EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 29, 2013

Item 2, Report No. 42, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on October 29, 2013.

2   **YORKINFO COMMONS**
                                             DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Strategic & Corporate Services, dated October 15, 2013:

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Strategic & Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Legal Services staff, recommends:

1. That the Mayor and the City Clerk be authorized to sign the YorkInfo Commons Data Exchange Agreement.

Contribution to Sustainability

n/a

Economic Impact

Joining the YorkInfo Commons Data Exchange has no cost to the City. Participation in the YorkInfo Commons Data Exchange group will present the City with opportunities to reduce its future costs (as identified in yearly budgets) associated with data collection, acquisition and maintenance in support of business operations and management.

Communications Plan

n/a

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to receive Council approval for the Mayor and the City Clerk to sign the YorkInfo Commons Data Exchange Agreement.

Background - Analysis and Options

In 1996, York Region facilitated the creation of a voluntary collaboration group called YorkInfo Partnership. The YorkInfo Partnership group included York Region, nine (9) local municipalities, school boards and conservation authorities. The primary purpose of the group was to collaborate on initiatives related to collection, management and use of geographic data and geographic information systems. YorkInfo Partnership was formalized through bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between the Region and each of the partners.

As an active member of the YorkInfo Partnership, Vaughan has benefited in a variety of ways:

•   Reduced efforts and costs associated with data collection and management by sharing information such as roads, parcels, and address points essential to business systems, service delivery and decision making;

•   Reduced costs associated with data acquisition from third parties by pooling resources and group purchasing of orthophotography data;

- Developed and enhanced staff technical skills, information management practices, mapping and analytical capability through cross-training and knowledge sharing.

In 2012, in an effort to continually improve, a review of the YorkInfo Partnership was initiated by YorkInfo Partnership participating organizations. The purpose of the review was to confirm value and benefits being derived from the YorkInfo Partnership, identify opportunities to strengthen the group in order to meet growing demands for data, maximize efficiencies, and identify initiatives of common interest where use of resources could be shared, and to realize additional benefits.

Findings of the review confirmed that:

a) Participating YorkInfo Partnership members are benefitting from the collaboration in the form of reduced costs and efforts related to data collection, acquisition and management;

b) There are additional opportunities to strengthen the group, such as expanding the scope of subject data from geographic data to all data;

c) There are initiatives of common interest, such as development of technical standards for digital/electronic applications and plan submissions;

d) There is goodwill and desire by all members to continue collaboration and multilateral data sharing

Based on Vaughan's positive experience with the YorkInfo Partnership and identified future opportunities, it is recommended that Vaughan continues to participate in the group. Collaborative partnerships such as this, demonstrate leadership in evolving Vaughan's Information & Technology Strategy, as outlined in the 2013 Public Service Renewal Initiatives report. The Information & Technology Management department's ongoing efforts that are directed at evolving an enterprise data management framework will leverage data sources from partner organizations, making Vaughan's information systems more data-rich. Data-rich information systems will better support internal business processes and electronic service delivery to citizens.

To formalize participation in the group, a YorkInfo Commons Data Exchange Agreement has been developed to replace the previous individual MOU's. Vaughan staff from the Information & Technology Management department and the Legal Services department have reviewed and contributed to the development of the YorkInfo Commons Data Exchange Agreement. The agreement defines roles and responsibilities for participating partners and focuses on collaboration, streamlining and efficiencies related to data collection, acquisition, management and use. The YorkInfo Commons Data Exchange Agreement is in compliance with applicable regulations related to information management and other data related agreements and licenses that may be in place. There is no cost for entering into the agreement and membership can be terminated at any time.

York Region, all nine (9) local municipalities, public and Catholic school boards and conservation authorities are planning to join the YorkInfo Commons Data Exchange.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

Recommendations contained in this report contribute to the following strategic objectives:

- Ensure a High Performing Organization by taking advantage of efficiency and cost saving opportunities through collaboration with partner organizations;

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- Manage Corporate Assets by applying consistent practices and technical standards related to data assets collection, acquisition, management and use.

This report is consistent with the priorities set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

This report was compiled in consultation with the Region. York Region staff will be seeking necessary approvals to join the YorkInfo Commons Data Exchange group and will take on the role of administrator and facilitator.

Conclusion

Vaughan has participated in a collaborative data sharing group, called YorkInfo Partnership for many years. The group is made up of York Region, local municipalities, school boards and conservation authorities. Based on Vaughan's positive experience with the YorkInfo Partnership and identified future opportunities, it is recommended that Vaughan continues to participate in the group. To formalize participation in the group, a YorkInfo Commons Data Exchange Agreement needs to be executed by all members. It is recommended that Vaughan enter into the YorkInfo Commons Data Exchange Agreement and that the Mayor and the City Clerk be authorized to sign related documents.

Attachments

n/a

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