

Town of Onoway

Request for Decision

Meeting:	Regular Council Meeting
Meeting Date:	May 26, 2022
Presented By:	Tim Duhamel, Interim CAO
Title:	Request for Resignation of Council – Councillor Winterford

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL

Councillor Winterford has requested the resignation of all of Council. His position is council is no longer functional and is not well positioned to make unbiased decisions. His stance is the perceived split on council has diluted the democratic process. He states a lack of value is being provided through the decisions being made by town council.

DISCUSSION / OPTIONS / BENEFITS / DISADVANTAGES

The town of Onoway has recently gone through a difficult transition which included significant organizational changes and a change of CAO. That transition has caused significant strain on the Council relationship, disrupting its ability to govern and conduct elected official duties effectively.

CAO transitions are usually difficult for municipalities. This is often the case until a new CAO is hired and operations and the democratic process normalizes. The transition to operational effectiveness under a new CAO usually takes six months to a year.

The town of Onoway council has dealt with this difficult situation since being newly elected. This has not given this council an ample time or opportunity to work together to govern under normal circumstances. Dealing with a polarizing issue at the outset of being elected has not enabled this council to build its competency as a team or work on value-add policies together in any meaningful way.

Municipal councils often take time to build their ability to govern and work through the democratic process in an effective and respectful way. Educational opportunities, team building workshops, and code of ethics policy reviews are a few examples of initiatives that can support a council's ability to work through difficult relationship challenges and become functional and effective. Opportunities to improve the council relationship and governance ability could be explored prior to making the resignation decision.

The cost of a by election is approximately \$12,000

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Good governance

COSTS / SOURCE OF FUNDING

The Bloom interim CAO contract includes elected official education, team building workshops and mediation as required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council consider the information presented in this report and vote on the following motion.

1. "That the Town of Onoway council resign from their elected official positions"