

Staff Report

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Lesley Marshall, CAO / Clerk-Treasurer
Date: February 20, 2026
Subject: Short-Term Rentals

Recommendation

That Council approve the use of the following standardized, forward-facing language when responding to public inquiries regarding short-term rentals in the Township of Chisholm:

The Township of Chisholm has not adopted a licensing or governance by-law specific to short-term rental accommodations. Short-term rentals are therefore subject to the same municipal by-laws as other residential properties. Any complaints or concerns related to short-term rental properties, such as noise, parking, or property standards, are addressed through the Township's by-law enforcement process.

Background

Council previously directed staff to monitor and track complaints related to short-term rental accommodations within the Township.

Since that direction was given, very few complaints have been received, and those that have occurred were addressed through existing by-law enforcement tools. No pattern of issues has been identified that would suggest a need for additional regulation at this time.

Discussion

The Township currently does not have a licensing or governance by-law specific to short-term rentals. Properties operating as short-term rentals are subject to all applicable municipal by-laws, including those related to noise, parking, nuisance, and property standards.

The development and administration of a formal short-term rental licensing regime would require:

- new policy development;
- procedures and enforcement mechanisms;
- fee structures;
- administrative oversight and staffing resources; and

- ongoing compliance monitoring.

Given the limited number of complaints received, staff are of the opinion that implementing such a framework would be cost-prohibitive and disproportionate to the level of demonstrated need.

In addition, licensing regimes can introduce legal and financial risk, including costs associated with enforcement actions, disputes, appeals, and potential litigation. Maintaining the current approach allows the Township to address issues on an as-needed basis, using established by-law enforcement processes that are already in place and understood.

Future Review

Should Council wish to consider further regulation of short-term rentals, staff recommend that the matter be reviewed as part of a comprehensive zoning by-law review, where land use considerations, enforcement implications, administrative capacity, and financial impacts can be evaluated collectively. Council may determine at that time whether additional regulation or licensing is warranted.

Conclusion

The recommended approach provides clarity and consistency in responding to public inquiries, reflects current Township practice, and balances enforcement needs with administrative and financial realities, while preserving Council's ability to revisit the issue in the future.