

2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF STRATFORD

Robert J. Swayze
Integrity Commissioner
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Introduction

I was appointed as the Integrity Commissioner for the City of Stratford by agreement pursuant to subsection 223.3(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* on December 18, 2018. The service agreement provided for a term of 2 years expiring on December 9, 2020. The term was extended for a further 2 years.

This is the second annual report that I have presented and it covers the calendar year 2020.

Complaints Received and Advice Provided

Last year I received five (5) complaints against members of Council for contravening the *Code of Conduct for Members of Council* and the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*. I dismissed all of them.

I received 10 requests for advice during the year, 5 from members of Council, 1 from a member of a local board and 4 from members of the public. I am required by the service agreement with the City to provide specific written advice to members of Council and local boards and the public on the accountability and transparency regime. The Act requires that all requests for advice be made in writing. It is my policy to accept telephone calls but require an E-mail to be sent to me before expressing my opinion in writing.

The complaints and the advice I provided during the year are required to remain confidential except that a common theme in both related to the locating in Stratford of a Glass Plant financed from China, which I believe should be shared with all of Council.

Certain members of Council and the public were of the opinion that using a Minister's Zoning Order ("MZO") instead of the usual process under the *Planning Act* required the approval of Council. There was a suggestion that Council was not informed before a decision was made to proceed with the MZO which avoids notice to the public. I dismissed the complaints on the basis that the MZO is completely within the jurisdiction of the Minister and does not require an application approved by Council. It is common practice in attracting foreign investment in Ontario and that is the focus of the Minister.

Breakdown of Integrity Commissioner Costs

During 2020, I spent a total of 75.2 hours providing the following service:

- Advice to members of Council 24.0 hours
- Advice to members of the public 3.8 hours
- Advice to local board members 1.8 hours
- Compiling 2019 annual report 10.6 hours
- Adjudicating complaints and other admin. 35.0 hours

The agreement provides for a fee of \$235 per hour making a total of \$17,672.00 plus HST.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RS', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert Swayze
Integrity Commissioner