

Bylaw 16-2019, A Bylaw to Establish a Regional Assessment Review Board**Report Purpose**

To seek three readings of Bylaw 16-2019, a bylaw to establish a Regional Assessment Review Board.

Recommendation

1. THAT Bylaw 16-2019, a bylaw to establish a Regional Assessment Board, be given first reading.
2. THAT Bylaw 16-2019 be given second reading.
3. THAT Bylaw 16-2019 be considered for third reading.
4. THAT Bylaw 16-2019 be given third reading.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships
Governance Requirement

Report

The *Municipal Government Act* prescribes a complaint and appeal system for property owners who have concerns about their assessment. As such, all municipalities in Alberta are required to establish an Assessment Review Board (ARB) or a Regional Assessment Review Board for the purpose of addressing assessment complaints.

In order to facilitate appeals, municipalities must establish an Assessment Review Board bylaw, recruit and train members of the public to serve on the board in accordance with provincial regulations, designate staff to serve as clerk and ensure that the clerk meets the provincial requirements for training, and ensure that the appeal process is appropriately administered.

These requirements may be onerous for smaller municipalities, especially if they do not receive many appeals. Strathcona County Council approved Administration preparing a bylaw to establish a Regional Assessment Review Board so that the County will be able to provide assessment review board services to the Town of Bruderheim. A regional approach to assessment review board appeals is beneficial to both the Town and County and aligns with the Municipal Government Act's emphasis on regionalization.

The required bylaw to establish a regional assessment review board is provided as enclosure 1 for Council's consideration. Provided that the bylaw is passed, administration will provide updates to Council on the outcome of the move to this regional approach.

Council and Committee History

May 21, 2019	Council approved "THAT by the end of the second quarter of 2019 Administration prepare, for Council's consideration, a bylaw for the establishment of a Regional Assessment Review Board with the Town of Bruderheim."
October 31, 2017	Council gave three readings to bylaw 57-2017 (Assessment Review Board Bylaw)

Other Impacts: There are benefits to both parties: first, this action would be in alignment with the Modernized MGA's focus on regional collaboration; second, this action would provide much needed support to the Town of Bruderheim without significant cost; third, this action would also provide Strathcona County with more no-cost CARB member assignments.

Policy: N/A

Legislative/Legal: Section 455(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c. M-26 provides that two or more councils may agree to jointly establish an assessment review board with jurisdiction in member municipalities. The *MGA* also requires that the councils jointly designate a chair and clerk.

Interdepartmental: LLS will apprise IA of this work since it relates to the development of Intermunicipal Collaborative Frameworks.

Master Plan/Framework: Establishing a regional ARB would be an activity identified in Strathcona County's Intermunicipal Collaborative Framework with the Town of Bruderheim.

Communication Plan

Provided that the bylaw is passed, administration will update the public website and work with the Town of Bruderheim to address the implementation of the regional approach.

Enclosure

1

Proposed bylaw 16-2019 Regional Assessment Review Board