

Staff Report

Report To: Corporate Services Committee
Report From: Crystal Moffatt, Tax Collector
Meeting Date: September 14, 2023
Report Code: CR-23-068
Subject: MPAC's Data Sharing and Services Agreement

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-23-068 respecting MPAC's Data Sharing and Services Agreement (DSSA), the Corporate Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute MPAC's Data Sharing and Services Agreement (DSSA) prior to the deadline of December 23, 2023.

Highlights:

- The DSSA clarifies the use of MPAC data by municipalities, and the use of municipal data by MPAC.
- Updates and consolidates six dated MPAC agreements governing data sharing and services into a single document.
- Reflects the ongoing relationship between MPAC and municipalities by addressing concerns over data sharing, municipal document protection, and obligations.
- Failure to sign the DSSA prior to December 23, 2023, will result in restrictions to data provided through Municipal Connect effective January 1st, 2024.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: This report supports the delivery of Core Service.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Background:

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) was established in 1997 as a method to create accurate and equitable assessments across Ontario. Funded by all municipalities, MPAC remains an independent, not-for-profit corporation.

Their role is to assess and classify over 5 million properties in Ontario through compliance with the *Assessment Act* and regulations set by the Government of Ontario.

A simplified methodology of property assessment and the taxation system is:

Property assessments are determined -> Assessments are shared with Municipalities -> Municipalities determine investments required to build thriving communities.

The primary tool/resource we use for determination of taxation levies is Municipal Connect, MPAC's primary source of assessment-related information. The open-data website is municipal-specific, allowing any employee, official or agent of a municipality access and use of MPAC information.

Analysis:

The DSSA will consolidate six existing MPAC agreements into one, easier to understand document. Combining:

- Municipal License Agreement
- Product Use Sheets (relating to use at kiosks, tax calculators, and websites)
- Municipal Connect Terms & Conditions of Use
- Ontario Parcel Master Agreement
- MPAC Terms & Conditions
- Service Level Agreement (SLA)

Municipal documents will be protected from disclosure to unauthorized

access by third parties in accordance with the *MFIPPA*, *the Assessment Act*, and the DSSA.

The DSSA clarifies that MPAC's use of 'municipal documents' would be to:

- Perform property assessment, valuation and other duties assigned to MPAC pursuant to the *Assessment Act*.
- Update and verify MPAC databases to provide assessment data to municipalities, taxpayers, and commercialize data and insights to offset the cost of MPAC services to municipalities.
- Municipalities are permitted to use MPAC data products for internal planning uses, internal operational uses, and external distribution uses.

Activities used for Internal Planning purposes include:

- Internal land use planning under the *Planning Act*.
- Activities pertaining to the Official Plan, lot creation, land development, zoning, site plans or building permits.
- The creation of a municipal by-law for development charges under the *Development Charges Act*.

Financial Implications:

Failure to sign the DSSA prior to December 23, 2023, will result in restrictions to Municipal Connect and possible losses of added assessment through building permits, planning, and taxation.

Communication Strategy:

Policies will be shared with municipal staff and agents who have access to Municipal Connect.

Consultation:

Municipal Property Assessment Corporation

Attachments:

Municipal Property Assessment Corporation Data Sharing and Services Agreement

Recommended by:

Christine Gilbert, Deputy Treasurer

Kate Allan, Treasurer/Director of Corporate Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Crystal Moffatt, Tax Collector at cmoffatt@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ex. 1249.