

Request for Decision United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria Council

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, May 23, 2014				Report Date	Friday, May-02-14			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

#28/03/14/1202 – Resources, Council Training, New Council Training

Subject:

Purchase of George Cuff video series.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the purchase of the new George Cuff video series to use as a tool to educate staff, current Council, potential Council candidates and the newly elected Council.

WHEREAS education and current advice on governance issues is important to anyone performing the duties of a municipal council member;

AND WHEREAS George Cuff is seen by peers and Canadian organizations as a leader in municipal governance;

AND WHEREAS in house training, in a format available for a 12 month term is highly cost effective and convenient as opposed to one time training at a location which would incur travel costs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby authorize staff to purchase the Cuff video series to be used as an educational tool for current, potential and newly elected Council members as well as staff and the general public.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As per the attached, this series of video sessions has been created by George Cuff on “Good Governance”. Council member and staff travel to conferences and seminars is expensive with a cost for travel, time, registration, meal and occasionally accommodation. By purchasing this series, Council and staff will have access to these videos for a 12 month period; a much better value than attendance at a one-time conference.

It is staff recommendation that the videos be purchased, shown in a series to Council, to the general public and to staff. Once reviewed, selections or portions should be made available to those who are considering running for election. After elections, the sessions could be run again.

Staff have read many of Cuff’s books and articles and look forward monthly to his column in Municipal World. It seems that his videos would provide a valuable resource to staff and Council on Good Governance and at a reasonable cost.

Session Six might be worth sharing with the Library Board and the new Social Programming Committee as it describes the roles of agencies, boards, commissions etc. and the use of meetings, agendas etc.

Options/Discussion:

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:

\$2,000 exists in Council Conventions and Training for 2014. Instead of having this money spent on an individual who may or may not have a seat on Council after the 2014 election, it is recommended that the funds be utilized to purchase this video series, so that current Council may benefit, election candidates may benefit and staff and the new Council may all benefit from it.

The individual videos are available at \$300 each or the entire set is available for \$2,100 and taxes. The videos may be run as many times as we wish and from any device so there is significant opportunity to receive effective use for dollars spent.

Policy Impact:

Others Consulted:

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk



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George's first online video series called "Good Governance by George" is now available for purchase. Buy the series or individual videos and bring George into your organization today.

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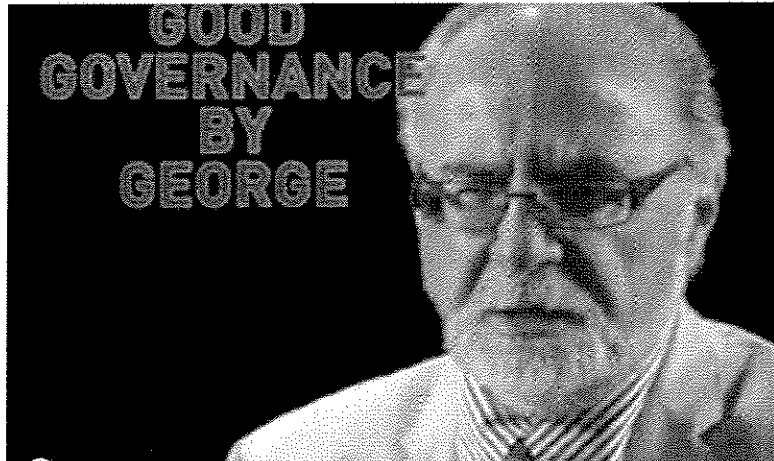
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Videos Now Available Online

Your requests have been heard and it is exciting to announce George's first online video series called "Good Governance by George". This series consists of 8 videos each approximately 45 minutes in length. Order now and bring George into your office or Council Chambers for all or individual sessions of your choice.

George Cuff Governance Seminars trailer



0:03 / 2:17

"Watching these videos is like having a private conversation with George, always insightful and thought provoking. George has a way of drawing you back to the fundamentals of governance and will centre you to move forward on what needs to be done."

"Good Governance By George"

Session One: What is Governance: Part One (55 min)

This segment launches the video series of eight sessions with a broad look at Governance, what it is and some of the problems associated with Councils and Boards who misunderstand the basic functions. There is a lot of public discourse regarding governance these days so it is evident that Councils and regional Boards need to understand what it is & what it is not if you are going to be successful. Governance affects all of us from birth till death; from hospital bed as we enter the world to funeral home and church as we depart. George defines what "governance" is and outlines the key principles that determine whether or not your Council/Board is following what might be defined as "good governance".

Session Two: What is Governance: Part Two (45 min)

George follows session One with a further definition of key principles of good governance (8-14). Each Council will run into situations which cause them to reflect on these principles: were we open; were we respectful of our colleagues; do we trust the word of the CAO; do we believe that the key information has been made available; do we have the right to act on this matter or is it one for another level of Government; is our vision for the future clear; and does it drive our policy agenda? Good governance is an ongoing process.

Session Three: Governance Failures (48 min)

Regardless of best intentions, those governing councils and boards still fail. George uses this session to outline the most frequent sources of failure; how these can be recognized sometimes before they do considerable damage; and what might be done to address these failures. Session Three speaks to why and where Councils/Boards struggle.

Session Four: What is Meant by "Good Governance?" (41 min)

In Session Four, George highlights from his extensive experience the need for focus on decision-making roles; understanding decision-making processes; utilizing your committee system as a place for reflection; ensuring that Councils/Boards recognize the need for a thoughtful consideration of options.

Session Five: The Roles of a Council (41 min)

George begins this segment by stating that so much of role confusion lies in not understanding what it is that a governing body is expected to do. Every Council has a number of roles which it inherits by the process called an election. Some of these roles are legislated; that is, they are a requirement according to the legislation under which the council functions. Other roles of a Council are more of what is described as "generally accepted practice"; these are equally important. While each of the roles George describes may not be on display in all instances, Council members will still

need to remember that they are expectations of the general public.

Session Six: Governance Mechanisms (41 min)

In this segment George sheds some light on how a Council/Board governs and which mechanisms it utilizes to lead. The session also addresses how governance could be performed better in terms of what a Council/Board does and what in reality it is expected to do. This session speaks to "how" a Council/Board functions (i.e. meetings, proper use of agendas, committee meetings, roles of agencies, boards and committees, etc) and some thoughts around how that could be improved.

Session Seven: Council-Management Relations (47 min)

Relationships between Council/Board and its senior managers are critical to the success of any municipality/region. This relationship is either healthy or it ought to be corrected; you cannot afford to let it hinder the effectiveness of your municipality. There is only one key relationship in the organization for the Council; that is that of Council/Board & its CAO. Where the Council-CAO relationship founders so too does the organization. This is what is referred to as "tone at the top": is there trust and respect or disbelief and no confidence? George discusses this key issue in his usual "no nonsense" style.

Session Eight: Governing for Results (50 min)

In this session, George outlines what an effective Council expects. At the end of the day, there needs to be an accounting for what has transpired. What results were produced on my watch? If you were the captain of the Titanic, everyone knew! The results outlived anyone's imagination and the man at the centre of the disaster Captain John Smith knew that he had little choice but to go down with the ship. Most organizations have neither that public an accounting or that disastrous; there have been "disasters" at the municipal level in terms of funds being stolen; buildings built at far too high a cost. What results should your Council expect? Other than replace the previous bottom in the Council seat, what did you accomplish??

Contact info@georgecuff.com for pricing and to order now.

Edmonton website design by Box Clever

