




Request for Decision

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| Title | Request for Cancellation of Tax Arrears for Roll #3710018 |
| Proposed Motion | That Council refuse the request to cancel tax arrears in the amount of \$5,136.40 for Roll #3710018, resulting from an outstanding water and sewer bill. |
| Administrative Recommendation | Administration recommends that Council refuse the request to cancel tax arrears under section 347(1)(a) of the <i>Municipal Government Act</i> . |
| Previous Council Direction | June 25, 2019 Regular Council Meeting – Mr. Van Vuong made a presentation to Council requesting a refund for tax arrears. |
| Report | <p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 21, 2018: Sturgeon County emailed Roll #3710018 and Mr. Vuong regarding a high consumption noted on the monthly water bill. • August 22, 2018: Sturgeon County technicians visited the property in the Northern Lights subdivision to investigate the water consumption. During the inspection, utility technicians found two toilets running. The water meter was removed, as per the request of Mr. Vuong, to investigate the meter's accuracy. • August 31, 2018 and October 2, 2018: Sturgeon County emailed Mr. Vuong, informing him and the taxable owner, that their renter had not come into the County to set up a utility account or pay the renter deposit fee. The email further indicated that the utility account remains in the taxable owner's name. • October 2, 2018: Sturgeon County phoned Mr. Vuong regarding the high-water consumption. Mr. Vuong confirmed he had fixed the toilets. • October 3, 2018: The meter test came back registering 99.7006% accuracy (as per Sturgeon County Waterworks Bylaw 932/02, the meter is within the acceptable meter accuracy allowance). • October 9, 2018: Mr. Vuong requested that the County shut off the water valve to the property in Northern Lights. • With the new Neptune meter installed, the data logger results were pulled on October 10, 2018. The report noted that on August 30, 2018, a |

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| | <p>leak occurred until October 1, 2018. Total leak consumption was 24.758 cubic metres (m³). Furthermore, a subsequent leak occurred on October 6, 2018, and continued until October 10, 2018. Total leak consumption was 1.617 m³.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 11, 2018: A letter was sent from Sturgeon County, notifying Mr. Vuong of the meter test results and the Neptune meter data logger results. • October 15, 2018: Sturgeon County received a letter from a tenant at the property who indicated high mould issues due to extensive leaks within the home. • October 17, 2018: Sturgeon County received an “Executive Order” from Alberta Health Services to have the tenant vacate the property immediately. • December 21, 2018; Sturgeon County received a request from Mr. Vuong for the County to shut off water; however, the water had been shut off since the request to do so on October 9, 2018. • March 26, 2019: Sturgeon County provided Mr. Vuong a letter that indicated the results of its follow-up investigation. • April 27, 2019: Mr. Vuong advised that he wants Council to waive his outstanding utility bill of \$4,590.63 (plus 12% interest penalty), which was transferred from utility collections to the tax roll on January 1, 2019. • Mr. Van Vuong attended the June 25, 2019 Regular Council meeting, where he requested that Council cancel tax arrears in the amount of \$5,136.40. <p><u>External Communication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No external communication is required. <p><u>Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Municipal Government Act</i>, section 347(1)(a) (cancellation, reduction, refund or deferral of taxes) • 2019 Fees & Charges Bylaw 1427/18 • Waterworks Bylaw 932/02 and amendments thereto |
| <p>Implication of Administrative Recommendation</p> | <p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <p>Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership – Refusing the request to cancel tax arrears resulting from an unpaid water and sewer bill aligns with the Fees and Charges Schedule Bylaw and demonstrates the County’s commitment to collecting fees consistently.</p> |

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| | <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <p>Refunding the tax arrears to Roll #3710018 would have minimal impact on Administration.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>The County would retain the tax arrears resulting from the outstanding utility bill of \$5,139.40, which would go back into the utility budget to recover the cost associated with water and wastewater expenses.</p> |
| Alternatives Considered | <p>Council could cancel tax arrears for Roll #3710018 in any amount it considers equitable, up to and including the amount of \$5,139.40 requested.</p> |
| Implications of Alternatives | <p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <p>Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership – Approving the request to refund tax arrears resulting from an unpaid water and sewer bill would not align with the Fees and Charges Bylaw and would demonstrate that the County is not committed to collecting fees consistently.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <p>A decision to waive tax arrears would have minimal organizational impacts.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>Refunding the tax arrears of \$5,139.40 from an outstanding water and sewer bill would result in a loss of recoverable expenses to the County's Utility.</p> |
| Follow up Action | <p>As per Council direction.</p> |
| Attachment(s) | <p>None.</p> |
| Report Reviewed by: | <p>  Jeff Yanew, Manager, Utility Services </p> <p>  Scott MacDougall, General Manager, Municipal Services </p> <p>  Reegan McCullough, 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 |
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| 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 and MDP pg. 36)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports a strong thriving business environment to strengthen our economic foundation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans for responsible growth through the MDP and regional growth plan. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manages growth for current and future developments through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> transparent bylaws, policies and processes to enable responsible land development targeting growth around existing and identified future growth areas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities | | | |
| <i>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)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides access to programs and services that have a positive impact on residents' quality of life | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides access to safe and reliable infrastructure assets | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the safety of people and property | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Strong Local and Regional Governance | | | |
| <i>We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and transparent processes (Strategic Plan and pg. 27 MDP)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides effective leadership and management consistent with Strategic Plan, MDP, master plans, bylaws, policies, community engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considers fiscal stability and sustainability | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fosters collaborative intergovernmental partnerships | <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 and MDP pg. 27)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and/or collaborate with voluntary organizations in the region | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Environmental Stewardship | | | |
| <i>We foster a healthy environment and minimize our impact on ecosystems. (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 27)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans and partnerships that minimize environmental impact on natural areas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides awareness of environmental issues impacting the County | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |