

ROBERT J. SWAYZE

INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ESSEX OFFICE OF THE INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER REPORT TO COUNCIL IN OPEN SESSION

TO: Mayor and Members of Town of Essex Council
FROM: Robert Swayze, Integrity Commissioner
DATE: July 25, 2022
SUBJECT: Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner for 2021

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the 2021 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner dated July 25, 2022 be received for information and that the term of the current Integrity Commissioner service agreement be extended to January 31, 2023 on the same terms and conditions.

Background:

I was originally appointed Integrity Commissioner for the Town of Essex by Agreement dated November 5, 2015 with a term expiring on November 3, 2017. That contract was extended at the request of Council until December 31, 2018. In 2018 a request for proposal was advertised and I was again the successful bidder. A further agreement was entered into for a two year term ending with January 31, 2021.

By an exchange of E-mails with the Clerk, the service agreement has been extended to the date of this meeting and I am prepared to accept an additional extension until January 31, 2023 on the same terms and conditions. This will enable the new Council to issue a request for proposal for 2023 and beyond.

Activity in 2021

I am required by the Municipal Act in a periodic report to summarize information without identifying the persons concerned.

The year 2021 was event filled for Council and active for the Integrity Commissioner. The former Mayor was charged under the *Municipal Elections Act* and resigned. I had two complaints regarding the election charge which were dismissed in consultation with the Ontario Ombudsman. Council decided to appoint his replacement and I had another complaint related to that procedure.

A member of Council commented publicly on the Covid Virus using the phrase "Chinese Virus", which caused an intense response from residents in Western Ontario. I had two complaints on that subject.

Finally, I received three complaints for inappropriate public comments made by two members of Council.

My docketed time for the year was 183.4 hours, which translates to \$43,000.00 at my hourly rate of \$235, plus HST.

Conclusion:

It has been a pleasure serving the Town of Essex as Integrity Commissioner. I wish to convey my sincere thanks to members of Council and staff, for their cooperation and assistance in carrying out my mandate.

Prepared by:



Robert Swayze
Integrity Commissioner

Attachment(s): none