

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

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, September 26, 2014				Report Date	Tuesday, September-23-14			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

## #26/09/14/1202 – November Meeting and Budget Process

**Subject:**

Cancellation of November meeting and proposed budget process.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That due to elections, a lame duck period and a deferred budget process that the November Council meeting be cancelled to allow for staff to run an election, prepare and provide an Council orientation and a draft budget for consideration at the first meeting of the new Council.

**WHEREAS** Council is now in a lame duck position with less than 75% of members of council returning after the election of October 27, 2014 and is not permitted to make decisions worth a value of over \$50,000;

**AND WHEREAS** November is normally the time where budget deliberations occur;

**AND WHEREAS** it is up to the new Council to adopt a budget for 2015;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council meeting of November 21, 2014 be cancelled;

**AND FURTHER THAT** staff be directed to prepare a draft budget for the inaugural meeting of December 5, 2014 for Council review;

**AND FURTHER THAT** a public meeting be scheduled for Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 1:00 a.m. to consult with the public on the budget to be adopted in January.

**BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This resolution is pretty self-explanatory. With only 3 members of Council returning after the next election, this council is in a lame duck position. Although this does not normally affect Head, Clara & Maria as staff already has authorization to complete routine business; it also holds true that staff already have authority to complete routine business.

Unless something out of the ordinary occurs there will be little need for the Council meeting of November. Of usual importance at this time of year is the municipal budget. As this is an obvious expense of over \$50,000 current council can not make any decisions in this regard.

Staff can make better use of this time by preparing and holding an effective council orientation and drafting a budget to be available at the very first meeting of the new Council. (Noella having returned from holiday in mid October.)

Further preparation for a public meeting can also be completed so that the new Council can debate the budget at its December meeting and potentially adopt the budget at the first meeting of 2015 in January.

Should some item of importance, which requires council's direction, occur between the last meeting in October and the first meeting in December a special meeting may be called!

### **Options/Discussion:**

Various options. Cancel or not. Budget can be prepared for a later meeting. A public meeting can be held in January if preferred. December 6 is recommended as it is new in the Council year and will allow us to set our budget as early in the new year as possible.

### **Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:**

Not of any significance.

### **Policy Impact:**

Policy as set by council may be altered as per by-law. Lame Duck legislation must be followed.

### **Others Consulted:**

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,  
Municipal Clerk