



## **Subject: Municipal Landfill – Extension to Waiver of Tipping Fees**

### **APPROVALS:**

Guy Jette, Acting Director  
Bob Couture, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

### **Administrative Recommendation:**

THAT the June 28, 2016 resolution regarding the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Recommendation – Landfill and Waste Management Matters be amended by deleting from section (b), the words “...July 31, 2016,” and replacing it with “October 31, 2016.”

### **Summary:**

Administration recommends that residential landfill tipping fees be waived until October 31, 2016, to facilitate cleanup efforts and provide residents with properties in the restricted areas equal opportunity and resources to those residents that were able to return to their properties and commence cleanup upon initial re-entry beginning on June 1.

Residential waste is waste material brought to the landfill in residential vehicles, including small amounts of demolition and renovation materials, (e.g., items impacted by smoke, fire or flooding). Any company removing demolition or renovation materials under contract is deemed as commercial as they use commercial-sized vehicles.

### **Background:**

During the Provincial State of Emergency, beginning on May 4, 2016, residential landfill tipping fees were waived until June 30, to accommodate the removal of household waste from residences damaged by the wildfire or during firefighting activities.

Subsequent to the decision to waive residential tipping fees, the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee brought forward a recommendation to Council on June 28, 2016, which resulted in the following resolution being passed:

- “(a) that Administration be directed to open the Municipal Landfill to incoming waste on a 24 hour per day, 7 day per week basis commencing July 5, 2016 until cleanup and removal of debris from structures destroyed or damaged by fire or by firefighting activities is substantially complete, and to take such measures and procure such equipment as may be required (including if necessary one or more temporary truck scales) to provide for rapid and safe turnaround of vehicles at the Landfill in anticipation of substantially increased volumes of traffic during the demolition and cleanup phase;

- (b) that Administration be directed to maintain in place until July 31, 2016 the waiver of tipping fees for loads of household waste hauled to the landfill;
- (c) that Administration be directed to take immediate steps to block vehicular access to areas of the Municipality that are notorious for their use as unlawful waste dumping sites
- (d) that Administration be directed to include all costs associated with (a) through (c) above in its request to the Government of Alberta for funding to compensate for extraordinary costs arising from the wildfire.”

The augmented service hours began on July 5, 2016, until cleanup activities are substantially complete.

**Alternatives:**

1. Reinstate residential landfill tipping fees effective August 3, 2016.
2. Waive residential landfill tipping fees until September 30, 2016, for loads of household waste hauled to the landfill from the restricted neighborhoods: Abasand, Beacon Hill, and Waterways.
3. Waive residential landfill tipping fees until October 31, 2016, for loads of household waste hauled to the landfill from the restricted neighborhoods: Abasand, Beacon Hill, and Waterways.

**Budget/Financial Implications:**

Based on a summary of materials received at the landfill from May 16 until July 27, 2016, the financial implications of waiving residential landfill tipping fees has been calculated at approximately \$640,066 in uncollected tipping fees.

Should Council choose to extend the waiver of tipping fees until October 31, the additional financial implication is estimated at \$227,000 based on historical data from this timeframe in 2015.

The total approximate value of uncollected tipping fees for the entire period running from May 16 until October 31, 2016, is estimated at \$867,000. The modification of operation hours of the landfill to a 24 hour per day, 7 day per week basis is also expected to impact the total amount of uncollected tipping fees.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

Demolition is now underway in the restricted and non-restricted areas following the 2016 Wildfire. As there are a significant number of properties that can be occupied in the restricted areas, the recommendation to waive tipping fees until October, 31, 2016, will allow equal opportunity for all residents in the cleanup process, facilitate the removal of waste and debris, and reduce the financial pressures facing affected residents.

For the good of the community as a whole, Administration recommends that residential tipping fees be waived as this will provide further incentive to remove debris, and help to mitigate the immediate danger and unsightliness that arises from the ongoing presence of destroyed properties.

**Strategic Plan Linkages:**

Pillar 1 – Building Responsible Government

Pillar 2 – Building Balanced Regional Services

Pillar 6 – Building a Sustainable Region