



Request for Decision

Title	11:30 a.m. – Town of Bon Accord Annexation Application
Proposed Motion	<p>1. That Council authorize the Mayor to sign the Agreement Regarding Highway 28 Service Road as presented.</p> <p>2. That Council authorize the Mayor to sign the Town of Bon Accord’s Annexation Application and Negotiating Report, to send to the Municipal Government Board, on behalf of Sturgeon County Council, pending the Town of Bon Accord’s endorsement of the Highway Service Road Agreement.</p>
Administrative Recommendation	That Council sign the Negotiation Report, and not contest the proposed annexation by the Town of Bon Accord.
Previous Council Direction	<p>November 24, 2015 – Motion 377/15 That Sturgeon County Council approves the Sturgeon County Annexation Principles (Attachment #1) and use them as the starting point in future annexation discussions, and remain private in accordance with Section 197 of the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, C-M-26, as amended.</p> <p>November 24, 2015 – Motion 376/15 That Sturgeon County Council directs Administration to proceed with the direction provided in the November 24, 2015, Request for Decision dated November 10, 2015, and remain private in accordance with Section 197 of the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, C-M-26, as amended.</p> <p>October 27, 2015 – Motion 337/15 That Sturgeon County Council direct Administration to proceed with the direction provided within the October 15, 2015 Request for Decision in accordance with the provisions of Section 23 – Local body confidences of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.A. 2000. C.F-25, as amended.</p>
Report	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On March 7, 2016, Sturgeon County received official notice from the Town of Bon Accord indicating their intent to annex three (3) quarter sections of land from Sturgeon County. Specifically, the lands in question are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SE 13-56-24-W4; ○ NE 13-56-24-W4; and ○ NW 18-56-23-W4.

- Their intent indicated a scope change from the initial notice provided September 29, 2015, whereby the Town intended to only annex a single quarter section at that point in time.
- Sturgeon County Council appointed two (2) members of Council to the Negotiating Committee with the Town of Bon Accord, and established Annexation Principles in 2015 to guide annexation negotiations from a County perspective.
- Having gone through negotiations and landowner consultations, the Town of Bon Accord is now prepared to send its final report to the Municipal Government Board (MGB) to make a recommendation on its proposal. The Town is seeking Sturgeon County Council's endorsement of the report and agreement not to contest the annexation, to form this submission.

External Communication

- The Town of Bon Accord has been responsible for external communications and landowner negotiations, as prescribed by the MGA and determined by the Negotiating Committee.
- Once the Negotiation Report is provided to the MGB, the MGB will advertise the proposed annexation.
- Details of the Negotiating Committee's discussions have remained private, until the release of the Negotiation Report to the MGB to both Councils.

Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:

Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c.M-26

2017 Sturgeon County Council Advocacy Plan

Implication of Administrative Recommendation



Strategic Alignment:

Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership – Recognizing that the Town of Bon Accord has long-term growth aspirations, and that County Council wishes to work with our neighbours to achieve regional growth, the proposed direction is consistent with this Focus Area, given that the County's Annexation Principles have been addressed.

Planned Growth – While the Town of Bon Accord's population has decreased in recent years, the additional land supply allows the Town to contemplate the type of growth envisioned by the Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Growth Plan and to work towards their respective population projections. Should the annexation be successful, the new boundaries will provide long-term planning certainty to the municipalities, developers, and residents.

Organizational:

Some staff time may be required to monitor and support the MGB's Public Hearing, if objections are received from the public.

	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>The three (3) quarter sections proposed for annexation account for slightly less than \$7,000 a year in taxes; road maintenance costs to the County are estimated at \$12,500, representing a potential cost-savings of \$5,500 per year.</p> <p>The Negotiating Committee has agreed to long-term assessment and tax protection for a period of twenty (20) years, or until a trigger is activated that would change this (i.e. subdivision or rezoning at request of landowner).</p>
<p>Alternatives Considered</p>	<p>Council may choose not to sign the application nor report, and to contest the annexation.</p>
<p>Implications of Alternatives</p>	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contesting the annexation would run counter to the discussions negotiated in good faith by the Negotiating Committee, and would likely result in strained relations between the Town of Bon Accord and Sturgeon County Councils, who have been open and collaborative to-date. <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contesting the annexation may require legal fees and staff resources, previously unplanned for. <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contesting the annexation may require legal fees and staff resources, previously unplanned for.
<p>Follow up Action</p>	<p>1. Administration will coordinate with the Mayor to sign and submit the proper documentation as required (Intergovernmental Affairs, June 2017).</p>
<p>Attachment(s)</p>	<p>1. Confidential - Town of Bon Accord Annexation Negotiation Report 2. Agreement for Highway 28 Service Road 3. Confidential - Status of Sturgeon County Annexation Principles</p>
<p>Report Reviewed by:</p>	<p> Trevor Duley, Senior Advisor, Intergovernmental Affairs</p> <p> Stephane Labonne, A/County Commissioner-CAO</p>

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.

Focus Areas	Not consistent	N/A	Consistent
Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership			
<i>We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and transparent processes (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Consistent with neighborhood role (see MDP), master plans, policies</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Considers fiscal stability and sustainability</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Has a positive impact on regional and sub-regional cooperation</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Respect the Natural Environment			
<i>We acknowledge the importance of a healthy environment and will minimize and monitor our impact on ecosystems (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Compliance with Provincial and Federal regulations and/or legislation</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ensure effective environmental risk management</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Identity & Spirit			
<i>We will build upon our strengths, where together we will create an inclusive, caring community (Strategic Plan, (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Enhances service provision through community partnerships</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Supports Sturgeon County's cultural history</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planned Growth and Prosperity			
<i>We encourage varied and integrated enterprises that enhance our strong economic base, while balancing the needs of the community and natural environment. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Does the proposal align with the Integrated Regional Growth Strategy (map/policies) pg. 26 MDP</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Considers cumulative costs and long-term funding implications</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Targets growth around current or planned infrastructure</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities			
<i>We are committed to a safe, secure community, where our residents are respected and provided with access to opportunities. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Positive impact on residents' quality of life</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Supports and promotes volunteer efforts</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Provides programs and services that are accessible to all residents</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operational Excellence			
<i>We have the organizational capability to deliver consistent and defined levels of service to all stakeholders in a professional, efficient, and cost effective manner</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Staff have the knowledge, skills and capability to perform their jobs</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Streamlines operational processes and policies</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Promotes engagement and professional interaction with stakeholders</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Considers a cost-structure which allows Sturgeon County to remain competitive within a regional, national and global context</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>