



AGENDA ITEM

Missing Link Internet – Letter of Support

March 11, 2021

BACKGROUND

Missing Link Internet submits applications to various funding programs to access funds to improve mobile coverage in the Lacombe County area and other areas. They are currently in the process of running fiber around the Gull Lake area.

At this time Missing Link is seeking a letter of support from the County to accompany these applications when submitted. The County provided Missing Link with a letter of support in March 2017.

Missing Link has not asked for any financial support from the County as part of this request.

ANALYSIS

The request from Missing Link is for a letter of support.

The County has repeatedly heard from our residents and business owners regarding the lack of adequate internet service. It is an inconvenience at best and a deterrent to economic growth at worst. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the importance for reliable high-speed internet for all residents regardless of location.

This is a positive move for the enablement of broadband connectivity in rural areas which otherwise would remain underserved.

Administration is supportive of the request.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council can provide a letter of support.
2. Council can decline to provide letter of support.
3. Council can direct Administration on a different course of action.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The request is limited to a letter of support.



LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Section 3 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states the purposes of a municipality are: 1) to provide good government, 2) to provide services, facilities, or other things that, in the opinion of council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the municipality, and 3) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The following elements of the County’s Strategic Plan are relevant to this issue:

Our Vision: “An attractive, balanced and progressive community”.

Our Mission: “To build a safe and vibrant community through leadership, innovation and healthy relationships”.

Key Principles: “Recognizing our history and solid foundation, we approach the role of providing the best possible level of municipal services for our citizens through a base of collaborative and supportive teamwork”.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lacombe County sees the value in engaging and informing the public/stakeholders through a variety of mediums as outlined in the *Policy AD(40): Public Participation Policy*. The appropriate level of engagement for each public participation opportunity is selected on a project-to-project basis. For this item, the following engagement will take place:

- *Inform*: To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions

Highlights of all County Council meetings are published on the County Website and in the County News.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council pass the following resolution:

That Lacombe County provide Missing Link Internet with a letter in support of applications made for grant funding to improve mobile coverage in the Lacombe County area.

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REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager

