

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA

BYLAW 2020.22

BEING A BYLAW TO AMEND BYLAW 2018.08, A BYLAW TO GOVERN
THE CALLING, PLACE AND PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS

(Procedure Bylaw – Electronic Participation)

WHEREAS Section 238(2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25* provides that every municipality and local board shall pass a procedure Bylaw for governing the calling, place and proceedings of meetings;

AND WHEREAS Council adopted Bylaw 2018.08 being a Bylaw to Govern the Calling, Place and Proceedings of meetings;

AND WHEREAS Bill 187, the *Municipal Emergency Act, 2020*, which received Royal Assent on March 19, 2020 by the Provincial legislature, grants Municipal Councils with discretionary authority to participate in public and closed session meetings via electronic means where a State of Emergency has been declared under Sections 4 of 7.0.1 of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*; and

AND WHEREAS Council of the Township of Ramara is desirous of exercising this discretionary authority, to implement measures to allow for electronic participation by Council only in situations deemed to be urgent, where a State of Emergency has been declared in accordance with Sections 4 and 7.0.1 of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, and to provide for transparency and accountability to the public while ensuring the health and safety of its members, staff and the public;

AND WHEREAS the Council deems it necessary to amend Bylaw No. 2018.08.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ramara enacts as follows:

1. That Section 12.7 be repealed and replaced with the following:

12.7a) While every effort shall be made by members of Council to attend meetings physically in person, in the event that an emergency has been declared to exist in all or part of the Township of Ramara, or in accordance with provisions contained in Sections 4 or 7.0.1 of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, a member of Council may participate fully in a meeting by electronic means (via teleconference or video conference). This applies to members of Council only, and to their participation in the following types of meetings: Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, Regular, Special, and Emergency Meetings.

- 12.7b) Electronic participation shall mean participation by teleconference or video conference.
 - 12.7c) Any member of Council participating by electronic means shall notify the Clerk at a minimum twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting.
 - 12.7d) Where a State of Emergency has been declared as outlined in Section 2.8.1 above, electronic participation shall count towards quorum in accordance with section 238(3.3) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended by Bill 187.
 - 12.7d) Votes cast by members electronically shall be counted towards the overall decision of Council.
 - 12.7e) A member cannot be physically absent for more than three (3) consecutive meetings without the consent of Council.
 - 12.7f) In the event of technical failure during the meeting, Council/Committee may take a recess of not more than ten (10) minutes to allow staff to reinstate the electronic participation. If a member can no longer participate by electronic means, it will not affect the validity of the meeting or decisions made.
2. That in all other respects Bylaw 2018.08 shall remain in force and effect.
 3. That this Bylaw shall come into force and effect on the 15th day following the passing of this Bylaw provided the Township of Ramara receives no unanswered objections on or before 9:30 a.m. April 6, 2020.

BYLAW READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED AS A BYLAW THIS 23RD DAY OF MARCH 2020.



BASIL CLARKE, MAYOR



CATHY WAINMAN, DEPUTY CLERK

