

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Topic: Proposed Amendment to Bylaw 11-2011 Discharge of Firearms

Introduction:

Administration is bringing forward a recommendation to amend the Bylaw 11-2011 Discharge of Firearms to apply to lands districted as a form of Country Residential.

Facts (Background Information):

Residents have made known to the County safety and noise concerns relating to discharge of firearms in close proximity to residential development. The proposed amendments are intended to apply broadly throughout Parkland County in the described residential districts.

The effect of this amendment is to prohibit the discharge of firearms on lands which are multi-parcel residential subdivisions or zoned Country Residential, Country Residential Restricted, Cluster (Conservation) Country Residential or Country Residential Estate in the Land Use Bylaw.

Analysis:

The amendments are an attempt to address safety and noise concerns of residents, as well as ensuring lawful use of firearms is not unduly affected. The proposed changes may lower the risk of harm to residents and their quality of life, and also lower the risk of future litigation against the County.

Recognizing that lawful use of firearms is a legitimate activity, a number of exemptions to the prohibition already exist in the Bylaw. The proposed amendments to the exemption section are to:

- remove section 4.2 which refers to facilities approved under the Land Use Bylaw;
- add section 4.5 to recognize that hunting on private property, with the consent of the property owner, would not be a breach of the Bylaw.

Regardless of where a person is discharging firearms, one is still subject to the provisions of the provincial *Wildlife Act*, the federal *Firearms Act*, and the *Criminal Code*.

Should Bylaw 2016-25 receive first and second readings, Ministerial approval is required prior to third and final reading.

Alternatives:

1. Leave the status quo in place.

Conclusion/Summary:

Administration supports that Bylaw 2016-25 receive first reading.
Administration supports that Bylaw 2016-25 receive second reading.

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