



Information Regarding the Public Consultation Process Pertaining to the Review of Wasaga Distribution Inc.

Communiqué

At the November 22, 2016 Town of Wasaga Beach Council meeting, Council unanimously decided not to hold a referendum pertaining to the review of Wasaga Distribution Inc. (WDI) at this time. Council also passed a motion on a 5-2 recorded vote to undertake a thorough public consultation process consisting of the following components:

1. development of a dedicated webpage on the Town's website that will include all information pertaining to potential future options for WDI; (frequently asked questions, any presentations that may be provided, background information, general information regarding hydro distribution, Town issued media releases etc.) **This webpage has been established and can be found by visiting: <http://www.wasagabeach.com/Pages/wasaga-distribution-review.aspx>;**
2. hosting a Public Information meeting(s) at the Wasaga Beach RecPlex for the purpose of providing information regarding potential options for WDI to residents and business owners. The meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to express their views through an open microphone forum with a question and answer period prior to the meeting concluding. Rogers television has offered to film and broadcast the meeting. Council members will be in attendance to listen to comments;
3. development of an established e-mail address to allow residents and business owners to send e-mail comments to the Town, as well as instructions on how to send comments through written correspondence;
4. undertake a public opinion survey made available on-line (Town's website and corporate social media platforms - Twitter and Facebook) and at all Town facilities;
5. ensure all methods of expressing comments regarding the potential options for the future of WDI are advertised using every media outlet available in Wasaga Beach including: the Town page in the Wasaga Sun, the Town's corporate social media platforms (Twitter and Facebook), a comprehensive radio campaign on 97.7 the Beach, Beach Booster Radio/Beach Booster publication, digital information boards at the Wasaga Stars Arena and RecPlex and as noted above, the Town website;
6. development of a list of frequently asked questions which will be made available at the Public Information meeting(s), on the Town's website and social media platforms; and

7. Council will host a formal public meeting to hear the views of residents and businesses prior to making any decision.

The Board of Directors of WDI outlined three potential options regarding the future of WDI. These options include: retaining and growing the utility in its current form, merging the utility, and selling the utility. It is important to note and understand that despite what may have been written on social media and other forums, no decisions regarding the future of WDI have been made. The only discussion surrounding the potential sale of WDI is a result of a recommendation made by the Board of Directors of WDI indicating that Council should **consider** the sale of WDI.

Before making a decision on this important community issue, Council is committed to obtaining all possible information regarding the advantages and disadvantages of each option pertaining to the future of WDI; and the views of the residents of Wasaga Beach. It is equally important that the Town ensure a thorough, transparent and professional public consultation process that will be easy for residents and business owners of Wasaga Beach to participate in. It is anticipated that details pertaining to the public consultation process will be available in early December.

For additional information, please contact:

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