



**AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Agenda Item number: 6.b

Title:

Consideration of Communications Equipment Installation on the Red Gate Water Tower

Presenter:

Tim Wilson

Meeting: Government Services Committee

Date: February 25, 2019

Proposed Cost: \$0

Budgeted Amount: \$0

Not Budgeted:

**Executive Summary** *(if not budgeted please explain):*

Since the final completion of the Red Gate water tower over a year ago, the City has been approached by several wireless vendors wanting to install antennas on the tower. In January 2019 the construction warranty on the water tower expired and staff would like the Government Services Committee to provide some direction as to the desire to have antennas installed on the Red Gate water tower. It is important to note that unlike the Small Cell Wireless Facilities Standards that was presented to you in January 2019, the installation of communications equipment on the water tower is not mandated by a state Act.

Some benefits of partnering with the wireless carriers are additional lease income for the City and increased wireless coverage for our residents. Based off of our current lease agreements and depending on the number of antennas it is estimated the annual income for the Red Gate tower would be in the range of \$30,000 - \$60,000. An example coverage map is provided as part of the presentation to Committee.

Potential drawback and concerns associated with the installation are the look of antennas on the stem and the top of the water tower; also maintenance by the cell companies after they have installed the equipment has traditionally been lax resulting in additional work for the City. As a result of these concerns, staff has a neutral position with the addition of antennas on the Red Gate water tower. The City has previously allowed the installation of wireless equipment to our Campton Hills and Tenth Street water towers.

If the desire of the Committee is to proceed with the addition of wireless antennas to the Red Gate tower, Staff will proceed with obtaining proposals from a variety of vendors. It is estimated that proposals, contract negotiations, design and construction will take about a 1 ½ years to complete. Typically all of the City's costs to proceed are covered by the required fees to the carriers. However, this process will require a great deal of staff and contracted professional services costs, therefore, Staff is asking the Committee to provide a recommendation to proceed prior to embarking in the long process.

**Attachments** *(please list):*

None

**Recommendation/Suggested Action** *(briefly explain):*

For information only – Staff is seeking the Committee's direction on whether to obtain proposal for the installation of wireless communications equipment on the Red Gate water tower.