

**AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
REPORT 7
OCTOBER 9, 2019**

54

**COMITÉ DE L'AGRICULTURE ET
DES AFFAIRES RURALES
RAPPORT 7
LE 9 OCTOBRE 2019**

**EXTRACT OF DRAFT MINUTES 8
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 3, 2019**

**EXTRAIT DE L'ÉBAUCHE
DU PROCÈS-VERBAL 8
COMITÉ DE L'AGRICULTURE ET
DES AFFAIRES RURALES
LE 3 OCTOBRE 2019**

PLANNING SERVICES FUNDING REVIEW AND STAFF INCREASE

ACS2019-PIE-PS-0095

CITY WIDE

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend Council approve:

- 1. Amendments to Planning Applications fees as set out in By-law 2019-95, as detailed in Document 1;**
- 2. The addition of seven full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for the Planning Services and Legal Service Areas, at an annual approximate cost of \$800,000.00, funded entirely from the increase in fee-generated revenues, noted in recommendation 1.**

Lee Ann Snedden, Director, Planning Services, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the report and also outlined what Planning Committee had directed at their meeting of September 26.

A copy of the presentation is held on file with the City Clerk's office.

Following the presentation Committee members commented and asked a variety of questions regarding but not limited to these points:

- Members not against staff increase but concerns regarding the increase in fees for rural villages who are already seeing some

economic development move to neighbouring communities outside of the City boundaries due to lower fees. Staff stated that this will be examined further with the development of the Official Plan. There is a different challenge in every rural village.

- There were a variety of questions on the present number of staff (65) and how many work on any given file as well as the length of time needed for each application. Staff stated that every file is different, and time varies on various parties implicated in its approval. Many times, it's not just the City holding up application process. At present time Lee Ann stated they are meeting 52% of their target time. It is hoped that this will improve.

Chair El-Chantiry stated his concerns as well and read out a direction to staff that was accepted by the Committee.

The recommendations were CARRIED as presented with the direction to staff

Direction to Staff

Whereas the report ACS2019-PIE-PS-0095, Planning Services Funding Review and Staff Increase proposes amendments to Planning Application fees; and

Whereas Document 1 details the current and proposed City of Ottawa user fees; and

Whereas the rural Councillors have expressed a concern that the cost to develop lands in surrounding rural communities, such as Lanark or Prescott -Russel, is already lower; and

Whereas the rural area Councillors feel that such a rapid increase in application fees would disadvantage rural economic development in the City of Ottawa;

Therefore be it resolved that the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee direct staff in Planning Services bring forward a plan to phase in an incremental increase over a period of 2 years, 2020 and 2021, for the rural areas, as defined in Schedule A – Rural Policy Plan of the Official Plan, in time for consideration by Council on October 9th.