

GOVERNMENT: 'Interim' label to be discussed next April

# Town CAO now subject to new review

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In order to "demonstrate and instil confidence in the public and town staff", the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville's CAO will now undergo a performance review.

Until Tuesday afternoon, there was no formal review process for the CAO, according to a council report.

However, that is not entirely correct, according to Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

If councillors had concerns regarding the CAO or the position, they would be brought to him and dealt with in conjunction with the CAO, Mr. Emmerson told The Sun-Tribune Wednesday.

Andrew McNeely, the town's director of planning and building services, was appointed acting CAO last month following the sudden retirement of Dave Cash, who held the position since 2006.

Mr. McNeely was appointed interim CAO because council had "confidence" in him, Mr. Emmerson told The Sun-Tribune.

It was Mr. McNeely who brought forward the report to council recommending periodic

reviews be conducted within the CAO's first year and then annually, Mr. Emmerson told The Sun-Tribune.

Mr. McNeely will continue to hold down both jobs until April so he can have sufficient time to feel out the CAO position, Mr. Emmerson told The Sun-Tribune.

Come April, Mr. McNeely and council will come together to discuss what happens next.

"Over the last several years there has been a lot of tension with this position," resident David Probert told council.

The longtime council watcher also suggested the position be made a contract one.

"Contracts can work. That will be a decision of this council come next April," Mr. Emmerson told The Sun-Tribune.

The mayor and councillors will now conduct a performance review four months after the CAO has been appointed to the position, then again at eight months and one year, then annually thereafter.

Mr. Cash lives in Seagrave, according to his LinkedIn account.

He worked in municipal government in Ontario for more than 30 years. Other stops included Oakville, Kingston and Niagara.

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