

**TOWN OF MINTO**

DATE: May 3, 2016
REPORT TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Cam Forbes, By-law Enforcement Officer
SUBJECT: Updated Dog By-law

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Ensure growth and development in Clifford, Palmerston and Harriston makes cost effective and efficient use of municipal services, and development in rural and urban areas is well planned, reflects community interests, is attractive in design and layout, and is consistent with applicable County and Provincial Policies.

9.13 Implement short form wording and streamline by-law enforcement practices where possible to efficiently allocate resources to minor offences, and continue enforcing by-laws based on complaints keeping in mind available resources.

BACKGROUND:

This By-law was last updated in 2005 to regulate kennels and the number of dogs that are kept at a single residence within the Town of Minto. There are some issues identified with the current by-law that this by-law addresses, as well as some proposed changes due to changing trends over the past 11 years.

COMMENTS:

To update this by-law some changes and additions are needed to make it easier to understand and to make it easier to enforce. Some of the changes to the by-law are;

- Amending definitions including “Noise”, “Dog Control Officer” and “Pound Fees.
- Kennel provisions changed to correct the current By-law, including zones they are permitted in, minimum property size, and setbacks from a Kennel to a receptor;
- New clause making biting or attacking people or domestic animals an offence;
- Proposed increase in the number of dogs permitted on a property without requiring a Kennel license from 2 dogs to 3;
- Sentence added to address anyone that obstructs an Inspector, Dog Control Officer or By-law Enforcement Officer from enforcing this by-law;
- Price of dog tags increased to \$20.00/dog before April 1st and \$35.00/dog after March 31st (an increase used to offset the cost of enforcement of the by-law due to the change in dog tag procedures);
- Pound fee format amended to make administrative work more efficient (change from four differing fee rates per impounded dog to a flat rate plus daily pound fee);
- Several wording changes due to changes in enacting legislation; and,
- An increase in set fines for offences to reflect current economic conditions.

The Town’s current pound operator is Jim Renwick of Howick who has done this work for many years. Succession planning is needed to ensure the service is available in an affordable and effective manner into the future.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The current fees of about \$12,000 budgeted cover the expense for Mr. Renwick and part of the Town's costs to implement and enforce the bylaw. The increase in fees will amount to over \$7,000 which will cover more of the Town's costs including planning for long term service options. Fees in other municipalities are more than the \$20 proposed for Minto.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council of the Town of Minto receives the By-law Enforcement Officer's May 3, 2016 report regarding the updated Dog By-law, and considers the By-Law in open session.

Cam Forbes
By-Law Enforcement Officer