



AGENDA ITEM

Xplornet Ground Site Agreement

March 25, 2021

BACKGROUND

CCI Wireless (internet services provider) through a lease agreement with the County has located telecommunications equipment on the County's tower at the Mirror Shop property for the past many years. With Xplornet Communications Inc's. recent acquisition of CCI, Xplornet is wishing to install a sturdier replacement tower at the site to accommodate new and improved internet equipment. As such, an agreement between Lacombe County and Xplornet Inc. is required to facilitate this arrangement.

Action requested of Council regarding this matter is consideration of approval of the attached Ground Site agreement.

ANALYSIS

The principal elements of this agreement are:

- Tower Ownership, Installation and Maintenance – Xplornet responsibility
- Power to Site – Xplornet responsibility
- Term - initial five-year term and automatic renewal of three additional five-year terms
- Fees - \$400/month and increased by 5% for each extension term
- Termination - can be terminated by Xplornet with 90 days' notice
- Relocation of Tower (to another location on the site if required by County) - one-year notice with cost borne by County

The CCI agreement provided for free internet service to the Mirror Library and Public Works shop valued at \$180/month. With the new agreement being fee based the County will establish an internet account with Xplornet for the Mirror Library and pay the associated fee.

Xplornet has also agreed to transfer the County's existing fire communications equipment from the old tower to the new one.



Alternatives:

1. Approve the agreement as presented (Administrative recommendation).
2. Do not approve the agreement.
3. Take other action as determined by Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The County will realize revenue of \$400 per month through the agreement.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 3 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states the purposes of a municipality are:

- a) to provide good government,
- b) 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
- c) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

The Chief Administrative Officer Bylaw authorizes the County Manager to approve lease agreements provided that the term does not exceed five years, exclusive of renewals.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The following elements of Lacombe County's Strategic Plan are relevant to this issue:

Our Vision:

"An attractive, balanced and progressive community.

Our Mission:

"Building a safe and vibrant community through leadership, innovation and the development of healthy relationships."

Our 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."

Key Principles:

1. "Fair and Objective in our decisions and in how we treat individuals."
2. "Accountability for our decisions and for our actions."

Finance Strategy Key Action Item 3.1 "A":

"Explore new sources of revenue."

Resource and Asset Management Strategy:

"To manage the natural, financial and physical assets of the County in order to obtain maximum value from all of these resources."

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 approve the following resolution:

That the Ground Site Agreement, which authorizes the installation and operation of an Xplornet Communications Inc. telecommunications tower at the Lacombe County Public Works shop premises in Mirror, be approved as presented.

PREPARED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager

REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager

