



Council Report

For the meeting of July 12, 2018

To: Council **Date:** July 10, 2018
From: Chris Coates, City Clerk
Subject: Update Report on Special Committee of the Whole Meeting June 26, 2018 District of Saanich and City of Victoria Councils

RECOMMENDATION

That this report be received for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On June 26, 2018, Victoria and Saanich Councils held a joint Committee of the Whole meeting in the Boardroom of the Capital Regional District, to consider a referendum question on establishing a Citizens Assembly to explore the costs and benefits of the amalgamation of Saanich and Victoria. Each Council passed the following motion at the joint meeting:

1. That Saanich and Victoria both place the following question on the October 20, 2018 municipal election ballot:

“Are you in favour of spending an amount to be determined for establishing a Citizen’s Assembly to explore the costs, benefits and disadvantages of the amalgamation between the District of Saanich and the City of Victoria?”

2. Co-develop and disseminate educational information in advance of the October 20, 2018 general election as an inclusive election expense.

3. Direct the Mayors to write to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing informing the Hon. Selena Robinson of the intention to pose a ballot question, sharing the wording of the question.

Saanich Council considered this Committee of the Whole recommendation at their meeting of July 9, 2018 and passed the motions with the change to the proposed non-binding referendum question of:

“Are you in favour of spending up to \$250,000 for establishing a Citizen’s Assembly to explore the costs, benefits and disadvantages of the amalgamation between the District of Saanich and the City of Victoria.”

The figure of \$250,000 is one-third of a very preliminary estimate of costs. The work has not been scoped in any detail. Analysis of similar projects has occurred and it may be considered that a total

cost of \$750,000 could be on the high side. Typically a project of this nature would have three main components:

- The Technical Analysis
- Management of the Citizens Assembly
- Communications and Engagement

The Provincial Government, under the Local Government Grants Regulation may fund up to \$60,000.00 to a local government in a fiscal year for a study of this nature. This potential project could span two fiscal years whereby each municipality could receive \$60,000 in each of the two years to get to one-third funding from the Province. It is important to note that no applications for funding have been made at this point. Any funding application to the Province would need to include a more thorough project and cost definition.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Coates
City Clerk

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:



Date:

July 10, 2018

“Appendix A”

June 26, 2018, Joint Committee of the Whole Meeting
District of Saanich/City of Victoria Councils

The meeting shall be Co-Chaired by Mayor Atwell and Mayor Helps.

Agenda

- 1) Introduction of the Item
- 2) Public Input – Speakers must state their name, address and municipality. Speakers will be provided up to three minutes to address Councils. The public input portion of the agenda will be allotted up to three hours.
- 3) Councils Discussion – At a Committee of the Whole meeting, a member of Council may speak twice on an item, but are limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes each time.
- 4) Each Council shall undertake a separate vote on the motion being considered. Approval from each Council requires a majority vote of Council members present.
- 5) Adjournment