



TO: Dr. Koultourides and Members of Town Council

FROM: Dustin Anderson, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Risk Assessment

DATE: October 4, 2021

Background

The Town successfully survived a significant cyber attack during the summer of 2017. This attack prompted a thorough review of both our network architecture as well as systems and practices for our use of information technology.

This review highlighted several deficiencies and potential gaps that we have addressed over the last four years.

Methodology

It would be a best practice for an organization of our size and complexity to review our security at least every two years. I solicited a proposal from our managed IT provider at Impact to analyze our current systems and practices.

Impact has a separate LLC that is a standalone security firm. In this way, they can provide a rigorous test of the systems that the managed IT team has implemented. This risk audit (RA) will:

. . . Identify security gaps and vulnerabilities in your environment and provide observations to effectively remediate security issues, reduce risk, and recommend appropriate corresponding solutions.

The RA implements a “black box” approach, which means that testing is performed to review the security of in scope systems, network devices, users, and applications without credentials or direct access having been provided to the auditor in advance. This allows Impact to review your infrastructure in a manner which mirrors the approach a malicious actor might take to compromise your organization. This process will identify which attack vectors a reasonably sophisticated attacker would find in your environment. The goal is to identify as many risks as possible, help to prioritize the ones which we consider most critical, and to present our findings in a manner which is relevant and actionable.

If Council accepts this proposal, work would be scheduled to begin in November and produce a deliverable during Q1 2022.

The proposed work will cost \$16,712. There are sufficient funds in fund 427 – Technology Fund to pay for this expense.

A detailed scope of work has been included at the conclusion of this memorandum for your convenience. As this is a potentially, highly sensitive operation, we would like to also have a mutual non-disclosure agreement in addition to protect our interests.

Recommendation



By motion and voice vote authorize the Town Manager to execute the project documents to facilitate a comprehensive risk assessment of the Town's systems for a cost not to exceed \$16,712.