



Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87

Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting: Regular Meeting of Council
Meeting Date: February 13, 2024
Originated By: Lisa Follitt, Manager of Planning and Development
Title: Application to Close, Cancel, Sell, and Consolidate a Portion of Government Road Allowance

PROPOSAL & BACKGROUND

Administration received an application from a landowner on November 20, 2023, to close, cancel, sell, and consolidate a portion of government road allowance Range Road 463, east of Plan 132 2699, Block 1, Lot 1 and south of Moose Lake (approximate area of 5,800 sq. ft.). The applicant's intention is depicted in the redacted application in Appendix A.

DISCUSSION ON BENEFITS, DISADVANTAGES & OPTIONS

Ownership of roads in a municipality, other than a city, is vested in the Crown in right of Alberta. *The Municipal Government Act (MGA)* grants the municipality the ability to request the closure of a road. A landowner interested in requesting a road closure must contact their municipal office to make a request to initiate the closure process.

It is important to note that the closure must be approved by the Minister of Transportation and a valid reason for the closure must be provided.

The government road allowance in question, as it exists, provides a buffer between the intensive recreation zoning of the M.D. of Bonnyville (M.D.) Vezeau Beach Campground and the country residential zoning within SE-9-61-6W4M. Additionally, it includes a portion of the municipal Moose Lake Trail System which does require adequate space adjacent to the trail surface for snow removal and removal of any other debris.

The existing road allowance also allows for public non-lakefront landowners, and Vezeau Beach M.D. Park users access to Moose Lake. It provides a hand-launching location for non-motorized watercraft such as canoes, kayaks, and paddle boards. Furthermore, this access point to Moose Lake has the potential to be further developed as a lake access point in the future, should the municipality choose to do so.

The portion of the Government Road Allowance requested for closure and sale has an estimated fair market value of \$205,000, according to the M.D. property assessment department report of December 12, 2023.

This application was presented at the January 9, 2024, Council meeting and was tabled until the January 16, 2024, Committee of the Whole Meeting for additional information. At that meeting, the Committee recommended to Council to deny the application to close, cancel, sell, and consolidate a portion of the Government Road Allowance Range Road 463, east of Plan 132 2699, Block 1, Lot 1, and south of Moose Lake.

Attached for Council's reference:

- Appendix A: Application for Closure and Sale of Government Road Allowance – Redacted
- Appendix B: Registered Survey Plan
- Appendix C: Maps

REFERENCE TO STRATEGIC PLAN

N/A

REFERENCE TO PROVINCIAL/FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Section 22 of the *Municipal Government Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26, as amended.

COSTS & SOURCE OF FUNDING

A \$150.00, non-refundable, Application for Closure and Sale of Government Road Allowance fee has been paid by the applicant.

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Correspondence will be sent, in writing, to the applicant advising them of Council's decision.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDED ACTION

THAT Council denies the application to Close, Cancel, Sell, and Consolidate a Portion of Government Road Allowance Range Road 463, east of Plan 132 2699, Block 1, Lot 1, and south of Moose Lake.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

1. THAT Council denies the application to Close, Cancel, Sell, and Consolidate a Portion of Government Road Allowance Range Road 463, east of Plan 132 2699, Block 1, Lot 1, and south of Moose Lake.
2. THAT due to Council requiring fulsome and timely information on all matters that require public hearing, and also due to Council's desire that all affected parties have an opportunity to speak and make their case, Council directs Administration to prepare a bylaw for Council consideration, and to set dates for a public hearing on the matter of the application to Close, Cancel, Sell, and Consolidate a portion of the Government Road Allowance Range Road 463, east of Plan 132 2699, Block 1, Lot 1, and south of Moose Lake.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Application to Close, Cancel, Sell and Consolidate a Portion of Government Road Allowance - Feb 13, 2024.docx
Attachments:	- Appendix A - Redacted.pdf - Appendix B.pdf - Appendix C - Redacted.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Feb 5, 2024

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

Lisa Folliott

Esther Quiambao

Stephanie Severin