

# Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87

## Request for Decision (RFD)

**Meeting:** Regular Meeting of Council  
**Meeting Date:** September 26, 2023  
**Originated By:** Al Hoggan, Chief Administrative Officer  
**Title:** Discontinuation of Recording Council Meetings

### **PROPOSAL & BACKGROUND**

Early in 2020 the Coronavirus pandemic caused the restriction of public functions and in particular of the public's ability to attend Council Meetings in the gallery and in person. The M.D. of Bonnyville moved to both live streaming Council Meetings digitally and to recording the meetings for airing on social media platforms.

As the pandemic has since abated and as the M.D. ceased live streaming Council Meetings some time ago, the last vestige of the pandemic in the M.D. operations is the continued recording of the meetings for airing on M.D. social media platforms. The proposal would be to cease those recordings.

### **DISCUSSION ON BENEFITS, DISADVANTAGES & OPTIONS**

The Covid-19 pandemic created an inability for all municipalities to continue public meetings. On April 1, 2020 the M.D. of Bonnyville moved to livestreaming and recording Council/Committee Meetings for later distribution in order to keep the public nature of Council Meetings and to meet the requirements of the special MGA legislation that was passed by the province to respond to the pandemic. Openness and transparency being paramount for good governance, the live streaming and recordings allowed the public to "be present" at Council meetings even though they were not allowed to be physically present. Once the pandemic had ceased, and on July 14, 2021 the M.D. of Bonnyville discontinued the live streaming and opened Council Chambers to public participation. The last remaining remnant of the impact of the Covid pandemic on our organization are the recorded meetings which are presented on social media. These recordings and downloaded videos do require significant staff time.

As Council Chambers are once again open to the public and as the recorded meetings are no longer required for pandemic purposes, and as the M.D. did not record or publish recordings of Council meetings prior to the pandemic, the Committee of the Whole is recommending to Council that recorded Council meetings cease immediately.

### **REFERENCE TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

N/A

### **REFERENCE TO PROVINCIAL/FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

N/A

## **COSTS & SOURCE OF FUNDING**

N/A

## **COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

The change to our current practice will be advertised on all our normal platforms in accordance with the M.D. Publics Notifications Bylaw.

## **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDED ACTION**

THAT Council approves the discontinuation of recording Regular Meetings of Council as recommended by the Committee of the Whole effective for the October 10, 2023 meeting.

## **COUNCIL OPTIONS**

1. THAT Council approves the discontinuation of recording Regular Meetings of Council as recommended by the Committee of the Whole effective for the October 10, 2023 meeting.
2. THAT Council amends the recommendation by the Committee of the Whole to discontinue the recording of Regular Meetings of Council effective immediately.
3. THAT Council rejects the recommendation by the Committee of the Whole to discontinue the recording of Regular Meetings of Council effective immediately and directs Administration to continue recording meetings.

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Discontinuation of Recording of Council Meetings.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 21, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

### No Signature found

Al Hoggan

Stephanie Severin