



Township of Wainfleet

"Wainfleet - find your country side!"

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – June 15, 2023

Wainfleet CAO Announces Retirement; Council Appoints Treasurer as Part of Long-term Succession Plan

Wainfleet, ON – After years of dedicated service to the municipality, the Township's highly respected Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), William Kolasa, has announced his upcoming retirement. Mr. Kolasa has been an integral part of the Township's administration, as both Chief of Staff as well as Council's most important liaison and advisor, contributing significantly to its stability and success over the years. His retirement marks the end of an era but also paves the way for a new chapter in the municipality's administrative leadership.

Councillors acknowledged these contributions which will form a part of Mr. Kolasa's 34 year legacy in municipal life. "During his tenure as CAO, William provided a level of experience and rock-solid advice to Council that we could always depend on no matter what the issue was," said Terry Gilmore, currently Wainfleet's longest serving Council Member. "His inspirational leadership, unwavering commitment, and tireless efforts have earned him the respect and admiration of not only his colleagues but also the residents he served."

In light of Mr. Kolasa's retirement, Township Council met to consider the best approach to identify a suitable successor who could fill the shoes of the retiring CAO and continue the municipality's forward-thinking trajectory.

The outgoing CAO emphasized the vital nature of the role. "This is Council's main advisor, liaison and connection to both staff and stakeholders," he said. "This is a position that has to meet a very delicate balance, with high levels of experience, integrity and dedication to public service." This sentiment was echoed by Councillor John McLellan. "Leadership in a corporation, including a municipal corporation has to be right on point. We need to choose carefully and not be rolling the dice."

Wainfleet Councillor Joan Anderson pointed to the importance of finding someone committed to working in a smaller municipality and being able to retain them in the longer term. "We've seen that challenge in Wainfleet in years past when we were like a revolving door – it's so good to see stability taking hold so we can continue to build our team."

After careful consideration of the options before it, Wainfleet Council is pleased to announce their unanimous appointment of the Township's current Treasurer, Mallory Luey, as the new Chief Administrative Officer as the fruition of the Township's succession planning efforts.

Commenting on the appointment, Mayor Brian Grant expressed Council's confidence in Ms. Luey's abilities and highlighted the continuity of vision and expertise that she brings to the role. "Ms. Luey is an exceptionally qualified candidate. As the Treasurer and Manager of Corporate Services, has been an integral part of the Township's senior administration for several years, serving in various financial and leadership roles. Her deep understanding of the municipality's operations, policies, and strategic objectives, coupled with a proven track record of effective decision-making and dependable and inspired leadership, makes Mallory the ideal choice to lead the Township into the future. The fact that she has been developed from within, through Council's commitment to training and development over the years, is something to be very proud of."

Returning Councillor Sherri Van Vliet also commented on the seamless transition the Township's succession planning allowed. "We're sorry to lose William, but Mallory's experience, dedication, and unwavering commitment to Wainfleet make her the perfect candidate to carry on the great momentum Council and staff have going for us."

"I am honoured and excited that Council is entrusting me with this responsibility," said Ms. Luey her transition to the CAO role. "I'm looking forward to continuing to serve the residents of Wainfleet, to working closely with Council and staff to continue building on the foundation that council and staff have been working toward for many years now. I owe a huge 'thank you' to William for his leadership over the years - his knowledge, dedication, and support have positioned the municipality very well for success going forward."

Mr. Kolasa will retire as Chief Administrative Officer effective December 31, 2023, and Ms. Luey will assume full duties of the position effective January 1, 2024. Under a phased approach, Mr. Kolasa will work closely with Ms. Luey during a transition period to ensure a seamless handover of responsibilities and knowledge transfer.

"The Township of Wainfleet extends its heartfelt appreciation to William Kolasa, for his exceptional service and wishes him a fulfilling and much deserved retirement," said Mayor Brian Grant. "And of course, the Township very much looking forward to welcoming Mallory Luey's transition into her new role and to her leadership in the years to come."



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