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Item No. 15.1
Transportation Standing Committee
April 28, 2022

TO: Chair and Members of the Transportation Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY:



Denise Schofield, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: April 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Appointment of Deputy Traffic Authority

ORIGIN

This report originates from the retirement of former Traffic Management Director and Deputy Traffic Authority, Taso Koutroulakis, as of December 31, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter

35(2)(b) The Chief Administrative Officer may ... appoint, suspend and remove all employees of the Municipality, with power to further delegate this authority;

321(2) The Council may, by policy, appoint a traffic authority for all or part of the Municipality.

Motor Vehicle Act

86(6) The council of a city or town may, from time to time, appoint the city or town manager, the chief of police, or some other official of the city or town, to be the traffic authority for the city or town.

86(7) The council of a city or town may, from time to time, appoint a member of the police force, or some other official of the city or town to be deputy traffic authority who, in the absence or incapacity of the traffic authority or in the event of his death or ceasing to hold the office, shall perform the duties and have all the authority of the traffic authority of the city or town.

86(10) If it is made to appear to the Minister that the traffic authority of a city or town is not carrying out his duties or performing his functions under this Act, the Minister, by letter to the mayor or clerk of the city or town, may cancel the appointment of the traffic authority.

RECOMMENDATION ON PAGE 2

Administrative Order 12 *Respecting the Appointment of the Traffic Authority*:

4. (1) The Chief Administrative Officer shall, within three (3) months of any vacancy in the position of Traffic Authority, nominate one (1) or more candidates for consideration by the Transportation Standing Committee.
- (2) The Transportation Standing Committee may review and/or have a discussion with the nominated candidate(s) and shall make a recommendation to Regional Council on the appointment of a nominee or the rejection of all nominees.
- (3) Regional Council may appoint a nominated candidate or reject all nominated candidates.
- (4) If Regional Council rejects all nominated candidates, the Chief Administrative Officer shall nominate one (1) or more additional candidates for consideration by the Transportation Standing Committee, and the process in subsections (1) to (3) shall be repeated.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council adopt the amendments to Administrative Order 12, the *Appointment of the Traffic Authority Administrative Order*, as set out in Attachment 2 of this report to repeal the appointment of Taso Koutroulakis as Deputy Traffic Authority and appoint Lucas Pitts, P.Eng., as a Deputy Traffic Authority.

BACKGROUND

Subsection 86(7) of the *Motor Vehicle Act* provides that, in the absence or incapacity of the Traffic Authority or in the event of his death or ceasing to hold the office, a Deputy Traffic Authority shall perform the duties and have all the authority of the Traffic Authority. Under Administrative Order 12, *Respecting the Appointment of the Traffic Authority*, Regional Council has appointed:

Traffic Authority: Brad Anguish, Executive Director, Transportation & Public Works and Chief Engineer
Deputy Traffic Authority: Taso Koutroulakis, Director, Traffic Management
Deputy Traffic Authority: Roddy MacIntyre, Manager, Traffic Services and Road Safety

Taso Koutroulakis is no longer employed with Halifax Regional Municipality; therefore, staff is recommending that Mr. Koutroulakis appointment as Deputy Traffic authority be repealed and Lucas Pitts, Director, Traffic Management be appointed to fill the vacant position of Deputy Traffic Authority.

DISCUSSION

The duties of the Traffic Authority are typically combined with other employment responsibilities assigned under the ultimate oversight of the CAO. The functions of the Traffic Authority are closely intertwined with the functions of the Municipality's Traffic Management group, which is responsible for implementing the directions of Council and the CAO (in accordance with applicable legislative standards and best practices). It is therefore important that both Council and the CAO support the appointment of a second Deputy Traffic Authority to ensure that the approximate 2,000 regulations that are generated and approved annually continue without unnecessary delay due to vacation or unforeseen absences.

As nominee for Deputy Traffic Authority, Lucas Pitts completed rigorous interview process and was offered the position of Director, Traffic Management (effective April 11, 2022). Throughout the national search process, Lucas demonstrated excellent people leadership, visioning, strategic thinking, and innovation

capabilities accompanied by a strong communications and relationship development acumen. He possesses over 17+ years' experience in civil/traffic engineering from a range of small to large municipalities such as: Metro Vancouver, Victoria, Duncan and Castlegar, British Columbia. He demonstrated strong technical knowledge of traffic management operations as well as current trends in the sector to support his ability to successfully serve as the Deputy Traffic Authority for Halifax Regional Municipality. Lucas is a Licensed Professional Engineer (P.Eng) and Project Management Professional (PMP). He possesses Bachelor of Engineering Science in Civil Engineering; Masters of Engineering Science in Civil Engineering; Masters of Public Administration; and has advanced training as a Lean Six Sigma Greenbelt. Based upon the level of qualifications, skills, and competencies, demonstrated by Mr. Pitts, it is recommended that Regional Council appoint Lucas Pitts as a Deputy Traffic Authority for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications at this time.

RISK CONSIDERATION

No risk considerations were identified.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement was not required.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications were identified.

ALTERNATIVES

Transportation Standing Committee could refuse to accept the nomination of Lucas Pitts, Director, Traffic Management as Deputy Traffic Authority. Should this alternative be chosen, the Chief Administrative Officer may choose to bring forward another nominee or continue to operate with only one Deputy Traffic Authority as currently appointed by Regional Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Showing Proposed Changes to Administrative Order 12

Attachment 2 Amending Administrative Order

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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