

Request for Decision

Title	11:50 a.m. - Sturgeon Valley Fire Protection June 2017 Update
Proposed Motion	That Council accept the Sturgeon Valley Fire Protection June 2017 Update as information and approve the Action Plan as presented.
Administrative Recommendation	The Utilities Department, Communications Department and the Protective Services Department all recommend that Council accept this update as information and endorses the "Follow Up Actions" as recommended.
Previous Council Direction	<p>January 13, 2016 – Motion 007/15 That County Council awards the tender for construction of the new Sturgeon County Protective Services Building, replacing the current Namao Fire Hall to PCL Construction at an initial contract price of \$4,488,880 with a total project cost not to exceed the approved funding of \$5,660,000 (including land, site work, and construction).</p> <p>October 27, 2015 – Motion 326/15 That Sturgeon County Council award the contract for Allin Ridge Water Reservoir and Pumping Station Upgrade 2015 to Chandos Construction Ltd., as the lowest compliant bidder.</p> <p>June 9, 2015 - Motion 193/15 That County Council gives third reading of Debenture Bylaw 1350/15 Allin Ridge Reservoir Expansion with a maximum amount of \$4,000,000.</p> <p>May 26, 2009 - Motion 183/09</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That County Council accept as information the Report from Sameng titled "Sturgeon Valley Fire Protections Study", dated May 2009. 2. That a public consultation process be initiated to obtain feedback on implementing fire protection from the residents in the Sturgeon Valley Area.
Report	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2009, the County retained Sameng Inc. to complete a Fire Protection Study for the Sturgeon Valley area. The main scope of that project was to assess the level of fire protection and make recommendations that would see improvements. A report was compiled, presented and accepted by the previous Council as information.

- Since that time the Sturgeon Valley area has seen growth, and some fire protection improvements have been implemented.
 - A new Protective Services Building firehall has been constructed,
 - Additional apparatus has been purchased,
 - Full-time daytime staff have been hired, and
 - Upgrades to Allin Ridge Fill Station and reservoir(s) have been completed.
- In late 2015, Protective Services in conjunction with the Fire Underwriters Survey conducted a review of the area's Dwelling Protection Grade (D.P.G). The D.P.G. is a numerical system scaled from 1 to 5. One (1) is the highest grading possible and 5 indicates little or no recognized public fire protection. This grading reflects the ability of a community to handle fires in small buildings.
 - The last review of the area's D.P.G was carried out in 1997. As a result of this review, the area's D.P.G improved from a 4 to a 3b.
- In 2016, while construction was being undertaken on the Allin Ridge Fill Station and Reservoir(s), Protective Services initiated research and planning to ensure successful completion of a "Superior Tanker Shuttle Service" (STSS) Accreditation for the Sturgeon Valley area.
- STSS Accreditation is a recognized equivalency to hydrant protection. To be accredited, fire departments must commit to maintaining a high standard of organization and practice delivering the service regularly. The fire department must be able to show through testing and documentation that it can continuously provide water supply in excess of the minimum required for hydranted municipal-type water supplies.
- To be recognized for Accredited Superior Tanker Shuttle Service, the system of delivery of water supplies must be well-designed and well-documented. The system of delivery must meet all of the requirements specified for Standard Tanker Shuttle Service and must exceed the requirements in several key areas:
 - a. The Fire Department must be able to prove through testing that the specified requirements of Superior Tanker Shuttle Service can be met;
 - b. For personal lines insurance, the Fire Department must be able to deliver a flow rate of not less than 950 LPM (200 IGPM) within 5 minutes of arriving at the test site with the first major piece of apparatus (wheel stop);
 - c. For commercial lines insurance, the Fire Department must be able to deliver a flow rate of not less than 1900 LPM (400 IGPM) within 5 minutes of arriving at the test site with the first major piece of apparatus (wheel stop);
 - d. The Fire Department must be able to deliver the flow rate which will be accredited within 10 minutes of arriving at the test site with the first major piece of apparatus (wheel stop); and

- e. The volume of water available for firefighting must be adequate to sustain the accredited flow rate for a duration in accordance with the Fire Underwriters Survey Water Supplies for Public Fire Protection.
- In 2017 Protective Services continued planning and practice for the STSS. Utilities continued to conduct inventory and testing of the water system, including hydrants.
 - On May 16, 2017, the STTS evaluation testing was conducted and observed by a representative of the Fire Underwriters Survey.
 - We are pleased to advise today that staff, which included both full time and paid on-call (volunteer) firefighters were successful in completing all requirements to obtain “Superior Tanker Shuttle Service Accreditation” for the Sturgeon Valley Area; that is, within 8 kilometres of the Protective Services Building, District of Namao Firehall, and within 5 kilometres of a recognized water source.
 - In fact, not only did personnel meet the requirements set out for testing but surpassed them. The requirement for testing requires staff to maintain a minimum flow of 950 LPM (200 IGPM) per minute. Our team managed to flow and maintain 1440 LPM (315 IGPM) per minute.
 - The Fire Underwriters Survey representative said that he had heard of this being accomplished in other parts of Canada but had never witnessed it himself first hand. He commended staff for a job well done. It is noted that Sturgeon County is only the second municipality in Alberta to achieve this accreditation.
 - Solidifying this achievement, as found within the Fire Underwriters Survey Letter compiled for distribution to residents, ***“Insurers are advised that Superior Tanker Shuttle Service Accreditation fire protection districts qualify for hydrant protected equivalency status and may be rated as protected.”***
 - Without the dedicated hard work and collaborative efforts between departments this achievement would not have been attained. This is an extremely positive development for this area as it relates to fire protection and fire insurance.
 - In conjunction with the Communications Department, a wide-ranging campaign to notify residents in the applied area will be undertaken.
 - As staff has previously advised Council during presentations and information sessions, we are unable to determine specifically what benefit(s) this accreditation may or may not mean for residents as it relates to fire insurance costs.
 - Residents will be encouraged to contact their insurance providers and evaluate their coverages on an individual basis.

External Communication

- The Communication Department will lead the public announcement and information sharing with regards to the successful completion of the STSS. This will be done through:

- (1) A cover letter from Sturgeon County along with a copy of the Fire Underwriter letter being sent to all residents within the applicable area;
- (2) Notification will be placed on the County website along with social media (Twitter);
- (3) An announcement will be placed in the local newspaper – St. Albert *Gazette* that serves the applicable area; and
- (4) Copies of the Fire Underwriter’s letter will be available at front counter locations, from Utilities and from Protective Services Staff.

Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:

- *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c.M-26
- Fire Services Bylaw, Bylaw 1354/15
- Sturgeon County General Municipal Services Standards (GMSS)

Implication of Administrative Recommendation

Strategic Alignment:

Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities – Receiving the STSS Accreditation builds on past, current and future efforts of the Utility Department and Protective Services to provide the best possible fire protection service levels to the Community as possible.

Planned Growth – Successful completion of the STSS will also contribute and benefit the area regarding future development and growth, MDPs, etc.

Organizational:

Acceptance, recognition of this achievement and endorsement of the follow up actions will provide guidance to staff, benefit residents now and into the future. Having this area now qualified as hydrant protected equivalency status and rated as protected will undoubtedly benefit many.

Financial:

Associated costs are minor and will be captured within current operating budgets.

Alternatives Considered

Council could decide not to accept this report and not endorse follow up actions as described. This could mean that many residents in the applicable area may not become aware of the benefits that the STSS accreditation brings.

<p>Implications of Alternatives</p>	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <p>Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities – Lack of acceptance and endorsement of this report could be seen as Council being short sighted. It could also signal Council is satisfied with the status quo, service levels currently in place. Further, lack of support to continue work with the Fire Underwriter’s to seek additional good standing for the County will see our rating with that organization become stagnant.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <p>The situation of fire protection for the Sturgeon Valley has been an ongoing topic for many years. Over the past several months many staff have work diligently to achieve a better service levels and obtain the benefit of STSS for the residents. Failure to support and endorse this report would not only have an ill effect on the residents but would also send a very confusing and disheartening message to staff.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>None.</p>
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<p>Follow up Action</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Communications Department will ensure residents are appropriately informed by mail, County website, social media and local newspapers (Communications, August 18, 2017). 2. Protective Services will develop Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) in relation to combined use of water shuttles and use of hydrants within the Sturgeon Valley area (Protective Services, December 2017). 3. In 2018 Protective Services will seek to obtain additional STSS accreditation for other fire districts within Sturgeon County with the hope of providing similar benefits to numerous other residents and subdivisions as it relates to fire protection coverages (Protective Services, June 2018). 4. Utilities and Protective Services will continue to work with the Fire Underwriters Survey with the goal of achieving additional benefits and improve our ratings as seen within their organization.
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Attachment(s)	1. Letter of Accreditation for Residents. 2. Letter of Recognition to Insurers 3. STSS Certificate of Accreditation
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Report Reviewed by:	 Sheila Moore, Senior Communications Officer  Lisa Liusz Senio, Manager of Utilitiites  P. Mahoney, Manager of Protective Services/Fire Chief  Ian McKay, P.Eng., GM Municipal Services  Peter Tarnawsky, County Commissioner – CAO
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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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Enhances service provision through community partnerships</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Supports Sturgeon County's cultural history</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Positive impact on residents' quality of life</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Supports and promotes volunteer efforts</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Provides programs and services that are accessible to all residents</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Streamlines operational processes and policies</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>