

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ALGONQUIN

SUBJECT:	PUBLIC NOTICES			
TYPE:	ADMINISTRATION		POLICY NO. ADM-001-03	
DATE:	REVIEW DATE:	FREQUENCY:	REL. BY-LAW:	PAGE #:
Feb 7, 2008	July 7, 2008 September 6, 2012 October 24, 2017	As Required	17-546	1 of 14
Revisions				
July 7, 2008 Re-formatted				
Feb 7, 2008 New Policy				
September 6, 2012 Revised				
October 24, 2017 Revised				

I. Purpose:

The *Municipal Act, 2001* (the Act) *Section 270 (1) Subsection (4)* requires that all municipalities adopt and maintain a policy with respect to the circumstances in which the municipality shall provide notice to the public and, if notice is to be provided, the form, manner and times notice shall be given. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for the delivery of the municipality’s activities and services in accordance with the principles as outlined herein. This policy has been developed in accordance with the Act to comply with *Section 270 (1) Subsection (4)*.

II. Definition (s):

Publication shall mean publication of a notice in the local weekly newspapers and if more than one (1) publication is specified these publications shall be made in successive issues of the newspaper.

Notice in Writing shall mean notice either served personally, sent by email with a required read receipt or sent by prepaid registered post directed to the addressee at his/her last known address and to the addressee’s address as shown on the Tax Roll of this Municipality, if the addressee is a taxpayer, and such notice shall be mailed at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting of Council at which the matter is to be considered or shall be served personally at least seven (7) days prior to such meeting.

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III. **Policy Statement:**

In recognition of the emphasis placed on transparency and accountability measures within the *Municipal Act* (the Act), the Council of the Township of South Algonquin acknowledges that it is responsible for providing notice to its citizens and, if notice is to be provided, the form, manner and times notice shall be given. Council considers that adequate and reasonable notice of the proposed passage of By-laws or of taking other proceedings under the provisions of the Act is sufficient if given in accordance with the provisions of this Policy.

IV. **Operating Principle:**

Notice provisions are based on the following:

- citizens should be aware of what, when and where the business of the municipality is being discussed;
- citizens should be aware, when the business being discussed will have an impact on them; and
- adequate time should be provided to citizens so they can make submissions.

Notice should:

- be provided as soon as possible;
- be distributed to the broadest possible audience;
- be given in a variety of manners;
- provide credible, accessible information in a usable format that is easy to understand while being open, inclusive and respectful to all citizens; and
- in some circumstances, be given directly to the affected individuals.

V. **Operating Details:**

Notice Format:

A common format for giving notice which ensures consistency shall include the following information:

- date, time, location, contact information, summary for what notice is being given, how to obtain additional information, and how to register as delegation (if appropriate). Sample Notice provided as Schedule 'A' to this policy.

The CAO/Clerk-Treasurer will review and sign off on notices pertaining to major issues to ensure conformity and consistency. The format for notices will be amended as required to meet accessibility needs such as font size, etc. All language in notices should be written in English and at a reading level that most citizens can understand.

Individual departments will need to establish their own standards related to informal notice and collecting information from the public for matters such as minor road construction/repairs, etc.

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Emergency Provisions:

If a matter or situation arises that, in the opinion of the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, in consultation with the Mayor, is considered to be of an urgent or time sensitive nature, or could affect the health and well-being of the residents of the municipality, or if a state of emergency is declared, or is so directed by a Provincial Ministry, the notice provisions may be waived and best efforts should be made to provide as much notice as is reasonable under the circumstances.

VI. Notice Categories:

General Guidelines:

- all references to days are calendar days, not business days;
- direct delivery includes hand delivery, facsimile and email; and
- notice can be provided through multiple channels including, notice on Township website, local newspapers, radio, television, direct mailing, and posting on local bulletin boards.

#1 - Standard Council/Committee Meetings (minimum 7 days notice):

This refers to when notice is provided of upcoming Committee/Council meetings.

The foundation for this class of notice is the publication of the annual schedule of meetings and updates to the Schedule. The schedule is available on the municipality's official website and is distributed in electronic or hard copy upon request. The schedule shows the time and date for each regular Council meeting and changes to the schedule will be made a minimum of seven (7) days in advance.

Notice of Council/Committee meetings where business of the municipality is being discussed is provided through the development of agendas. Notice shall be provided a minimum of seven (7) days in advance of the meeting by:

- posting of the Agenda (supporting information including staff reports are available at the township office or upon request via email).and
- direct delivery to affected individuals where they have requested to be notified of an upcoming meeting or the municipality is legislatively required to provide notice.

#2 – Defined or Specific Issues (minimum 14 days notice):

This refers to issues that are more specific and affect a smaller more contained population. There are cases where the broad general notice may still be required but some discretion is necessary. Notice is to be more flexible and directed at affected individuals. As an example this notice provision will apply but is not limited to the following:

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- sale of minor parcels of land;
- controlled access by-laws and amendments;
- road renaming, highway closing by-laws;
- consultation on localized road repairs where environmental assessment is not required;
- consulting with the public on the development of new policies/by-laws and the amendment of existing policies/by-laws under the Municipal Act;
- approval of the budget and any amendments resulting in an adjustment to the levy.

A minimum of fourteen (14) days notice is required utilizing the following methods:

- direct delivery or registered mail to affected parties, that may include, but are not limited to: land owners/occupants; abutting land owners/occupants; or stakeholders; and
- posting of notice on the Township website;
- at the discretion of the Department Head advertisement in a local newspaper that has sufficient general circulation in the specific area.

#3 – Major Issues (minimum 21 days notice):

This refers to issues that have a significant impact on the community. This notice of meeting shall serve the broadest audience, as the topics may be of interest to the Township as a whole. It is important that sufficient time is allowed for the public to respond to these issues. The following notice provisions will apply but not limited to the following:

- proposed changes to the structure of the governance (e.g. change of municipality name, change in size of Council).

A minimum of twenty-one (21) days notice is required utilizing the following methods:

- advertising in a local newspaper in advance of meeting and/or passing of By-law, etc.; and
- posting of notice on the Township website in advance.

#4 – Planned Service Disruptions (minimum 24 hours notice):

Departments shall be responsible for establishing processes to deal with planned service interruptions. Notice of the disruption should include information about the reason for the disruption, its anticipated duration and a description of any available alternate services. A minimum of 24 hours is required utilizing the following methods:

- direct delivery or registered mail to affected parties, that may include, but are not limited to: land owners/occupants; abutting land owners/occupants; or stakeholders; or
- posting of the information in a conspicuous place or on the premises as applicable; and
- posting of notice on the Township website.

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VII. Policy Requirements:

The Council of the Township of South Algonquin shall, by the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, give prior notice of meetings to consider the passage of proposed By-laws or to take proceedings under the *Municipal Act, 2001* (the Act), in accordance with the following:

Notice to be given by Municipality or to Public provided as Schedule “B” to this Policy.

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Schedule 'A'

Sample Notice

(date) posted

NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that The Corporation of the Township of Township of South Algonquin proposes to enact a By-law for the purpose of (closing and selling, altering, designating, as the case may be) a (highway or private road, as the case may be) located within (provide description of highway or road sufficient to allow the man on the street to know its location) in the Township of South Algonquin, in the District of Nipissing.

(Insert information which may be pertinent – i.e. that the highway is a part of a road allowance which does not contain a road and is not required for Municipal purposes, etc.)

Any person interested may examine a copy of the description and sketch at the office of the Clerk undersigned.

AND FURTHER THAT NOTICE THAT Council shall hear any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected by the proposed By-law and who applies to be heard at a meeting of Council which will be held for that purpose in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Office, 7 Third Avenue Whitney, Ontario in the () day of (), 20__ at the hour of () o'clock in the (morning, afternoon or evening, as the case may be).

"NAME OF CLERK"

CLERK

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ALGONQUIN

7 Third Avenue

P.O. Box 217

Whitney, ON

K0J 2M0

Signature of CAO/Clerk-Treasurer_____

date

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Schedule “B”
Notice to be given by Municipality or to Public

Notices under the Municipal Act

Subject matter	Timing of Notice	Manner of giving	Section
Highway/Unopened/Shoreline allowances sales	4 weeks	posting of notice on website and local newspaper	34(1)
Name or change name of private road	before passing by-law	public notice of intention to pass by-law	48
Agreement for provision of municipal capital facilities	upon passing of by-law giving authority to enter into	clerk to give written notice of by-law to Minister of Education	110 (5)
Exempt land on which municipal capital facilities are or will be located from taxation	upon passing of by-law	written notice of contents of by-law to MPAC, clerk of any other affected municipality and secretary of affected school board	110 (8)
Restructuring proposal	before council votes on whether to support or oppose restructuring proposal	one public meeting with notice	173 (3)
Opportunity to make representations to restructuring commission at public meeting and inspect draft and written submissions		commission to notify public in prescribed geographic area (reasonable notice in form and manner and at times that restructuring commission considers adequate to give public in prescribed geographic area)	174 (10)
Change of name of municipality	before passing by-law	notice of intention to pass by-law one public meeting	187 (2)
Change in composition of council of local municipality	before passing by-law	notice and public meeting	217 (2)
Divide or redivide municipality into wards or dissolve existing wards	within 15 days after by-law is passed	public notice of passing of by-law specifying last date for filing notice of appeal	222 (3)
Council of local board meetings		procedure by-law to provide for notice	238 (2.1)
Procedure by-law for governing the calling, place and proceedings of meetings	before passing by-law	municipality and local board give notice of	238 (4)

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		intention to pass by-law	
Audited financial statements of municipality for previous year	within 60 days after receipt	Treasurer to publish copy of statements and notice that statements available upon request in newspaper	295 (1)
Notice of demand of taxes payable in respect of which there is a phase-in		Indicate amount of taxes that would have been payable without phase-in, amount of taxes payable, and difference	318 (15)
Determination by MPAC that there are no comparable properties with respect to eligible property	within 60 days of receiving the notice by MPAC	local municipality to give notice to owner and of amount determined for year or portion of year under Part IX	331 (10)
Tax collection – ceasing of alternative instalments and due dates of property taxes	taxes unpaid after due date	treasurer gives written notice to taxpayer that alternative instalments and due dates may no longer be used	342 (5)
Tax collection – taxes and related late payment charges owing as of December 31 of preceding year	upon determination of tax account by February 28 each year	treasurer to send notice to every taxpayer in arrears may be sent with a tax bill	348 (2)
Tax collection –land occupied by tenant		treasurer may give tenant written notice requiring tenant to pay rent to treasurer up to amount of taxes due and unpaid plus costs	350 (1)
Tax collection –public auction of personal property seized for taxes owing		treasurer or treasurer’s agent to give public notice of time and place of auction and name of taxpayer	351 (8)
Tax collection –application by treasurer or owner to divide land into parcels and apportion unpaid taxes among them	on or before September 30 of year following year application made and at least 14 days before meeting	Council to notify applicants and owners of meeting by mail	356 (4)
Tax collection – decision by council whether to divide land into parcels and apportion unpaid taxes among them	within 14 days after decision	Council to notify applicants and owners of decision and specify last day for appeal	356 (5)

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Tax collection – local municipality hearing application to cancel, reduce or refund all or part of taxes levied on land	On or before September 30 of year following year application made and at least 14 days before meeting	council to notify applicants and owners of meeting my mail	357 (5)
Tax collection – decision whether to cancel, reduce or refund all or part of taxes levied on land	within 14 days after decision	council to notify applicants and owners of decision and specify last day for appeal	357 (6)
Tax collection – decision whether to cancel, reduce or refund all or part of taxes levied on land	within 14 days after decision	council to notify applicants and owners of decision and specify last day for appeal	357 (6)
Overcharged taxes – application for refund determined to be invalid		treasurer to notify applicant in writing giving reasons application is not valid	358 (8)
Undercharged taxes – council to hold a meeting at which treasurer and affected taxpayer may make representations	at least 14 days before meeting	by mail	358 (9)
Overcharges taxes- council determining application	within 14 days after making decision		358 (10)
Undercharged taxes – council to hold a meeting at which treasurer affected taxpayer may make representations	at least 14 days before meeting	by mail	359 (3)
Undercharged taxes – council determining applications	within 14 days after making decision	last day for appeal to be specified	359 (4)
Undercharged taxes – council determining applications		council to forward copy of decision to MPAC	359 (13)
Tax collection – action to collect on debt resulting from decrease in rebate for charity	Not commenced until 120 days after providing notice to eligible charity		361 (10.1)
Tax collection – eligible heritage property – local municipality establishes program to provide tax reductions or refunds in respect of	within 30 days after the by-law is passed	deliver copy of by-law to Minister of Finance	365.2 (5)
Sale of Land for Tax Arrears	As Per Part XI of the Municipal Act	As Per Part XI of the Municipal Act	Part XI of the Municipal Act

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Tax sale – registration of tax arrears certificate	within 60 days	Treasurer to send to owner, persons listed on title and spouse, unless treasurer can't find name or notice waived ****	374 (1), (2), (5)
Tax sale- where cancellation price remains unpaid 280 days after registration of tax arrears certificate	Within 30 days after expiry of 280-day period	Treasurer to end final notice stating that land will be advertised for public sale unless cancellation price is paid before the end of one-year period following registration of tax arrears certificate ****	379 (1)
Tax sale – cancellation price remains unpaid after one year following registration of tax arrears certificate	Immediately	advertise land for sale once in The Ontario Gazette, and once a week for four weeks in appropriate newspaper, or if none, post notice in municipal office and one other prominent place in municipality – advertisement to state mobile homes not included if such by-law passed ****	379 (2),(4)
Tax sale – statement of facts regarding payment of net proceeds into court	within 60 days of payment	treasurer to send statement to Public Guardian and Trustee, owner and spouse and persons listed on title ****	380 (3)
Application of municipality to OMB to incur a debt	Upon receipt of application	OMB may direct municipality to give notice of application to such persons and in such manner as OMB determines	402 (1)

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Licensing by-law – fine for contravention of remaining unpaid after becoming due and payable		treasurer or agent may provide written notice specifying the amount of the fine payable and the final date on which it is payable (not less than 21 days after notice)	441 (1)
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