

THE CORPORATION OF HALDIMAND COUNTY

By-law Number /20

Being a by-law to amend Procedural By-law 1880/17 to allow for electronic meeting participation during declared emergencies

WHEREAS Section 238 of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, (the Act) provides that every municipality shall pass a procedure by-law for governing the calling, place and proceedings of meetings;

WHEREAS Section 238 (3.3) of the Act authorizes municipalities to provide that during any period where an emergency has been declared to exist in all or part of the municipality under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, a member of Council who is participating electronically in a meeting may be counted in determining whether or not a quorum of members is present and may participate electronically in a meeting closed to the public;

WHEREAS Procedural By-law 1880/17 was enacted on December 11, 2017 and previously amended through by-laws 1985/18 and 1999/18;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed expedient to further amend by-law 1880/17 to authorize members of council to participate electronically in a meeting during a declared emergency,

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of The Corporation of Haldimand County enacts as follows:

1. **THAT** Part I - Definitions section of By-law 1880/17 be amended with the addition of the following:

“Electronic participation” shall mean a Member of Council taking part in a Meeting through the use of telephone, video conference, or any other technology that provides for audio and/or visual participation, in place of attending in person.

2. **THAT** the following section be added to By-law 1880/17:

6.8 Electronic Participation

During any period where an emergency has been declared to exist in all or part of the municipality under section 4 or 7.0.1 of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*,

- A member of Council who is participating electronically in a meeting may be counted in determining whether or not a quorum of members is present at any point in time, and
- A member of Council can participate electronically in a meeting that is closed to the public.

Where a declared emergency results in electronic participation by members of Council, delegations will not be permitted to appear in person at the Meeting, however, written submissions regarding agenda items will be accepted by e-mail prior to the Meeting, and will be distributed to members of Council.

All votes will be by show of hands or verbal consent.

3. **AND THAT** this by-law shall take effect on the date of passing.

READ a first and second time this 21st day of April, 2020.

READ a third time and finally passed this 21st day of April, 2020.

MAYOR

CLERK