



**COUNCIL  
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	September 23, 2024	<b>PRESENTED BY:</b>	Kylie Rude, CAO
<b>TITLE:</b>	Bylaw 2024-005, Number of Councillors		
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	8.1		

**BACKGROUND/ PROPOSAL**

Council gave first reading to Bylaw 2024-005 to formally establish a 5 member Council as a result of the Municipal Inspection which identified that no such bylaw was available to align with the requirements of the Municipal Government Act (MGA).

Following first reading, Administration circulated a survey to the public to gather feedback and also advertised in local newspapers to provide an opportunity for public petition as is required by the MGA. No petition was received in the timeframe identified. The summary of survey results is as follows:

<b>How many councillors should the Village have?</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
3	27	44%
5	35	56%
<b>How should the mayor be chosen?</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Elected by the public	43	69%
Chosen by council	19	31%

Note: 6 out of 62 respondents were County residents.

**DISCUSSION / OPTIONS**

If Council chooses to continue with a five member Council, this bylaw must be passed prior to December 31, 2024 in order to align with the MGA and the Ministerial Directives.

Statistics show that about half the villages in Alberta have 5 councillors and half have 3.

Some areas Council may wish to consider in this decision are:

- There may be a slight cost savings of council remuneration if there are only three councillors instead of five; currently council remuneration is set at \$315 per month for councillors and \$420 per month for the mayor. However, both full day and half day meeting costs will still be incurred when council is attending committee meetings.
- Councillors sit on a variety of committees so if three councillors are in place, the number of individual portfolios/commitments is likely to increase (an increase of time commitment



may be a deterrent to council candidates or may lead to councillor burnout which can lead to councillor resignations/by-elections which have associated costs)

- Committees include but are not limited to:
  - Northern Lights Library System
  - St. Michael Regional Landfill
  - Lamont County Regional Emergency Services
  - Lamont County Food Bank
  - NorthEast Alberta Hub
  - Lamont County Housing Foundation
  - Lamont County FCSS
  - Finance and Taxation
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Bylaw and Policy
  - Andrew Rainbow Club
  - Andrew Ag Society
  - Andrew ACCA & Curling Club
- Having five individual perspectives may lead to more well-rounded decision making.
- The village has had some difficulty over the years in having enough candidates to run in both elections and by-elections with the most recent example being in 2023 when the by-election timeframe was expanded because no candidate nominations were received.
- There have been a number of by-elections over the past 3 council terms.

Currently, Council chooses the Mayor from amongst the elected Council annually at the Organizational meeting. It is also an option to have the Mayor chosen by the public at election time.

A few areas to consider in this decision include:

- The public feedback identified the majority wishing to have the mayor elected by the public
- If an individual decides to run for Mayor and does not get elected, they will not then become a Councillor (when submitting nomination papers, candidates must choose which office, being mayor or member of council they are running for; this is identified in the Local Authorities Election Act)
- As an alternative to having the mayor be elected by the public (at-large), Council can continue to make this decision from amongst the elected Council but as a strategy to create consistency, that individual could be chosen for the entire four year term instead of the current practice of this being considered annually
- The MGA contains other tools for removing an elected official (recall provisions) should a serious situation arise where the public feels that a member of Council should no longer be on Council
- The Village's Code of Conduct Bylaw contains provisions for handling other actions or behaviors that are not in line with the Code of Conduct



**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

That Bylaw 2024-005 Number of Councillors Bylaw be given second reading.

That Bylaw 2024-005 be given third reading.

OR

That Administration be directed to add to Bylaw 2024-005 that the Mayor of the Village of Andrew will be elected at large and bring the bylaw back to Council for further readings.

**BYLAW # 2024 - 005**

**Number of Councillors**

**A BYLAW OF THE VILLAGE OF ANDREW, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO SPECIFY THE NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS ON THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Government Act states that the Council of a Village consists of three (3) Councillors unless the Council passes a bylaw specifying a higher or lower odd number;

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Village of Andrew, in the Province of Alberta, has the authority to increase or decrease the number of Councillors, as specified in the Municipal Government Act.

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26, as amended, the Council of the Village of Andrew, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, **HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The Municipal Council for the Village of Andrew shall consist of five (5) councillors.
2. This Bylaw comes into force upon the date of the passing of the third and final reading thereof.

READ for a first time this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

READ for a second time this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

READ for a third and final time and passed this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Barry Goertz

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Mayor Tammy Pickett

\_\_\_\_\_  
CAO, Kylie Rude



**COUNCIL  
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	September 23, 2024	<b>PRESENTED BY:</b>	Kylie Rude, CAO
<b>TITLE:</b>	Northern Lights Library System (NLLS) Levy 2025		
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	9.1		

**BACKGROUND/ PROPOSAL**

Annually, NLLS provides information as to the upcoming budget year's levy.

As indicated in the attached letter, the NLLS Board has approved a 1.5% levy increase.

**DISCUSSION / OPTIONS**

The 2024 levy was \$5.39 per capita which resulted in a \$2,290.75 expense.

The 2025 levy is set at \$5.47 per capita which equals \$2,324.75.

The population list being used indicates the Village of Andrew's population as 425.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

That Council accepts the 2025 Northern Lights Library System Levy of \$5.47 per capita and that the total cost of \$2,324.75 be included in the 2025 Village of Andrew Operating Budget.



5616 – 48 St, Postal Bag 8, Elk Point, AB, T0A 1A0  
Tel 780-724-2596 Fax 780-724-2597

September 11, 2024

Town Administrator  
Village of Andrew  
PO Box 180  
Andrew, AB  
T0B 0C0  
andrew.cao@mcsnet.ca, andrew@mcsnet.ca

Kylie Rude,

The Northern Lights Library System Board unanimously approved, in principle, the upcoming 2025 budget. The budget includes a 1.5% levy increase for Municipalities and/or their Library Boards.

Northern Lights Library System's agreement stipulates that we use the same population list to assess the membership levy that the provincial government uses to calculate library operating grants. Therefore, your population for purposes of the 2025 library system levy is **425**.

Please send a copy of your council motion accepting or rejecting the presented Northern Lights Library System Board 2025 Budget, with its 1.5% levy increase.

**2025 Levies:**

<b>\$5.47 per capita</b>	<b>Municipality</b>
\$10.94 per capita	Municipality without Library Board

The total levy for 2025 equals **\$2,324.75** from the Village of Andrew. (425 x \$5.47) Do NOT remit payment, the invoice will follow in December.

You may contact your Northern Lights Library Board member representative if you have any questions. A copy of the budget is available from your Northern Lights Library Board member representative.

Regards,

Jennifer Anheliger  
Chairman  
Northern Lights Library System Board

James MacDonald  
Executive Director  
Northern Lights Library System