

## BYLAW NO: 23/012

### A BYLAW OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO TO ESTABLISH ALTERNATE METHODS OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND ADVERTISEMENT

**WHEREAS** pursuant to Section 606 of the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c. M-26 a Council must give notice of certain bylaws, resolutions, meetings, public hearings, or other things by advertising in a newspaper or other publication circulating in the area, mailing or delivering a notice to every residence in the affected area or by another method provided for in a bylaw under section 606.1;

**WHEREAS** pursuant to section 606.1 of the *Municipal Government Act*, a Council may, by bylaw, provide for one or more methods, which may include electronic means, for advertising proposed bylaws, resolutions, meetings, public hearings and other things referred to in section 606 of the Act;

**WHEREAS** pursuant to section 158.1 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, RSA 2000 (LAEA), if a bylaw is passed in accordance with section 606.1 of the *Municipal Government Act*, this bylaw shall be used for the purpose of notifications referred to in sections 26, 35, 53.01, 53.1 and 74 of the LAEA;

**AND WHEREAS** Council is satisfied that the advertising methods set out in this Bylaw are likely to bring matters advertised by the chosen method to the attention of substantially all residents in the area to which the bylaw, resolution or other things relates or in which the meeting or public hearing is to be held.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

#### **Short Title**

1. This Bylaw may be cited as the “Public Notice Bylaw”.

#### **Purpose**

2. The purpose of this Bylaw is to provide methods for advertising proposed bylaws, resolutions, meetings, public hearings, and other things required to be advertised under the Act by the Municipality and to modify certain advertising requirements.

#### **Definitions**

3. In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - (a) “Act” means the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000 c. M-26 and all amendments and revisions thereto;
  - (b) “Bylaw” means this Public Notice Bylaw;

- (c) “Council” means the council for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo;
- (d) “Chief Administrative Officer” means the chief administrative officer for the Municipality;
- (e) “Municipality” means the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo;
- (f) “Notice” means any advertisement, notice, notification or other form of communication required by section 606 of the Act;
- (g) “Social Media” means mobile-based and internet-connected applications and tools that support the sharing and publication of various types of information among people. Social Media services can include, but are not limited to, popular web-based blogs and networking websites such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Reddit, Instagram, SnapChat, TikTok and YouTube;
- (h) “Social Media Account” means an approved Municipal account with specific user identification and association login credentials providing access to a Social Media platform. These accounts are administrative accounts and not the accounts of elected officials.
- (i) “Tax Auction” means a public auction pursuant to section 418(1) of the Act;

#### **Advertising Methods**

- 4. Any notice required to be advertised, such as bylaws, resolutions, meetings, public hearings or something else under section 606 of the Act must be advertised:
  - (a) where the matter is of general interest to the entire Municipality, electronically on the Municipality’s website at [www.rmwb.ca/publicnotice](http://www.rmwb.ca/publicnotice);
  - (b) by mailing or delivering a notice by regular post or other delivery method, within the area reasonably expected to be affected; or
  - (c) a combination of 4(a) and 4(b) to be determined by the Municipality as reasonably necessary to bring to the attention of substantially all residents in the area to which the bylaw, resolution or other things relates or in which the meeting or public hearing is to be held.
- 5. Notwithstanding section 4, anything required to be advertised under Part 17 of the Act or relating to development permits identified in the Land Use Bylaw must be advertised in accordance with the Land Use Bylaw.
- 6. Notices advertised online pursuant to section 4(a) or (c) must remain accessible from the initial date of posting, through to the date of the thing advertised.

7. In addition to advertising pursuant to section 4, the Municipality may also use one or more of the following methods to enhance and support public awareness:
  - (a) online newspapers, print newspapers, municipal newsletters, fliers, and other materials circulated in the Municipality;
  - (b) Municipal Social Media Accounts;
  - (c) signage, digital signage;
  - (d) printed copies of notice available at Jubilee Centre and rural contact offices;
  - (e) mail;
  - (f) email and other opt-in electronic communications; or
  - (g) any emergent technologies sufficient for these purposes.
8. Unless otherwise stated in this Bylaw, any other bylaw of the Municipality or any other applicable legislation, the methods used to advertise legislated notifications are at the discretion of the Chief Administrative Officer.
9. Tax Auctions shall continue to be advertised, in accordance with section 421(1) of the Act, and may also be advertised in accordance with this Bylaw not less than 10 days before the date on which the Tax Auction is to be held.

**Coming Into Force**

10. This Bylaw comes into effect on the day it is passed.

Read a first time this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

Read a second time this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

Read a third time and final time this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

Signed and Passed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.