

Wireless Communication Facility – Strathcona Athletic Park (Ward 8)**Report Purpose**

To request authorization from Council to send a letter of support to Industry Canada for a proposed wireless communication facility (internet/VoIP tower).

Recommendation

THAT Administration write to Industry Canada in support of a proposed wireless communication facility consisting of a 30.0 m freestanding monopole telecommunications tower to be located on SW 36-52-23-W4 (Lot 2, Block 260, Plan 932 2488; Strathcona Athletic Park) at 199 Colwill Boulevard.

Council History

October 25, 2016 – Council authorized Administration to enter into a long-term Lease Agreement with Roger's Communication for the installation of a cellular tower at the Strathcona Athletic Park.

March 10, 2015 – Council adopted Land Use Bylaw 6-2015 with an effective date of May 11, 2015.

June 26, 2007 – Council adopted Bylaw 5-2007 to include Section 9.24, Wireless Communication Facilities in Land Use Bylaw 8-2001.

May 22, 2007 – Council adopted Bylaw 1-2007 the Municipal Development Plan.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: Support workforce education and training by improving access to remote education and training, and supporting student research and learning. Help to diversify businesses and technologies by encouraging new business models and future technologies. Monthly rental based on current market rates will be received.

Governance: Increase public involvement and communicate with community by enhancing existing channels of communicating with residents, and enabling them to make use of new tools (e.g. County Connect, ePermits). Build strong relationships with civic organizations by helping them to become more sustainable and to deliver new programs and services.

Social: The proposed wireless communication facility (cellular tower) will assist in building strong neighbourhoods/communities by supporting the diverse needs of the residents.

Culture: Promote a vibrant, creative community by improving residents' online interests, researching, and learning about community and heritage.

Environment: Improve the efficiency of resource usage by reducing travel. Environmental policies have been taken into consideration in the review of this proposed development.

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: Wireless communication facilities are under the federal jurisdiction of Industry Canada. The Industry Canada process requires a proponent to consult with the municipal land use authority regarding local requirements. The local consultation process, pursuant to Land Use Bylaw 6-2015, Section 6.20, results in a letter of support or non-support to Industry Canada on the proposed tower.

Interdepartmental: The proposal has been circulated to internal County departments and external agencies.

Summary

In order to provide continuous wireless (cellular) coverage to customers in the surrounding area of Strathcona County, the service provider (Rogers Communications) proposes to erect a 30.00 m freestanding monopole telecommunication tower on SW 36-52-23-W4 (Lot 2, Block 260, Plan 932 2488; Strathcona Athletic Park). The proposed tower will also incorporate communication infrastructure for Strathcona County Utilities to provide a reliable source of communication to the existing water reservoir and pump house. Three hundred-one notices were sent to adjacent/affected property owners. Two emails/letters were received from nearby property owners as a result.

Due to the potential sensitivity of the of the proposed tower location, an open house to discuss these concerns was held on May 9, 2017. The attendees voiced the same concerns provided in the letter and email received.

The concerns raised with regard to the proposed tower included the following:

- Proximity to FR Haythorne Junior High School and Bev Facey High School
- Tower does not belong in or near a residential neighbourhood
- Cell coverage is already acceptable in our neighbourhood
- The tower will not be aesthetically pleasing
- The tower will affect our TV and WIFI
- This is a high-use area
- Negative health impacts
- The fence and supporting substructure will be located adjacent to the soccer pitch and will affect the field of play

Despite the noted concerns, provided that the tower on the site is constructed based on the proposed plans and information, the communication facility will have satisfactorily met the criteria and guidelines of the Land Use Bylaw 6-2015.

Enclosures

- 1 Location Map
- 2 Site Plan Information Package
- 3 Example Elevation Plan