

Agenda Item: 6.5

Request for Decision

Appointment of 2023 Fire Guardians Title **Proposed Motion** That Council approve the listed staff members as Fire Guardians for the year 2023: Pat Mahoney, Brad Reid, Glenn Innis, Kurt Richter, Paul Richards, Nico Lozinski, Jevin Van der Leek, Dave MacSween, Will Benson, Nathan Douglas, Lane Hardman, Dylan Wells, Linda Swallow, Tyler Proulx, Spencer Zee, Bill Willocks, Matt Roblin, Madero Kendall, Malaine Wark, Kevin Kulbisky, Frank Klinge, Jeffrey Williams, Susie Pestana, Jeannette Bilodeau, Joanne Wynder, Sandy Vansevenandt, Shannon Gagnon, Kristin Hewitt, Danielle Craib, Shelley Hills, Julie Pinault, Jodi Champagne, and Christine Sommers. Administrative Administration recommends that Council approve the listed staff as Fire Recommendation Guardians for the year 2023. **Previous Council** Appointment of Fire Guardians has been done by Council on an annual basis **Direction** for several years. **Report** | Background Information Each year, Council is required to appoint a sufficient number of fire

- Each year, Council is required to appoint a sufficient number of fire guardians for the fire season. Members of Council, the County Commissioner, and his/her designates are fire guardians by virtue of their office.
- To promote good fire safety practices with respect to open fires, a fire permit is required year-round.
- Most fire permits issued over the last few years have been processed online via the County website. However, the requirement to appoint fire guardians to accommodate walk in requests is still necessary.
- Fire guardians are informed that questionable or out of the ordinary permit requests should be forwarded to Protective Services. Permit requests for large brush piles and/or windrow piles are also requested to be forwarded to Protective Services staff.
- Protective Services staff review permit applications, and if deemed necessary, conduct a site visit prior to issuing a permit.

External Communication

In conjunction with Corporate Communications, Protective Services carries out a series of advertisements/notifications annually with varying messages,

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including safe burning practices and the requirement for year-round fire permits.

Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:

- Sturgeon County Burning Bylaw 1476/20
- Alberta Forest and Prairie Protection Act

Implication of Administrative Recommendation

Strategic Alignment

By approving these appointments, Council will be consistent with its approach to safe Thriving Communities. These appointments will allow consistency regarding the issuance of fire permits.

Organizational

As these are annual appointments, organizationally impacts are minimal.

Financial:

All associated costs will be covered within current budget.

Alternatives Considered

Council could choose not to support the appointment of additional fire guardians.

Implications of Alternatives

Strategic Alignment

Issuance of fire permits may be delayed due to a potential backlog of requests.

Organizational

Only Council and the County Commissioner would be able to issue permits. Issuance of fire permits may be delayed due to influx of requests.

Failing to issue permits in a timely manner may result in increased cases of improper burning resulting in additional demand, responses, and cost to fire departments.

Financial

There could be increased cost to respond to and mitigate unpermitted burning incidents.

Follow up Action

- 1. Notify staff of their fire guardian appointments (Protective Services, December 2022).
- 2. Schedule an information/training session for Council members and fire guardians (Protective Services, January 2023).

Attachment(s) None.

Report Reviewed by:

Pat Mahoney, Manager, Protective Services/Fire Chief

Christine Wells, Director, Community Services

Reegan McCullough, County Commissioner – CAO

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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			
 Internationally competitive to attract, grow and sustain diverse businesses tenacious focus on new growth and innovation 	s;		\boxtimes
Modern broadband and digital capabilities			⋈
Low cost, minimal red-tape regulations			×
Reliable and effective infrastructure planning; comprehensive land use and infrastructure planning	d 🗆		\boxtimes
Thriving Communities			
 Beautiful, surprising places with high standards; integrated natural spaces & trail systems; healthy and resilient 	· 🗆		×
Engaging cultural, historical, and civic amenities; strong community identity and pride			×
Safe, welcoming, and diverse communities; small community feel and personal connection; commitment to high quality of life		⊠	
Environmental Stewardship			
 Clean air, land, and water; Carbon neutral municipal practices; circular economy opportunities 			\boxtimes
 Conservation of natural areas and agricultural lands; enhanced greening and biodiversity; safekeeping ecosystems 			\boxtimes
• Sustainable development; partnerships with industry and others to drive emission reductions			\boxtimes
Collaborative Governance			
Predictable and stable external relationships; volunteer partnerships			×
Meaningful connections with Indigenous communities			\boxtimes
 Ongoing community consultation and engagement; transparent and action-oriented decision making based on sound rationale 			\boxtimes
 Respectful and informed debate; clear and supportive governance processes 			\boxtimes
Operational Excellence			
 Engaged and effective people – Council, Admin and Volunteers; continuou learning and improvement mindset; nimble and bold, with strong leadership 	s 🗆		×
 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 			×
• Future focused thinking to proactively respond to emerging opportunities and challenges			×
Alternative revenue generation and service delivery models integrated strategic and business planning			×