



Subject: Report on the Town Crier Appointment By-Law and Remuneration

Report Number: CS 25-036

Department: Corporate Services Department

Submitted by: Amelia Jaggard, Acting Clerk

Meeting Type: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: Monday, December 8, 2025

RECOMMENDATION

THAT report CS 25-036 titled "Report on the Town Crier Appointment By-Law and Remuneration" be received as information.

BACKGROUND

At the November 24, 2025, Council meeting, the following resolution was passed:

Resolution #2025-451

Moved By: Mayor Gilvesy

Seconded By: Councillor Rosehart

THAT staff report back to Council with a very brief report in relation to the Town Crier;

AND THAT the report should include the date of hire, the last time compensation was reviewed, a typical remuneration by a few surrounding communities and the by law that governs this position.

Carried

The Town Crier position for the Town of Tillsonburg is established through By-Law 2720, passed on May 23, 1995. The by-law appoints Mrs. Brenda Bozso as the Town's inaugural (and current) Town Crier and outlines the associated terms of reference, appearance guidelines, and expectations. By-Law 2720 is attached as Appendix A.

DISCUSSION

Compensation Provisions in By-Law 2720

Town-Sponsored Civic Functions

- The Town Crier shall receive \$50 per appearance for attendance at Town-sponsored civic functions.

- The by-law further states that “the amount of the Town Crier’s remuneration shall be as determined by the Town from time to time.” Records do not indicate that this rate has been reviewed since 1995.

Non-Profit / Profit Organizations

- “A remuneration shall be paid to the Town Crier by any non-profit / profit organization requesting the presence of the crier at an organizational function.”
- No amount or range is specified.
- As a result, compensation for external organizations is determined between the Crier and the requesting organization on a case-by-case basis.

Additional Provisions

- The Town provides an official uniform (subject to available budget).
- The Town pays annual membership dues to the Ontario Guild of Town Criers. The most recent documentation available (2022) lists the annual dues as \$100 (source: The Ontario Guild of Town Criers Official Website).

Staff can locate no record of Council reviewing the remuneration amount since the adoption of the by-law in 1995.

Comparative Remuneration – Nearby/Southern Ontario Municipalities

Provincial and Regional Comparators

- Aylmer – voluntary appointment; \$150 annual honourarium for Guild dues/uniform.
- Orangeville – \$1,000 annual honourarium for Town Crier services.
- Elgin County – \$2,000 annual “Town Crier Honorarium” in the County budget.
- Petrolia – \$1,500 annual allocation in the marketing budget for Town Crier. (budget allocation—not a fixed payment or honourarium).
- Whitchurch-Stouffville – up to \$200 per event, with an estimated \$3,200 annual remuneration.
- Newmarket – example of a \$150 honorarium for a single inauguration event.
- Ontario Guild of Town Criers – Suggests typical range of \$100 to \$500 per appearance, depending on location, scale, and nature of event.
- General practice – External organizations often negotiate directly with the Town Crier; fees may account for uniform costs, travel, and professional membership fees. Some Criers provide free service for charitable events.

These examples indicate that Tillsonburg’s current \$50 remuneration for Town-sponsored events is significantly lower than common practices elsewhere in Ontario.

Conclusion

By-Law 2720 establishes the Town Crier position and the related remuneration framework; however, the remuneration for Town-sponsored civic functions has not been updated since 1995, and compensation for external organizations remains undefined.

Benchmarking indicates that compensation in many Ontario municipalities ranges from \$100 to \$200+ per appearance, with several using annual honourariums.

If Council wishes to increase the remuneration, the next step is to direct staff to prepare an amending by-law establishing the revised remuneration amount per Town event.

The following alternate motion has been prepared should Council wish to proceed:

Alternate Motion:

THAT Report CS 25-036 titled “Report on the Town Crier Appointment By-Law and Remuneration” be received as information; and

THAT Council direct staff to prepare an amendment to By-Law 2720 to increase the remuneration amount per appearance from the Town for attendance at Town-sponsored civic functions to \$_____.

CONSULTATION

Review of publicly available information regarding Municipal Town Crier appointments in Ontario.

FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

Town Crier remuneration is funded from the Council operating budget.

CORPORATE GOALS

- Lifestyle and amenities
- Customer service, communication and engagement
- Business attraction, retention and expansion
- Community growth
- Connectivity and transportation
- Not Applicable

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Does this report relate to a specific strategic direction or project identified in the Community Strategic Plan? Please indicate section number and/or any priority projects identified in the plan.

Goal – N/A

Strategic Direction – N/A

Priority Project – N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A – By-Law 2720