From: Renee Ainsworth
Sent on: November 24, 2025 4:31:21 PM
To: Michael Binetti
CC: Stacey Forfar
Subject: RE: Aird & Berlis
Attachments: Township of Springwater Proposal for Legal Services 1.pdf (297.33 KB)

CONFIDENTIAL

Hi Michael,

Below is my draft email to the DM for review.

Good morning Deputy Mayor,

Thank you for your patience as I dealt with a family matter last week.

There are no Council resolutions regarding engagement of Air & Berlis. The Township has used Aird & Berlis dating back at least 10 years, on an ad hoc basis. Staff utilize this firm as a resource when specialized advice or guidance is required relating to interpretation of the Municipal Act, Municipal Elections Act, Public Libraries Act, etc. With Strong Mayor Powers being provided to the Township, staff utilized Aird & Berlis to assist with interpretation of the legislation and the Townships requirements to ensure staff were following the processes outlined in the Municipal Act regarding Mayoral decisions/directions.

One recent function of the firm, as you noted, was interim IC for the Township. Mr. Swayze delegated his powers as IC to Aird & Berlis, as permitted in the Municipal Act, when he retired earlier this year. Council confirmed the temporary appointment, and staff issued an RFP seeking proposals for these services, which ADR Chambers was retained. ADR Chambers is now acting as IC for the Township and residents/Council are now directed to contact ADR Chambers should they have any questions or complaints.

I can confirm that there is no general retainer or contract with Aird & Berlis. The Township is invoiced monthly, should any services be required. I will follow-up with the costs associated with Aird & Berlis to date in 2025 in a separate email as I have not had the opportunity to do so as of yet. I should have this information for you in the next couple of days.

As for Loopstra Nixon, the firm was retained by the CAO in August 2024 to advise on the Barrie boundary matter. There is no retainer or contract with this firm. I believe the CAO provided yourself and the Mayor with a copy of the proposal for review in early August 2024, which I have attached to this email. The proposal is confidential as it includes hourly rates, which is considered proprietary information. There are no termination provisions within the proposal or upset limit determined within this document. The firm initially advised Council of general annexation/restructuring information, along with some initial thoughts on the proposal in November 2024 in closed session. After this, Council requested a legal opinion from the firm in spring 2025, and subsequently for various opinions over the end of summer/fall 2025.

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From: George Cabral <George.Cabral@springwater.ca>
Sent: November 12, 2025 10:18 AM
To: Renee Ainsworth <Renee.Ainsworth@springwater.ca>
Cc: Stacey Forfar <stacey.forfar@springwater.ca>; Greg Bedard <greg.bedard@springwater.ca>
Subject: Aird & Berlis

Good morning Renee,

Would you please provide the Council Resolution/motion wherein the services of Aird & Berlis were contracted and retained, specifically the initial date Aird & Berlis were initially retained by Springwater Township and for what purpose. It is my understanding from recent comments that there has been a years long relationship with Aird & Berlis and as such there is likely some form of retainer/contract. Also, would you please provide information on their current retainment/contractual status, how they have been retained, and what costs have been incurred by council in 2025 thus far specific to Aird & Berlis.

It is my understanding that they were succeeded to Springwater Township directly to be our IC by our former IC Robert Swayse on his decision to retire this year, and they also provided the "Strong Mayor Power information session to council.

As council has recently retained the services of ADR Chambers for IC services, my question is why, or how is Aird & Berlis in continuation of retainment to Springwater Township, and specifically in what capacity.

Is there a council resolution/motion specific to their retainment, or did staff, at the direction of the Mayor - simply retain Aird & Berlis directly and for what purpose?

I would also appreciate understanding the retainer/contract initially put in place for Loopstra Nixon this past year when they were specifically retained to assist council with the Barrie Boundary Adjustment question, and what conditions were included respecting any termination clause or costs.

Thank
Your
George