

Request for Decision

Title	Bylaw 1595/22 – Amendment to Bylaw 1564/21 – 2022 Fees and Charges Bylaw – Three Readings
Proposed Motion	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That Council give first reading of Bylaw 1595/22.2. That Council give second reading of Bylaw 1595/22.3. That Council consider third reading of Bylaw 1595/22.4. That Council give third reading of Bylaw 1595/22.
Administrative Recommendation	Administration recommends that Council give three readings of Bylaw 1595/22 to amend the 2022 Fees and Charges Bylaw to establish fees for the Broadband Initiative.
Previous Council / Committee Direction	<p><u>March 22, 2022 Regular Council Meeting</u></p> <p>Motion 115/22: That Council approve the Broadband Initiative Phase 1 Public Communications Plan as presented.</p> <p>Motion 116/22: That Council approve \$250,000 from the Corporate Support Capital Reserve for the Broadband Initiative Phase 1 project.</p> <p><u>September 14, 2021 Regular Council Meeting</u></p> <p>Motion 448/21: That Council authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to execute the Broadband Initiative Phase One Agreement with the top-ranked proponent subject to the successful conclusion of contract negotiations.</p>
Report	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At the February 23, 2021 Council meeting, Council directed Administration to proceed with the procurement of Phase 1 of the Broadband Initiative project.• On April 27, 2021, Council passed Bylaw 1530/21 to authorize a debenture of \$7.3 million for Phase 1 of the Broadband Initiative.• The goal of the initiative is to build and operate a fast, reliable, and affordable broadband network through a partnership where the County and a private sector partner contribute financially to the creation of the network, the partner builds, operates, and maintains the network, and retailers offer services to residents and businesses.

- The principles of this initiative include:
 - Investing along with the private sector to expand fibre-based broadband service availability in the County,
 - Ensuring that taxpayer investments are protected,
 - Providing services that are reliable, fast, and affordable,
 - Encouraging innovation,
 - Allowing residents and businesses to obtain broadband services from their choice of competitive retail provider,
 - Providing fibre to the premises in hamlets, subdivisions, and business parks, and
 - Enabling rural residents not serviced by fibre to the premises to benefit from improved backhaul and potential future fibre network expansion.
- The County's strategy includes two phases:
 - Phase 1 includes the hamlets, subdivisions, business/industrial parks, and residences along the fibre path the southwest portion of the County. This includes a number of strategic priority areas including Villeneuve Airport, ProNorth Industrial Park, and Heritage Industrial Park as well as the hamlets of Villeneuve, Calahoo, and Rivière Qui Barre. This phase will be funded through the \$7.3 million debenture approved by Council and \$250,000 in reserve funding approved at the March 22, 2022 Council meeting. It is anticipated that construction of the network will commence in the spring of 2022, to be completed by end of 2022.
 - Future phase(s) include the remaining hamlets, subdivisions, business/industrial parks, and residences and businesses along the fibre path in the County. This phase will be funded through future budget consideration. If fully funded, it is anticipated that construction can commence as early as 2023.
- Following an extensive procurement process, at the September 14, 2021 Regular Council Meeting, Council authorized the Chief Administrative Officer to execute the Broadband Initiative Phase One Agreement with the top-ranked proponent subject to the successful conclusion of contract negotiations.
- Administration concluded contract negotiations in November 2021 and awarded the project to Canadian Fiber Optics Corporation (CFOC). CFOC is experienced in funding, designing, building, and operating fast and reliable rural internet networks.
- Representatives from CFOC were in attendance at the February 22, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting, and with Administration, provided an update on recent activity, next steps, and key messages as the County and CFOC prepare to complete the Phase 1 Broadband Initiative in 2022.

- Since the February 22, 2022 Council meeting, and in alignment with the principles and scope approved by Council, the Phase 1 design has been finalized.
- At the March 22, 2022 Regular Council Meeting, Council approved the Public Communications Plan, which identifies the goals, audiences, and tactics that will be employed to communicate this initiative to residents, businesses owners, and other stakeholders.

Bylaw 1595/22 – Amendment to the 2022 Fees and Charges Bylaw for the Broadband Initiative

- Bylaw 1595/22 proposes to amend the 2022 Fees and Charges Bylaw to establish fees and charges to include the following:

Horizontal Drilling

- Bringing fibre from the road to a house is done by plowing a narrow 30cm-deep channel and burying a small conduit which holds and protects the fibre. Ploughing is minimally invasive but can leave a mark on the lawn until it recovers. As an option, a property owner can request that horizontal drilling be used. Horizontal drilling avoids this disruption by boring the channel under the lawn, leaving marks only at the property line and at the exit point at the home. Due to the wide variety of conditions, a custom quote for this work will be provided on request.

Broadband Fibre Installation

- A property owner in the Extended Service Area can choose to have fibre extended to their home or business at cost. The County will arrange to have conduit and fibre installed from the nearest fibre access point to the home or business. This includes bringing the fibre to and into the selected entry point into the building. Due to the unique nature of each situation, the County will provide a quote for the agreement.

Drop Conduit

- Some homeowners or businesses in the Extended Service Area may be interested in reducing the cost of installation by installing their own drop conduit (the conduit that runs from the property line to the building). The County will provide the requested length of approved conduit and the special couplers needed to complete the installation, along with any installation standards that must be followed. Once the conduit is installed, the County's service provider will install the fibre itself and connect it to the building. Note that home and business owners can only perform this work on their own private property – the County service provider must do any work on public property, like ditches, roads and trails. Property owners can arrange to pick up the conduit and couplers or have them delivered to the property at extra cost.

	<p><u>External Communication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration will communicate the fees and charges through scheduled public communications. The Broadband Initiative Communications Plan was approved at the March 22, 2022 Regular Council Meeting. Administration continues to update the Broadband Initiative information on the County's website at www.sturgeoncounty.ca/getconnected. <p><u>Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bylaw 1564/21 – 2022 Fees and Charges Bylaw Bylaw 1530/21 – Debenture for Broadband Infrastructure – Phase 1 2018 Sturgeon County and Town of Morinville Broadband Analysis 2020 Edmonton Metropolitan Region Broadband Situation Analysis 2021 Budget
Implication of Administrative Recommendation	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u> Planned Growth – Modern broadband and digital capabilities.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u> Administration will impose fees for the Broadband Initiative in accordance with the Bylaw.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u> The fees and charges for the Broadband Initiative are established in Bylaw 1595/22.</p>
Alternatives Considered	Council could amend the Bylaw before passing it.
Implications of Alternatives	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u> Dependent on the amendments proposed.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u> Dependent on the amendments proposed.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u> Dependent on the amendments proposed.</p>
Follow up Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain Mayor and CAO signatures on the Bylaw (Legislative Services, April 2022). Consolidate amendments to the 2022 Fees and Charges Bylaw (Legislative Services, April 2022). Proceed with imposing fees and charges in accordance with the Bylaw (Information Services, ongoing).
Attachment(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Attachment 1: Bylaw 1595/22 – 2022 Fees and Charges Bylaw Amendment for the Broadband Initiative Attachment 2: Bylaw 1564/21 – 2022 Fees and Charges Bylaw

**Report Reviewed
by:**

Jesse Sopko, General Manager, Corporate Services

Reegan McCullough, County Commissioner – CAO

Strategic Alignment Checklist

Vision: *Offering a rich tapestry of historical, cultural, and natural experiences, Sturgeon County is a municipality that honours its rural roots and cultivates desirable communities. Uniquely situated to provide world-class agricultural, energy, and business investment opportunities, the County prioritizes responsible stewardship and dreaming big.*

Guiding Principles: Collaboration | Accountability | Flexibility | Excellence | Safety | Future Readiness | Affordability | Innovation

Community Outcome	Not consistent	Consistent	N/A
Planned Growth			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internationally competitive to attract, grow and sustain diverse businesses; tenacious focus on new growth and innovation 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern broadband and digital capabilities 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low cost, minimal red-tape regulations 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliable and effective infrastructure planning; comprehensive land use and infrastructure planning 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Thriving Communities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beautiful, surprising places with high standards; integrated natural spaces & trail systems; healthy and resilient 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging cultural, historical, and civic amenities; strong community identity and pride 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe, welcoming, and diverse communities; small community feel and personal connection; commitment to high quality of life 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Stewardship			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean air, land, and water; Carbon neutral municipal practices; circular economy opportunities 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation of natural areas and agricultural lands; enhanced greening and biodiversity; safekeeping ecosystems 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable development; partnerships with industry and others to drive emission reductions 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Collaborative Governance			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predictable and stable external relationships; volunteer partnerships 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meaningful connections with Indigenous communities 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing community consultation and engagement; transparent and action-oriented decision making based on sound rationale 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respectful and informed debate; clear and supportive governance processes 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Operational Excellence			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged and effective people – Council, Admin and Volunteers; continuous learning and improvement mindset; nimble and bold, with strong leadership 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality cost-effective service delivery; robust procurement and operational practices and policies; asset management and performance measurement; careful debt and reserve stewardship; long-term financial planning and sustainability 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future focused thinking to proactively respond to emerging opportunities and challenges 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative revenue generation and service delivery models integrated strategic and business planning 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>