Request for Decision – to Council

Council Meeting Date: January 7, 2020

Subject

Intermunicipal Development Plan – Athabasca County Exemption (Request for Decision)

Confidential

No

Recommendation

Motion that Lac La Biche County Council approves the Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) exemption between Athabasca County and Lac La Biche County.

Background

Discussion:
- Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDP) are required between neighboring municipalities. With recent changes to the Municipal Government Act, municipalities may agree to not adopt an IDP between them if both municipalities are in agreement.
- On December 16, Lac La Biche County received a letter from Athabasca County outlining the passing of Bill 25 with respect to the Municipal Government Act (MGA) changes to the Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDP). The MGA change to the IDP reads:
  - (2) Subsection (1) does not require municipalities to adopt an intermunicipal development plan with each other if they agree that they do not require one, but any of the municipalities may revoke its agreement at anytime by giving written notice to the other or others, and where that notice is given the municipalities must comply with subsection (1) within one year from the date the notice unless an exemption is ordered under subsection (3).
- Athabasca County passed a motion at their December 10, Council Meeting noting that they do not need to proceed with Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDP’s), with the exception of the Town of Athabasca.
- Although, Administration is requesting the exemption of the IDP between Athabasca County and Lac La Biche County, there is still a proposal of an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) that will be presented to County Council before April 2020.
- The County has previously negotiated or received exemptions for IDPs with the counties of Smoky Lake, St. Paul, the MDs of Opportunity and Bonnyville, and ID 349. Administration will continue to work with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to agree not to adopt an IDP there as well.
Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:

Desired Outcome(s):
- That Mayor and Council pass a motion for the exemption of the Intermunicipal Development Plan between Lac La Biche County and Athabasca County.

Response Options:
- Mayor and Council may pass a motion for the exemption or provide alternate direction to Administration.

**Strategic Alignment**
- The exemption of the IDP with Athabasca County does not align with a strategic goal of the Strategic Plan however, this is a requirement through the Municipal Government Act.

**Implication of Recommendation**
**Organizational:**
- Administration will ensure Athabasca County receives a letter notifying them of County Council’s decision.

**Financial:**
- There are no financial impacts.

**Implementation:**
- Administration will draft a letter to Municipal Affairs to notify them of the exemption agreement between Athabasca County.

**Communication:**
- Administration will communicate with Athabasca County on the exemption and will continue to work together on the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) agreement.

**Attachments**
1. Letter from Athabasca County – December 16, 2019

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