



REPORT

TO: Mayor Avis and Council

FROM: Jason Kabel, Manager of Community Services

DATE: June 3, 2016

RE: Shaw WiFi Agreement

At the regular meeting of the Community Services Executive Committee on April 4, 2016, the committee reviewed a proposed agreement with Shaw Cablesystems for the purpose of providing WiFi internet services in Town owned facilities.

There were a number of questions that the Community Services Executive Committee had before making a recommendation to Mayor and Council. The questions were posed to Shaw and responses as follows:

I apologize it has taken me so long to get back to you. I've received the comments from our legal team and there appear to be no insurmountable issues. (in order of your 6 comments):

1. We will change the entire document to Town, that is no problem.
2. We are fine with a 5 year agreement, and renewals of 5 years.
3. We operate in thousands of locations that have multiple wifi signals without issue. You are correct, all of our hotpots are hard wired in, and our access points scan for open frequencies within a range, and can be manually adjusted should interference become a problem (which is rare, and certainly fixable). I assure you we will not interfere with any existing frequencies, but we will not commit to a single frequency.
4. Once the agreement is signed, we can certainly send you a certificate of insurance that shows the Town has been added, that's no problem.
5. We are not comfortable with a change to allow the Town to terminate the agreement. There is considerable cost to building the network, and installing these access points. There is no way to measure a change in benefit as you are suggesting. Including a statement as you are suggesting is too broad. Clause 2 of the agreement allows the Town to terminate the agreement should Shaw fail to meet its obligations. It is worth noting that we have yet to have a municipality opt out of the agreement at the time of re-newal, recognizing the benefit Shaw Go WiFi in municipal facilities brings to the community. We really see this relationship as a partnership, and will work with the Town for the benefit of your citizens and our customers (or potential customers).

6. We are fine with changing the notice for relocation to 60 days, we have staff in Ft. Frances who are able to address any issues quickly.

Hopefully this provides a clear understanding of our needs. We are fine with all of the points, except 2 & 5. If you are comfortable with the explanation I've provided, on those 2 points, please indicate, and I will go ahead and draft the agreement as outlined above.

If you feel concerned with signal interference (point 2 above), or the need to terminate the agreement (point 5), I suggest we set up a call to discuss in further detail.

The revised proposed agreement as provided by Shaw is attached.

Recommendation

The Community Services Executive Committee recommends to Mayor & Council to endorse the agreement with Shaw Cablesystems for the purpose of providing Free WiFi services to the public in select Town facilities to be determined and further that an authorizing bylaw be enacted.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JK', is written over the printed name 'Jason Kabel'.

Jason Kabel