

## **“So, you want to run for Council?” March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 Presentation Question/Answer Period**

**Q:** The personal liability portion, I understand the Water Act & confidentiality, but is there any protection for a Councillor that the corporation protects them from miscellaneous lawsuits?

**A:** *Much broader than that. Municipalities carry a whole series of insurance policies that cover different aspects of what you do. Includes members of Council and staff. In Sudbury, they always had their insurance company come to Council once a year to review policy with them, and what parts may need to be updated. Basic fundamental, if you are acting as a reasonable person within your position there should not be a liability and your insurance company will defend you.*

**Q:** When talking about personal time, I understand when I go into the pharmacy or grocery store, I may be targeted and asked questions from the public as a councillor, what policy or how is it set how to contact a councillor? Do we have to offer our municipal cell phone number or can it just be an email?

**A:** *For City of Elliot Lake, we do just have emails for Council members available on City website and public can also contact the Mayor & Council assistant to get a message to a Council member. It is up to Council members if they want to give out their cell phone number or not. It is Council determination if they want to provide their cell phone numbers publicly.*

**Q:** What was the book you recommended?

**A:** *Ontario's Municipal Conflict of Interest Act from Municipal World*

**Q:** Staff and Council do a dance through the entire process of advice and decisions. In small towns, one of the problems I have seen is that there seems to be no set rule regarding each party staying in their lane. Is there anything in the municipal act that you can cover that would say if council is stepping out of their lane staff can handle it and still get a reasonable response, or If council has a concern they can discuss it with staff so that it doesn't cause friction and comes to a reasonably quick solution?

**A:** *I think you have to have a sense and understanding of basic principal that Council are the decision makers and staff are the advisors and recommenders. The best I can say is do training on it and have respect of what the various roles are. Organization runs smoother when that line is there and clearly identified.*

**Q:** When Council decides to have a meeting, or closed meeting, how far in advance do they have to let the public know?

**A:** *It varies from municipality to municipality, but if you look in your procedural by-law, it will tell you.*