

Town of Erin

Corporate Report



Date: 2019-08-13

To: Mayor & Members of Council

From: Jim Sawkins, Fire Chief

Report Number:

FD2019-08

Meeting Date:

2019-08-13

Subject

Flag Flying Policy

Recommendation

Be it resolved that Council receives report number FD2019-08 for information;
And that Council approves the “*Flag Flying Policy*” as presented in Appendix A;
And that Council repeals any pre-existing policies and/or by-laws related to the flying of flags at Town of Erin facilities.

Background

The Town of Erin currently does not have a flag policy. Staff are directed from time to time to lower flags as a symbol of mourning for dignitaries and staff members. Staff also lower the flags in recognition of special days.

Currently flag poles (staves) are located at the following municipal buildings:

1. The Town of Erin Municipal Office,
2. Center 2000 Recreation Complex (shared with UGDSB)
3. Ballinafad Community Center
4. Barber Field
5. McMillan Park
6. Fire Station 10 – Erin, and
7. Fire Station 50 - Hillsburgh

Staff have researched various policies with respect to half-masting flags to establish a guideline to recognize occasions where a flag should be lowered as a sign of respect and condolence or to commemorate significant events.

Staff considered flag requests in support of special events (i.e. medical causes, cultural holidays/celebrations, etc.) however, given the numerous possibilities and the fact that many events overlap, it was found that the policy would be too complex and would raise issues with those groups that were denied. Further to this, we would have to erect a

standalone flagpole to host these requests as it is regarded as unethical to fly more than one flag on a flagpole.

Comments

The proposed policy has been drafted in accordance with the Canadian Heritage – Rules for Displaying Flags.

Staff are satisfied that the proposed flag flying policy is specific to our needs and circumstances.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with the proposed recommendation.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council receives FD2019-08 and approves the “Flag Flying Policy” as presented in Appendix A;

It is further recommended that Council repeals any pre-existing policies and/or by-laws related to the flying of flags at Town of Erin facilities.

Attachments

Appendix A - Flag Flying Policy.