

Agenda Item: D.1

Request for Decision

Title	Bylaw 1448/19 – Voting Station Bylaw
Title	bylaw 1446/15 - Voting Station Bylaw
Proposed Motion	1. That Council give first reading of Bylaw 1448/19.
	2. That Council give second reading of Bylaw 1448/19.
	3. That Council consider third reading of Bylaw 1448/19.
	4. That Council give third reading of Bylaw 1448/19.
Administrative Recommendation	That Council adopt Bylaw 1448/19 to align with recent amendments to the Local Authorities Election Act.
Previous Council Direction	July 6, 2004 Council Meeting: Motion 380/04: That Bylaw 1032/04 be given first reading this 6 th day of July 2004.
	Motion 381/04: That Bylaw 1032/04 be given second reading this 6 th day of July 2004.
	Motion 382/04: That Bylaw 1032/04 be submitted for third and final reading this 6 th day of July 2004.
	Motion 383/04: That Bylaw 1032/04 be given third reading this 6 th day of July 2004.
Report	Background Information
	• In Sturgeon County, each ward forms one voting subdivision. Under provincial legislation that has since been repealed, municipalities could apply to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (the Minister) for permission to operate more than one voting station in each voting subdivision.
	Bylaw 1032/04, a Bylaw to Adopt a Modified Voting Procedure, was passed in July 2004. Following the passing of that Bylaw, an application was made to the Minister for Ministerial approval to allow for more than one voting station in each voting subdivision.
	 As part of the 2018 Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) review conducted by Municipal Affairs, the Modified Voting Procedure Regulation was repealed.
	• Section 36(1) of the LAEA, current as of January 1, 2019, states that the elected authority, or the returning officer if authorized by resolution of

Date Written: July 3, 2019 Council Meeting Date: July 9, 2019 the elected authority, may divide the local jurisdiction into voting subdivisions and may from time to time alter their boundaries but may not alter them between the time of the giving notice of an election and the election day.

- Section 37(1) of the LAEA states that the returning officer shall designate the location of one voting station only for each voting subdivision and the location may be outside the area.
- Section 37(3) of the LAEA states that the elected authority may pass a
 bylaw allowing the returning officer to designate more than one voting
 station for each subdivision and the location of those voting stations for
 that election.
- Bylaw 1448/19 will allow the returning officer to establish several voting stations in the 2019 Division 2 by-election and future general elections, ensuring that electors have the maximum opportunity to participate in the democratic process.
- Section 187(4) of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states that a proposed bylaw must not have more than two readings at a Council meeting unless the Councillors present unanimously agree to consider third reading. A decision is required as soon as possible to allow for the efficient planning of the Division 2 by-election; therefore, Administration strongly encourages Council to consider all three readings of Bylaw 1448/19 at the July 9, 2019 Council meeting.

External Communication

• The Returning Officer will communicate the locations of voting stations through election advertising.

Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:

- Local Authorities Election Act, sections 36 and 37
- Municipal Government Act, section 187(4)
- Bylaw 1032/04 Modified Voting Procedure Bylaw

Implication of Administrative Recommendation

Strategic Alignment:

Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership – Ensuring municipal bylaws reflect provincial legislative changes demonstrates a commitment to strong local governance.

Organizational:

None.

Financial:

None.

Alternatives Considered

Council could decide to defeat Bylaw 1448/19.

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Implications of Alternatives

A decision not to adopt Bylaw 1448/19 would result in misalignment between the Bylaw and the *Local Authorities Election Act* and would not allow for more than one voting station per Division.

If unanimous consent is not obtained to consider third reading of Bylaw 1448/19 at the July 9, 2019 Council meeting, Administration will recommend a Special Council Meeting be held for this purpose. Due to the short notice of the Division 2 Councillor's resignation and the timing of the by-election, this Bylaw could not have been brought forward sooner.

Follow up Action

1. Arrange for the Mayor and CAO to sign Bylaw 1448/19 (Legislative Services).

Attachment(s)

- 1. Bylaw 1448/19 Voting Station Bylaw
- 2. Bylaw 1032/04 Modified Voting Procedure Bylaw

Report Reviewed

by:

Jesse Sopko, Manager, Legislative Services & Information Management

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.

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. 		\boxtimes	
 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.		\boxtimes	П
(Strategic Plan and pg. 27 MDP)			1
 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		\boxtimes	
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		\boxtimes	
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		×	

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