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Next Council to make decision on renumeration increase

A discussion ensued at Council October 20th regarding the recommended increase to Councillors remuneration by Ward & Uptigrove Consulting and Human Resources in September. The by-law to accept the recommended increase has passed first reading only; the second reading is to be held in November giving Council time to receive public input from the election debate. The issue discussed Monday night was centered on clarifying the timing for the third and final reading ? if passed the increase would then come into effect. The minutes of the last Council meeting, October 6th documented the Council's discussion decision to hold the third reading in December.

Councillor Tom Egan looked for some clarification on the wording of the decision in reference to the October 6th Council minutes. He said it was his understanding, that the last time there had been increases - outgoing Council set the rates for the new incoming Council. Councillor Cavey was in accordance with Egan, but also commented that ?it was not an issue last time.?

Mayor Ed Crewson said he ?did not want it to be said that this Council set the rate for an incoming Council which may not think it appropriate. My preference would be to leave it? ? but he noted that the decision must follow the will of Council.

In reference to previous discussions on the matter, and the wording in the October 6th minutes, Chief Administrative Officer John Telfer, said ?I think the intent of the motion is correct.? The decision stood to leave the third and final reading until December when the new Council will be sitting.

By Marni Walsh