

**Agenda Item: D.2**

Request for Decision

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| **Title** | **Request for Refund of Waste Disposal Fees – Tax Roll 192075** |
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| **Proposed Motion** | That Council refuse the request to refund waste disposal fees for tax roll 192075. |
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| **Administrative**  **Recommendation** | Administration recommends Council refuse the request for a refund of 7,340 kilograms of residential tree waste used of the property owner’s annual 8,000-kilogram domestic waste allowance, to align with Sturgeon County’s Waste Management Services Bylaw 1011/04. |
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| **Previous Council Direction** | July 13, 2021 Regular Council Meeting  Motion 393/21: That Council refer the presentation from Ken Polansky regarding residential tree waste to Administration to present information and a recommendation at a future Council meeting. |
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| **Report** | Background Information   * Sturgeon County’s Waste Management Services Bylaw 1011/04 allocates 8,000 kilograms (8 tonnes) of available domestic waste disposal at the Roseridge Landfill to each County property owner. * Residents who exceed their 8,000-kilogram waste allowance are subject to the Roseridge tipping fee for additional disposal tonnage. * Roseridge’s tipping fees are established by the Roseridge Waste Management Services Commission and outlined in the County’s Fees and Charges Bylaw. * On June 3, 2021, Sturgeon County was contacted by the resident, who expressed concern that their tree waste had absorbed the majority of their residential waste allowance, leaving no further room for their domestic waste allocation. * As a result of exceeding the waste limit, the resident will be required to pay the Roseridge tipping fee of $69.50 per tonne per visit for the remainder of the year. * The resident informed Administration that their tree waste consisted of Elm trees and the waste was required to be removed due to Dutch Elm Disease (DED), to prevent the spread of this disease. * Administration provided the resident with some additional information relating to Alberta’s policy on DED, including that:   + Elm trees containing DED are not to be pruned between April 1 to September 30 of that same year.   + If trees test positive for DED, trees must be removed immediately.   + DED trees cannot be stored or transported unless enroute to the closest elm wood disposal site.   + All elm wood must be properly disposed of by burning, burying, and if uninfected, chipping. * Under the *Agricultural Pests Act*, property owners have a duty to control or destroy all pests on or in the land, property, or livestock. This includes elm trees containing DED. * The resident’s year-to-date waste account is over 8,000 kilograms. * Based on conversations with the resident, their tree disposal accounts for 7,340 kilograms of their waste allotment. * On behalf of the resident, Administration contacted the landfill to see if any special arrangements could be made with Roseridge to help the resident. * At the time of the request, Roseridge indicated that the landfill was setting up a wood waste facility soon, which would take clean residential wood waste at a lower cost than the regular domestic waste tipping fee. * On July 13, 2021, the resident made a presentation to Council regarding their request, and Council directed Administration to bring forward information and a recommendation to a future Council meeting. * On July 21, 2021, Sturgeon County was contacted by the manager of Roseridge Landfill, who indicated that clean wood waste can now be brought to Roseridge at a charge of $38.50 per tonne. * Administration recommends Council refuse the request for a refund of 7,340 kilograms of residential tree waste used of the property owner’s annual 8,000-kilogram domestic waste allowance, to align with Sturgeon County’s Waste Management Services Bylaw 1011/04.   External Communication   * Administration has continued open communication with the resident.   Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:   * 2021 Fees and Charges Bylaw * Waste Management Service Bylaw 1011/04 * *Agricultural Pests Act* * Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation 184/2001 * *Plant Protection Act* * Plant Protection Regulation 95-212 |
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| **Implication of Administrative Recommendation** | Strategic Alignment:  **Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership** – Refusing the request for a domestic waste disposal refund is consistent with Goal 3.2 of the Strategic Plan: “*Sturgeon County is financially stable and fiscally sustainable*”.  Organizational:  None.  Financial:  None. |
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| **Alternatives Considered** | That Council refund tax roll 192075 in the amount of $510.13, which represents 7,340 kilograms of domestic waste tipping fees, to be funded through the 2021 Operating Budget. |
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| **Implications of Alternatives** | Strategic Alignment:  None.  Organizational:  Should Council approve the request, Administration would credit $510.13 on the resident’s property tax account.  Financial:  The refund would be paid through the 2021 Operating Budget. |
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| **Follow up Action** | 1. Advise the resident of Council’s decision (Utility and Waste Management Services, August 2021). |
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| **Attachment(s)** | None. |
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| **Report Reviewed by:** | Jeffrey Yanew, Manager, Utility and Waste Management Services  Scott MacDougall, Chief Operations Officer – COO  Reegan McCullough, County Commissioner – CAO |

**Strategic Alignment Checklist**

**Vision:** *Sturgeon County: a diverse, active community that pioneers opportunities and promotes initiative while embracing rural lifestyles.*

**Mission:** *Provide quality, cost-effective services, and infrastructure to meet the diverse needs of the Sturgeon County community, while improving competitiveness and sustainability.*

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| **Focus Areas** | **Not consistent** | **N/A** | **Consistent** |
| **Planned Growth and Prosperity** |  |  |  |
| *We encourage varied and integrated enterprises that enhance our strong economic*  *base, while balancing the needs of the community and natural environment.*  *(Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 36)* |  |  |  |
| * *Supports a strong thriving business environment to strengthen our economic foundation* |  |  |  |
| * *Plans for responsible growth through the MDP and regional growth plan.* |  |  |  |
| * *Manages growth for current and future developments through:*   + *transparent bylaws, policies, and processes to enable responsible land development* |  |  |  |
| * + *targeting growth around existing and identified future growth areas* |  |  |  |
| **Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities** |  |  |  |
| *We are committed to a safe and viable community, where our residents are*  *provided with access to opportunities and quality of life.*  *(Strategic Plan and pg. 27 MDP)* |  |  |  |
| * *Provides access to programs and services that have a positive impact on residents’ quality of life* |  |  |  |
| * *Provides access to safe and reliable infrastructure assets* |  |  |  |
| * *Supports the safety of people and property* |  |  |  |
| **Strong Local and Regional Governance** |  |  |  |
| *We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and*  *transparent processes (Strategic Plan and pg. 27 MDP)* |  |  |  |
| * *Provides effective leadership and management consistent with Strategic Plan, MDP, master plans, bylaws, policies, community engagement* |  |  |  |
| * *Considers fiscal stability and sustainability* |  |  |  |
| * *Fosters collaborative intergovernmental partnerships* |  |  |  |
| **Community Identity & Spirit** |  |  |  |
| *We will build upon our strengths, where together we will create an inclusive, caring community (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 27)* |  |  |  |
| * *Promotes and/or enhances residents’ identification with Sturgeon County* |  |  |  |
| * *Support and/or collaborate with voluntary organizations in the region* |  |  |  |
| **Environmental Stewardship** |  |  |  |
| *We foster a healthy environment and minimize our impact on ecosystems. (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 27)* |  |  |  |
| * *Plans and partnerships that minimize environmental impact on natural areas* |  |  |  |
| * *Provides awareness of environmental issues impacting the County* |  |  |  |