February 21, 2019

Stephane Labonne

Chief Administrative Officer

Town of Morinville

10125-100 Avenue

Morinville, AB, T8R 1L6

Dear Mr. Labonne,

Every year, AUMA members have the opportunity to submit resolutions on issues of importance to them. These resolutions are then presented, debated, and voted on by our members at the fall convention. If passed, the resolutions remain active for three years, after which time they expire. On behalf of AUMA’s Board, I am pleased to provide information on the outcomes of the Town of Morinville’s expired 2015 resolution.

The resolution entitled “Coordinated Approach to School Site Procurement” called for AUMA to formally request that the relevant provincial departments develop the necessary legislation, policy, and procedures to ensure early and fulsome engagement with urban municipalities in planning and announcing new school sites for the purpose of assisting urban municipalities in preparing for what is specifically required of them; helping to identify what issues a municipality may need to address; and providing assistance where needed to actually achieve the siting of the school and surrounding uses in a manner that is timely and does not burden local taxpayers.

AUMA met with the Office of the Auditor General to provide input into the Minister of Education’s request for an investigation into delays in the construction of schools. This provided an opportunity to profile our resolutions and the recommendations that were formulated a few years ago on the planning, communication and funding of schools.

Unfortunately, the Auditor’s report released in April 2016 did not reflect input from AUMA on school sites, nor acknowledge the key role municipalities play in developing school sites. Municipal Affairs advised that no changes to reserves would be made to MGA provisions without the support of the Minister of Education. AUMA shared our positions with the Minister in August 2016 and asked for a joint meeting with Municipal Affairs, the Alberta Association of School Boards, and RMA to determine what MGA changes are appropriate. There was no response from the Minister, but a consultation document released by Municipal Affairs in November 2016 indicated that the spring 2017 MGA changes could require mandatory joint use agreements and consider land benefit areas.

*Bill 8 An Act to Strengthen Municipal Government*, was passed in spring 2017. This Bill mandates school boards and municipalities to enter into joint use agreements and provide municipalities with increased flexibility to use a ‘benefiting area contribution structure’. This structure supports land dedication and development parameters with respect to assembly of parks and school sites.

If you have any questions about this resolution, please contact AUMA’s advocacy team at advocacy@auma.ca. Further details on AUMA’s advocacy and the province’s response can be found in AUMA’s resolution library on our website.

Yours truly,



Dan Rude, AUMA CEO