

Subject: Transfer of the Athabasca Power Centre Lands to the Municipality**APPROVALS:**

Brian Moore, Executive Director
Kevin Scoble, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Administrative Recommendation:

That Administration enter into discussions with Provincial Administration regarding an agreement for the transfer of the Athabasca Power Centre lands to the Municipality for consideration by Council.

Summary:

The Municipality has a shortage of retail development and numerous developers have expressed an interest in the Athabasca Power Centre lands. The Province is not prepared to market these lands at this time but has offered an opportunity for discussion regarding a transfer of the lands to the Municipality.

Background:

Administration forwarded a letter to the Deputy Minister of Infrastructure on June 8, 2015 requesting the release of the Athabasca Power Centre lands for development on an expedited basis. Subsequent correspondence was received on June 23rd from the Deputy Minister indicating that Infrastructure was working with the Ministries of Transportation and Environment & Parks to coordinate the review of these lands for marketing purposes.

Administration received correspondence from the Province on September 25, 2015 advising that the Province is not prepared to put the Athabasca Power Centre Lands on the market. The correspondence extended an offer to the Municipality to enter into discussions with the Province for the transfer of these lands to the Municipality.

Alternatives:

That Administration not enter into discussions with the Province to discuss an agreement for the transfer of the Athabasca Power Centre lands to the Municipality.

Budget/Financial Implications:

Financial implications cannot be determined until such a time that an agreement has been considered and approved by Council regarding the transfer of the Athabasca Power Centre Lands to the Municipality.

Rationale for Recommendation:

1. The transfer of the Athabasca Power Centre lands to the Municipality would provide an opportunity for the Municipality to control the marketing and developing of these lands.
2. Administration continues to see evidence of strong market demand for non-residential land and the potential development of a large format regional shopping centre on the Athabasca Power Centre parcel that is owned by the Province.

Strategic Plan Linkages:

Pillar 3 – Building a Vibrant Economy Together

Pillar 4 – Building an Effective Land Strategy

Pillar 5 – Building a Reliable Transportation System