



REQUEST FOR DECISION

Subject: Shaw Go WiFi Contract for Jasper
Prepared by: Mark Fercho, CAO
Date – Notice: May 5, 2015
Date – Decision: May 19, 2015

Recommendation:

THAT Council direct Administration to enter into a contract with Shaw to provide free WiFi in Jasper, and limit the opportunity for Shaw to install WiFi in Municipal Facilities only, for the first approval on location.

Options:

- In addition to the municipal facilities, direct Administration to further engage with the business community to evaluate the impacts of providing free WiFi in the downtown core (the second most favored option in the public response);
- Direct Administration to enter into an agreement with Shaw for any location;
- Direct Administration not to enter into an agreement with Shaw.

Background:

The Municipality of Jasper was approached by Shaw in the fall of 2014 to consider entering into an agreement for the provision of free WiFi in the community. In February 2015, Council directed Administration to conduct a public engagement initiative to obtain public feedback on the project. A two-stage report, highlighting the engagement results from the community, and the answers to residents' questions from Shaw, is attached, and is also available on the municipal website and through Council's meeting agendas.

There is known need for WiFi in the municipal recreation complex – patrons of the Fitness & Aquatic Centre and Jasper Arena request access on a regular basis. WiFi access is also desirable to provide best services for facility rentals and conferences. This similar situation exists in other municipal facilities used for public events and for the public to access services such as the Emergency Services Building and Community and Family Services.

The engagement initiative revealed a number of concerns from residents and business owners, which leads Administration to believe further engagement is required before allowing the installation of WiFi emitters in other locations.

Director _____

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Strategic Relevance:

In Council's Strategic Priorities is the goal to:

Increase opportunities for public engagement

- Provide opportunities for "strategic community conversations" on matters of importance and interest, such as budget, events, new opportunities, etc

A-004: Public Engagement Policy

- Providing honest, meaningful and accessible engagement opportunities for residents and stakeholders;
- Promoting understanding of local issues, informed decision making and best possible solutions to local issues;
- Provide a consistent and genuine public engagement process that values input in decision making.

Financial Implications

There is no cost to the Municipality in this agreement.

Communication

As part of the engagement process, residents will receive feedback on how their input influenced Council's decision. The information will be available on our website on the Public Engagement page and communicated via the municipal newsletters and local media.

If a new service be provided in municipal facilities or anywhere in the community as a result of Council's decision, this information will also be communicated on-site and through other municipal communications.

ATTACHEMENTS:

- Shaw Facilities Attachment Licence Agreement
- Public Engagement Report, April 2015 – Part One, Engagement Results
- Public Engagement Report, April 2015 – Part Two, Answers to Community Engagement Respondent Questions

Director _____

CAO _____

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