

Report exploring admin support options for councillors in the works

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to Dec. 3, 2018.

For the new term of council beginning in December 2018, not including any increases through a salary review, the mayor's salary would be \$99,579 with councillors getting \$39,045.

Municipal politicians also receive a separate salary for sitting on Halton regional council.

Part of the staff report on council compensation also addressed ways to potentially increase administrative support for councillors.

Town staff sent a survey to 12 area municipalities, some with similar ward sizes per councillor to Milton, to get feedback on several areas where administrative support is given to

councillors.

The municipalities surveyed were Oakville, Burlington, Barrie, Ajax, Cambridge, Caledon, Guelph, Halton Hills, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Waterloo and Whitby.

Nine municipalities responded to the administrative support survey. The nine offer an annual office budget for councillors ranging from \$1,525-\$9,000.

In terms of conferences, the nine give their councillors between \$1,500-\$3,500. Milton gives \$1,500 per councillor.

For newsletters, seven of the responding municipalities provide them for councillors via the municipal budget.

As far as home internet coverage, eight of the responding municipalities don't provide it while the



MILTON

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other offers it with no limit.

Eight of the municipalities provide councillors with a laptop or desktop computer or a tablet.

All nine municipalities have provisions for mobile phones for councillors at

the municipalities' expense.

Seven of the responders have some sort of office space that may be shared.

As for staff for councillors, eight of the nine municipalities that answered the survey have some ded-

icated staff for their councillors, mostly shared. One of the eight provides one staff member for each councillor.

The Town of Milton currently only provides its councillors with coverage for conferences and shared office space.

Among some of the duties performed by administrative staff on behalf of councillors at some of the surveyed municipalities are responding to constituent inquiries, scheduling and event management, tracking their budgets, arranging open houses, disseminating correspondence and keeping councillors informed of governance practices.

At the June 18 council meeting, councillors discussed the survey and what it might mean for

them.

Most seemed wary of spending more taxpayer dollars and also making a decision before a new slate of councillors is sworn in later this year.

"This is going to cost taxpayers a lot more money if we have a lot more staff," Ward 5 Coun. Arnold Huffman told his colleagues.

Ward 6 Coun. John Pollard noted that even with current minimal direct support from town staff, councillors are still able to perform their duties.

Councillors narrowly approved asking staff to develop administrative support options for councillors. That report, including the financial implications, is expected as part of the town's 2019 budget process later this year.

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