RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receives Report CL 17-10 County Council Composition;

AND THAT Tillsonburg Town Council supports Option 4, that the Warden of Oxford County be elected at large and to expand the County Council seat by one.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Council meeting of March 27, 2017 Council passed the following resolution and direction for staff.

“Moved By: Councillor Hayes Seconded By: Councillor Rosehart
THAT Council receive items 9.1 and 9.2, as information;
AND THAT Council refers item 9.2, Head of Oxford County Council, regarding options to staff for review and that a report be brought to the April 24, 2017 Council meeting.
Carried”

OBJECTIVE

To provide Council with options regarding the selection for the Head of Council (Warden) Oxford County Council.

BACKGROUND

Head of Council
Report CAO 2017-04 Options for the Head of Council (Warden) Selection and Term was provided to Council at the March 27, 2017 Council meeting and direction was provided to staff to review the report and provide a report to Council.

The options provided in the report were to remain status quo and to elect the Warden from within or to request the Minister enact a regulation to expand the County Council seat by one and to elect the head of
County Council at large. The other options presented in the report were to continue to elect a Warden from within for a term of one (1) or two (2) year period.

DISCUSSION

Election from within (status quo)
County Council’s current process, as outlined in the Procedure By-law (By-law No. 5852-2016) includes the election of a Warden from a sitting member of County Council from within, following the Municipal Election of the Council of the lower tier municipalities.

Election at Large
Recent changes to the Municipal Act set out in Section 218(1) 2.1 state that a regional municipality other than the County of Oxford, that the head of Council, shall be elected by general vote in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act.

The County of Oxford is considered a regional municipality according to the Act however is exempt from Section 218(1)2.1. If Tillsonburg supports an election at large for the position of Warden, the Town would have to pass a resolution to support this process and forward to County Council as a recommendation for County Council deliberations. If County Council supports the recommendation then they would pass a resolution and forward to the Minister to request that the Minister make regulations authorizing the County to exercise its power to elect the Head of Council by general vote in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act. They would also require the Minister to approve a change in size of the upper tier council.

Any change to the regulation by the Minister requires public posting on the registry for 45 days. Once the County receives the regulation then they are required to provide public notice of its intention to pass the by-law and hold at least one public meeting to consider the matter. The County’s policy is to provide 21 days’ notice prior to the public meeting.

This proposal would increase the number of members to County Council by one and the Warden would represent the County as a whole. This method would provide more accountability to the electors of Oxford County.

Tillsonburg Town Council must determine if they wish to remain at status quo, support the election of the Warden at large or if they support a change in the current term of Warden elected from within for a One (1) or two(2) year term.

Consideration is given to the following four options for the election of the Warden in the 2018 Municipal Election:

Option 1 (status quo) – Warden of Oxford County elected from within for a four (4) year term
This option is the traditional method for electing the Head/Warden of Oxford County Council
**Option 2** – Warden of Oxford County elected from within with a two (2) year term
This option is not a traditional term as traditionally the Warden is elected to coincide with the term of municipal elections for a four (4) year term. It has been said that a position of this magnitude requires more than a year or two of service to fully achieve the experience and expertise to manage the position.

**Option 3** – Warden of Oxford County elected from within with a one (1) year term
This is not traditional and may not allow for the warden to achieve the experience and expertise to manage the position.

**Option 4** – Warden of Oxford County elected at large and expand County Council seat by one
This option would provide for a transparent, accountable and fair method of choosing the Head of Oxford County Council.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE**

None

**COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) IMPACT**

Section 1 – Excellence in Local Government

1.3 Demonstrate accountability – Citizens are aware of ongoing Council initiatives