Applications

1. Chair to summarize application(s)

The Chair reviewed the process and requested the applicant to present his requests.

2. Chair to request the Applicant or Applicant's Agent and Candidate or Candidate's Agent to identify themselves

Mr. Alan Gill, Applicant, Mr. Don Furniss, Candidate, Mr. Gault McTaggart, Candidate, Ms. Jean-Ann Baranik, Candidate, Ms. Linda Barrick-Spearn, Candidate, Mr. W. Ron Brent, Candidate, and Mr. Greg Knight, Candidate, identified themselves.

3. Applicant or Applicant's Agent deputation(s)

Mr. Alan Gill, Applicant, presented his compliance audit requests as submitted with respect to the 2014 election campaign finances of Candidates Don Furniss, Gault

McTaggart, Jean-Ann Baranik, Linda Barrick-Spearn, W. Ron Brent, and Greg Knight. Mr. Gill reviewed his concerns and reasons for the six requests with respect to the legislation, website and advertising expenses (People for Probity), and the sharing of joint expenses when campaigning as a group or slate. In addition, he submitted and reviewed a presentation addressing the above reasons along with the following; explanation for supplemental information related to Don Furniss' finances, internet / social media expenses and a donation related to Greg Knight's finances, expense allocations and detail documentation related to W. Ron Brent's finances, and signage expenses related to Gault McTaggart's finances.

Mr. Gill answered questions for Committee regarding his requests.

4. Candidate or Candidate's Agent deputation(s)

- a. Mr. Don Furniss, Candidate, presented a response to Committee regarding the compliance audit request. He reviewed and detailed his response regarding the legislation, People for Probity, and his campaign expenses. He addressed the concerns related to website and advertising expenses (People for Probity) and the sharing of joint expenses when campaigning as a group or slate. He provided website, pamphlet and advertising allocations.

Mr. Furniss answered questions from Committee.

Mr. Gill commented on the presentation.

- b. Mr. Gault McTaggart, Candidate, responded to Committee regarding the compliance audit request. He provided detail with respect to his signage expenses and addressed the concerns regarding website expenses (People for Probity) and the sharing of joint expenses when campaigning as a group or slate.

Mr. McTaggart answered questions from Committee.

Mr. Gill did not comment on the presentation.

- c. Ms. Jean-Ann Baranik, Candidate, presented a response to Committee regarding the compliance audit request. She reviewed and detailed her response regarding her campaign, People for Probity, and addressed the concerns regarding the sharing of costs when campaigning as a group or slate.

Ms. Baranik answered questions from Committee.

Mr. Gill commented on the presentation.

- d. Ms. Linda Barrick-Spearn, Candidate, responded to Committee regarding the compliance audit request. She spoke on her campaign, signage expenses and People for Probity. She addressed the concerns regarding website and advertising expenses (People for Probity) and the sharing of joint expenses when campaigning as a group or slate.

Ms. Barrick-Spearn answered questions from Committee.

Mr. Gill did not comment on the presentation.

- e. Mr. W. Ron Brent, Candidate, responded to Committee regarding the compliance audit request. He spoke on his campaign, People for Probity, and his signage, phone and website expenses. He addressed the concerns regarding website and advertising expenses (People for Probity).

Mr. Brent answered questions from Committee.

Mr. Gill did not comment on the presentation.

- f. Mr. Greg Knight, Candidate, presented a response to Committee regarding the compliance audit request. He reviewed and detailed his response regarding the legislation, his campaign and website expenses. He addressed the concerns regarding website and advertising expenses (People for Probity) and the sharing of joint expenses when campaigning as a group or slate.

Mr. Knight answered questions from Committee.

Mr. Gill did not comment on the presentation.

Mr. Gill provided closing comments.

Mr. Furniss provided closing comments.

Chair Panizza reviewed and consolidated the Applicant's requests and the Candidates' responses. He sought Committee's direction.

Committee members expressed the need for a legal opinion with respect to the requests as they relate to the Municipal Elections Act and the 2014 Candidates' Guide for Ontario Municipal and School Board Elections.

The Chair called a recess at 10:30 a.m. to consult with the municipal solicitor.

The Chair called the meeting back to order at 10:50 a.m.

Chair Panizza advised that following consultation with the municipal solicitor, a legal opinion could be provided. In order to meet the legislative timeline requirements, the Chair called a meeting for Friday, July 31, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Municipal Offices, Port Carling, to allow time to receive the legal opinion and to consider the applications.

- 5. Committee to consider Application(s)
 - a. None.

6. Committee to consider appointment of auditor (if required)

a. None.

4. Consideration of Auditor/Legal Reports

a. None

5. Closed Session

a. Committee in Closed Session was not held.

6. Adjournment

a. Consideration of a resolution to adjourn.

Resolution Number MCAC – 1 – 29/07/15

Member Pajunen – Member Monette: Be it resolved that the Muskoka Compliance Audit Committee meeting of July 29, 2015 in the Township of Muskoka Lakes adjourn at 10:52 a.m. and that the Committee meet again on July 31, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

Carried

Cheryl Mortimer, Clerk