



**Muskoka Compliance Audit Committee  
Minutes**

Friday, May 26, 2023 - 2:00 PM  
Council Chambers  
Gravenhurst Town Hall

Those in attendance were:

**Members**

B. Panizza, Chair  
J. Pajunen, Vice-Chair  
B. Webb

**Staff**

K. Thibeault      Director of Legislative Services / Clerk  
J. Gilston          Deputy Clerk

**Counsel**

J. Pappas          Associate, Aird & Berlis

**1. Call to Order**

The Deputy Clerk called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

None noted.

**3. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Deputy Clerk called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Muskoka Compliance Audit Committee.

J. Pajunen nominated B. Panizza for Chair. B. Panizza accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations for Chair, and the nominations were closed.

The Deputy Clerk called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Muskoka Compliance Audit Committee.

B. Panizza nominated J. Pajunen for Vice-Chair. J. Pajunen accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations for Vice-Chair, and the nominations were closed.

**#A** Moved by J. Pajunen  
Seconded by B. Webb

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** B. Panizza be appointed as the Chair of the Muskoka Compliance Audit Committee for the 2022-2026 Term;

**AND THAT** J. Pajunen be appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Muskoka Compliance Audit Committee for the 2022-2026 Term.

**CARRIED**

Chair Panizza took over as Chair for the balance of the meeting.

**4. Consideration of Clerk's Report**

a) Clerk's Financial Statement Review Report

K. Thibeault, Director of Legislative Services / Clerk, summarized the Report and the matter regarding Ms. Tara McNaughton's contributions toward Terry Pilger's election campaign being over the prescribed contribution limit as per section 88.9 of the *Municipal Elections Act*. The Clerk further highlighted the requirement of section 88.34(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act* to bring forward the identified report to the Muskoka Compliance Audit Committee.

b) Delegation from the Contributor

Ms. McNaughton was not in attendance.

As Ms. McNaughton was not in attendance, the Committee requested the Clerk further summarize her interactions with Ms. McNaughton regarding the apparent infractions.

Through email and telephone conversations, the Clerk identified that Ms. McNaughton noted the reasoning for the apparent over-contribution was that her husband also submitted a contribution to T. Pilger however both contributions were recorded under Ms. McNaughton's name. The Clerk advised that no further evidence was provided to assist the Committee.

Committee requested and received information regarding the availability of the cheques issued by Ms. McNaughton to verify her reasoning, whether Ms. McNaughton was advised of the meeting date and penalties for contravening the *Municipal Elections Act*, and details of the email correspondence between the Clerk and Ms. McNaughton.

**5. Into Closed for Deliberations**

The Committee opted to not resolve into Closed Session for deliberations.

**6. Deliberations and Decision**

Committee engaged in a discussion regarding the merits of Ms. McNaughton's defense and reasoning for the apparent over-contribution, the notable absence of Ms. McNaughton at the meeting, and the contents of the decision letter to include the consequences if Committee did commence legal proceedings and caution for others in the community.

**#B** Moved by J. Pajunen  
Seconded by B. Webb

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Muskoka Compliance Audit Committee receive the Clerk's Financial Statement Report, dated May 2, 2023, as prepared by the Clerk for Town of Gravenhurst;

**AND THAT** upon consideration of the Clerk's Report, pursuant to Section 88.34(2) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, the Muskoka Compliance Audit Committee shall not commence a legal proceeding against Tara McNaughton.

**CARRIED**

The Committee instructed the Clerk to write a letter to the Contributor to convey its disappointment in her choice to not participate in the meeting to assist the committee in fulfilling its mandate.

**7. Adjournment**

Moved by J. Pajunen  
Seconded by B. Webb

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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Chair

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Deputy Clerk