Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the 2022 municipal election.

Rather than use my previous correspondence with the council and town employees, I would like to submit new comments in this email below to be used as my submission.

I am opposed to the electronic voting system that Newmarket used in the 2018 municipal election for the following reasons:

1. It is no longer a secret ballot. When I vote online or over the phone, the voting software knows who I am and how I voted because I have to enter a PIN number which identifies me. Yes, the software later allegedly "shakes the ballots" to remove personal information from the voting information, but up to that point, my vote is known and that information can be abused. Which brings me to my 2nd point:

2. The voting software is proprietary, not open source. This means that we cannot examine the source code to see for ourselves what it does. This in turn means that we just have to trust that they are telling us the truth about how their software works. And I know that Newmarket hired an outside company to audit the voting software, but again, did they examine the source code?

3. There is no paper ballot backup. In the recent U.S. presidential election, we saw a situation occur in the state of Georgia where recounts were done twice. The initial voting was done with marked paper ballots, then placed in a scanner and electronically tabulated (sounds like the system Newmarket once used).

However, due to the controversy surrounding the election, a statewide audit was performed by hand of the millions of ballots, then later a recount was done by re-scanning the ballots.

Neither of those methods of verifying the results is available with the Newmarket voting system. There is no way to do an independent recount.

I recall seeing an interview on CNN after the Georgia results were verified. A Georgia state official was asked what the key is to ensuring a reliable electronic voting system. His response was, "Always have a paper ballot backup."

4. As we see repeatedly, systems connected to the Internet are hacked. Not just small companies, but the giants of the web - Apple, Google, Facebook etc. If they can be hacked, a small software company from Spain or the Town of Newmarket can be hacked. A report on the CBS program "60 Minutes" prior to the U.S. election documented that voting systems throughout the U.S. were under constant attack from hackers.

5. I understand one of the reasons for going to electronic-only voting was to encourage a higher voter turnout. From what I have read, this did not happen and in fact the voter turnout was less in 2018 than in 2014. So introducing an all-electronic voting system to encourage more people to vote was not successful.

In conclusion, the electronic voting system using scanned paper ballots was a far more secure, robust and verifiable method of tabulating votes. And just because something *can* be done over the Internet does not mean that it *should* be.

Thank you,

Mike Murphy
Newmarket