



**Municipality of Huron East
Municipal Elections Compliance Audit Committee Minutes
Council Chambers
72 Main Street South, Seaforth, ON
Wednesday, April 12, 2023**

Members Present:

Jacque Bishop, Nancy Michie, and Tom Prout

Staff Present:

Clerk Jessica Rudy

Others Present:

Candidate Nancy Craig

1. Call to Order and Introductions of Members

Clerk Jessica Rudy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and explained the process of the meeting is to review and decide to accept or reject the application that was submitted. It was noted that the Candidate was present at the meeting and would be given the opportunity to speak and that the Terms of Reference for the Committee and the Huron East Procedural By-law were provided as the rules of procedure for the Committee.

All members provided round table introductions.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Clerk Jessica Rudy opened the floor for nominations of Chair.

N. Michie nominated T. Prout for position of Chair.

T. Prout nominated J. Bishop for position of Chair.

A call for further nominations were made.

T. Prout declined the nomination.

J. Bishop accepted the nomination.

Moved by T. Prout and Seconded by N. Michie

That the nominations for Chair be closed, and Jacque Bishop be appointed as Chair.

Carried

Clerk Jessica Rudy opened the floor for nominations of Vice-Chair.

N. Michie nominated T. Prout for position Vice – Chair.

A call for further nominations were made, and T. Prout accepted the nomination.

Moved by N. Michie and Seconded by J. Bishop:

That the nominations for Vice Chair be closed, and Tom Prout be appointed as Vice-Chair.

Carried

J. Bishop assumed the role of Chair.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

4. Terms of Reference and Procedural Document

The Terms of Reference and Huron East Procedural By-law was received for information.

5. Applications

5.1 Application for Compliance Audit of the Campaign Finances of Candidate Nancy Craig for Mayor for the 2022 Municipal Election

The Committee noted that they have reviewed the application, and additional information regarding a campaign website, as submitted by applicant D. Chartrand.

6. Delegations

Candidate Nancy Craig appeared before the Committee stating that the Legion event was preceding the campaign and was not part of the campaign, rather an opportunity to meet the community and decide if she should run for Mayor. N. Craig stated that it was not a fundraising event but rather to promote public awareness and quoted Section 88.19(4) of the Municipal Elections Act.

In regards to the website, N. Craig stated that the website was done at no cost to her, and was done by friends who own a marketing company.

In response to the Committee, N. Craig confirmed that the website was created after her nomination papers were submitted and that she did not have a value for the website and did not ask Jackie and Mike Binda to create it but rather they had done it on their own accord.

The Committee noted that there is a section within the form where a candidate should indicate any goods or services they received for free, as a contribution, and the associated market value should be listed.

The Committee noted that Jackie and Mike Binda were listed as contributors to the campaign, and N. Craig confirmed that it was a cash donation.

The Committee discussed the Legion event noting that the event was held before nomination papers were submitted and that the Municipal Elections Act does state that expenses should not be incurred prior to the nomination period of a Candidate.

N. Craig reiterated that the event was to determine if she wished to run in the Election and that the idea was to gather ideas from the community and that it was attended by friends, family and neighbours and that no fees were imposed or funds requested.

7. Closed Deliberations (If Required)

The Committee went into private deliberations at 10:24 a.m. as per Section 88.33(5.1) of the Municipal Elections Act stating that meetings of the committee shall be open to the public, but that the committee may deliberate in private.

The Committee reopened the meeting to the public at 10:58 a.m.

8. Issuance of Committee Decision

Moved by N. Michie and Seconded by T. Prout

That having reviewed the materials filed by the Applicant and the Candidate, and having heard the oral submission by the Candidate, pursuant to Section 88.33(7) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended, the Compliance Audit Committee hereby rejects a compliance audit of the election campaign finances of Nancy Craig, candidate in the 2022 Municipal Elections, since the Committee does not find that there are reasonable grounds and it is not in the public interest to deem the application in contravention of the Municipal Elections Act.

Carried

The Committee expressed that they did have concerns over the Legion meeting and were unclear if the Legion meeting fell outside of the campaign period as N. Craig was not yet a Candidate in the Election but that it was advertised on a Facebook page entitled “Nancy Craig for Mayor of Huron East 2022” and dated prior to the nomination period.

The Committee also noted that the Website should’ve have been listed as a contribution of services, however, the website was no longer active and they could not judge the significance of the site. In response, N. Craig stated that she did not know the value and explained that it was a one page, basic, simple site.

It was expressed by the Committee that the two items, although should have been reported, were not significant enough and not in the public interest to accept the application.

N. Craig was notified that although the Committee had rejected the application, the

applicant would still be able to appeal the decision to the Superior Court of Justice within 15 days after the date of decision.

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment

Moved by N. Michie and Seconded by T. Prout:

The time now being 11:06 a.m. That the Municipal Elections Compliance Audit Committee adjourn.

Carried

Jacquie Bishop, Chair

Jessica Rudy, Clerk