



## Report to Council

To: Mayor and Council Members  
From: Kelly Picken, Deputy Clerk  
Date: November 13, 2024  
Subject: Purchase of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Owl

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### **Recommendation:**

The council approve the purchase of an additional Meeting Owl and expansion mic and further that the estimated cost of approximately \$2400.00 be taken from the COVID-19 funding.

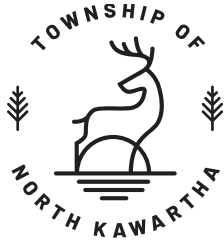
### **Background:**

A Meeting Owl is an intelligent 360° conference camera, mic, and speaker that gets smarter over time. In addition, an expansion microphone connects with the Meeting Owl to extend its audio pick-up range by 8 feet (2.5 meters), so everyone seated at longer tables can be heard clearly.

### **Analysis:**

To facilitate hybrid meetings in the council chambers a Meeting Owl and expansion microphone has been successfully implemented. Currently our council and committee meetings are held in a hybrid format. Meetings are recorded and uploaded to our YouTube channel to allow the public to view a meeting at their convenience. A hybrid meeting allows participants to attend in person or join electronically or by phone. The North Kawartha Township YouTube channel currently has 151 subscribers and has had 1813 views within the last 90 days (August 15 – November 12, 2024).

To eliminate exposed wires in the council chambers we intend to permanently install the existing Meeting Owl and expansion mic in the ceiling. Meeting Owl recommends a [PanaVise ceiling mount](#) which is available for \$33.91 on Amazon. Additional wiring may be required. The installation of this equipment will prevent its use in portable applications such as meetings in the Boardroom or other municipal locations. Covid



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funding will be utilized to ensure that municipal business may proceed in a hybrid format allowing staff, council, and board members to join meetings electronically or by phone.

**Financial Implications:**

The Meeting Owl 3 purchase is \$1499.00, and the expansion mic is \$349.00, the PanaVise Ceiling mount (\$33.91) and an estimated cost of \$200.00 for cabling for a total estimated cost of \$2400.00 from COVID-19 funding. The current balance in the COVID-19 funding account is \$81000.00.

**Strategic and/or Other Plans:**

3. Governance – Maintain a Strong, Accountable Municipal Government

**In Consultation With:**

Judy Everett, Treasurer

**Attachment:**

None