



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Corporation of the Township of Plummer Additional

FROM: Antoinette Blunt, Integrity Commissioner
President, Ironside Consulting Services Inc

DATE: Report Submitted: 8 May 2020

SUBJECT: Report of the Integrity Commissioner
Covering the period from February 21, 2020 to May 8, 2020

Activities During Period

The Integrity Commissioner was contacted by a ratepayer in early May seeking information regarding the protocol for seeking an Inquiry by the Integrity Commissioner. It was noted the information was not available on the Township's website. The Code of Conduct and Integrity Commissioner Inquiry Protocol for the Corporation of the Township of Plummer Additional was emailed to the ratepayer. The ratepayer was advised that to pursue an inquiry though the Integrity Commissioner, the process as described, was to be followed and the application set out in Schedule "A", to be completed if the ratepayer was alleging a violation of the Code of conduct, and Schedule "B" if alleging a violation of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, noting Schedule B is an Affidavit that must be sworn by a Commissioner of Oaths.

There were a number of subsequent emails sent seeking clarification of the terms in the Code of Conduct and Integrity Commissioner Inquiry Protocol and some of the provisions in the Municipal Act. Following this, an inquiry was not submitted as the matter was deemed to be outside of the scope of the Integrity Commissioner's jurisdiction.

Review of Schedule "A"

In reviewing Schedule "A" to the Integrity Commissioner Inquiry Protocol, the Integrity Commissioner noted that a complainant had the option to either agree to disagree to release their identity with regard to the request for inquiry. The Integrity Commissioner of the duty of confidentiality and is aware that caution must be exercised when making reports so as not to inappropriately release information. Section 223.5 (1) of the Municipal Act states "The Commissioner and every person acting under the instructions of the Commissioner shall preserve secrecy with respect to all matters that come to his or her knowledge

in the course of his or her duties under this Part. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 98." However, the disclosure should be viewed as a guideline and in some circumstances an inquiry may not be able to proceed without release of identity. For example, if there is one complainant and one respondent, the Integrity Commissioner would not likely to be able to proceed without release of identity and the respondent would likely be unable to provide their perspective without knowledge of the complainant. The Township may wish to consider removing the option to not release identity from the form, and may wish to consider the updates to a similar form made by the City of Sault Ste. Marie that is available on their website.

Expenditures During Period

The cost for services rendered during this period was \$593.25.