

## Request for Decision – to Council

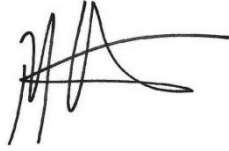
<b>Title</b>	<b>Council Appointment of Sturgeon County Auditor</b>
<b>Motion</b>	That County Council appoints the firm of Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP Chartered Accountants as the external auditors for Sturgeon County for the year ended December 31, 2015.
<b>Previous Council Direction</b>	At the Regular Council on June 24, 2014 County Council approved the appointment of Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP as the auditors for the County for 2014. (Motion 214/14)
<b>Report</b>	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP has developed a significant municipal client base and knowledge of municipal accounting requirements which facilitates an efficient audit.</li> <li>• Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP has clearly demonstrated their adherence to Canadian generally accepted auditing standards.</li> <li>• Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP has provided Sturgeon County with audit services from 2001 - 2014.</li> <li>• Administration’s knowledge of other municipalities audit fees indicates that the rates quoted by Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP remain competitive.</li> <li>• Hawkings Epp Dumont has appropriately rotated its “audit lead” to show the required Independence, Objectivity and Professional Skepticism.</li> <li>• Audit fees have been included in the 2015 budget.</li> </ul> <p><u>External Communication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><u>Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 280(1) of the Municipal Government Act states that each Council must appoint one or more auditors for the municipality.</li> </ul>
<b>Administrative Recommendation</b>	That County Council appoints the firm of Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP Chartered Accountants as the external auditors for the year 2015.

<b>Implication</b>	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The annual appointment of auditors by Council is a legal requirement through the MGA, consistent with Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership Goal 1.2 Sturgeon County is financially stable and fiscally sustainable.</li> </ul> <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP has a good detailed knowledge of Sturgeon County systems and processes.</li> </ul> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2015 Budget reflects the audit fees quoted by Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP.</li> </ul>
<b>Alternatives Considered</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That County Council directs Corporate Support to have an open competition to select a new auditor.</li> </ol>
<b>Implications of Alternatives</b>	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The annual appointment of auditors by Council is a legal requirement through the MGA, consistent with Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership Goal 1.2 Sturgeon County is financially stable and fiscally sustainable.</li> </ul> <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP has a good detailed knowledge of Sturgeon County systems and processes. Appointing a new auditor would take staff time to complete requests for quotes and evaluations, as well new auditors would take more time to learn the system and create a less efficient audit.</li> </ul> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP audit fees are competitive; selecting a new auditor would not guaranty a reduced fee.</li> </ul>
<b>Follow up Action</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administration will send a letter to Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP advising them of Councils decision.</li> </ol>
<b>Attachment (s)</b>	None

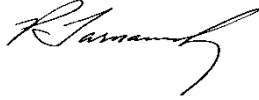
**Report Reviewed  
by:**



Ed Kaemingh, Manager Financial Services



Rick Wojtkiw, GM Corporate Support



Peter Tarnawsky, 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.

Focus Areas	Not consistent	N/A	Consistent
<b>Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership</b>			
<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"> <li><i>Consistent with neighborhood role (see MDP), master plans,, policies</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Considers fiscal stability and sustainability</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Has a positive impact on regional and sub-regional cooperation</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Respect the Natural Environment</b>			
<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"> <li><i>Compliance with Provincial and Federal regulations and/or legislation</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Ensure effective environmental risk management</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Community Identity &amp; Spirit</b>			
<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"> <li><i>Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Enhances service provision through community partnerships</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Supports Sturgeon County's cultural history</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Planned Growth and Prosperity</b>			
<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"> <li><i>Does the proposal align with the Integrated Regional Growth Strategy (map/policies) pg. 26 MDP</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Considers cumulative costs and long-term funding implications</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Targets growth around current or planned infrastructure</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities</b>			
<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"> <li><i>Positive impact on residents' quality of life</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Supports and promotes volunteer efforts</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Provides programs and services that are accessible to all residents</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Operational Excellence</b>			
<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Staff have the knowledge, skills, resources and capability to perform their jobs</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Streamlines operational processes and policies</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Promotes engagement and professional interaction with stakeholders</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Considers a cost-structure which allows Sturgeon County to remain competitive within a regional, national and global context</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>