

BYLAW NO. 02-2020

A BYLAW OF THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF LAIRD NO. 404 IN THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN TO IMPLEMENT A PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FEE SCHEDULE

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Laird No. 404, in the Province of Saskatchewan, enacts this bylaw as follows:

1. This bylaw may be cited as the "Planning and Development Fee Bylaw".
2. In this bylaw, the following definitions apply:
 - a) "Administrator" – shall mean the administrator of the municipality;
 - b) "Council" – shall mean the Municipal Council of the Rural Municipality of Laird No. 404;
 - c) "Municipality" – shall mean the Rural Municipality of Laird No. 404.
3. In accordance with Section 51 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, the Municipality may prescribe a schedule of fees to be charged for the application, review, advertising, approval, enforcement, regulation and issuance, as the case may be, of:
 - a) A development permit;
 - b) A discretionary use;
 - c) A minor variance; and
 - d) An amendment to an official community plan or zoning bylaw.
4. The schedule of fees to be set is included as Schedule 'A' attached hereto and forming part of this bylaw.
5. The rationale supporting the setting of the fees is contained in Schedule 'B' attached hereto and forming part of this bylaw.
6. Bylaw No. 01-2014 is hereby repealed.

This bylaw shall come into effect on the date of approval of Council.

(Seal)

Reeve

Administrator

This Bylaw given first reading at the _____ Regular meeting of Council.

This Bylaw given second reading at the _____ Regular meeting of Council.

This Bylaw given third reading at the _____ Regular meeting of Council.

This Bylaw given final reading and adopted at the _____ Regular meeting of Council.

Administrator

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF LAIRD NO. 404

SCHEDULE "A"

TO BYLAW NO. ____-2020

Planning and Development Fee Schedule (fees include applicable taxes)

Development permits and minor variances

a) Permitted use	\$250.00*
i. Signs (where permitting is required)	\$50.00
b) Discretionary use	\$325.00*
c) Minor variance	\$150.00

*Permitted and discretionary ancillary or accessory uses requiring permitting under the Zoning Bylaw are subject to the same fee as the principal permitted or discretionary use.

Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw Amendments

a) Official Community Plan Textual Amendment	\$500.00
b) Zoning Bylaw Textual Amendment	\$500.00
c) Official Community Plan Future Land Use Map changes	\$500.00
d) Zoning Map amendments from any Class to:	
i. Class 1	\$300.00
ii. Class 2	\$500.00
iii. Class 3	\$1000.00

Where an application to rezone land involves rezoning land to two or more classes of zoning districts, the sum total of the fees for the class changes shall apply (e.g. rezoning Class 1 land to partially Class 2; \$400.00 + \$800.00=\$1200.00). Where application is made for amendments to both the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw, the respective fee for each amendment shall apply.

Class 1 Districts:

- Agricultural District (AG)
- Agricultural Residential District (AR)

Class 2 Districts:

- Country Residential 1 District (CR1)
- Country Residential 2 District (CR2)
- Industrial/Commercial District (M)

Class 3 Districts:

- Country Residential 3 District (CR3)

Except for Permitted Use permit applications, in addition to the review and administrative costs above, the applicant will also be responsible for all costs related to advertising of any required public notice and subsequent public hearing. This may include but is not limited to: advertisement in a local newspaper; written notice to landowners; posting of public notice on-site or in other public places; any materials required in the preparation or posting of the notice; and any separate facility rental to accommodate the public hearing if a venue larger than Council's chambers is required.

For all permitting and amendment-related matters where engagement with outside planning, engineering, legal, or other professional expertise is necessary to properly review an application and/or implement the decision of the Development Officer or Council, applicants will be solely responsible for those costs. Costs will vary on a case-by-case basis. At its discretion, the municipality may require an applicant to provide a retainer fee of up to \$1,000.00 to be applied to said costs. Applicants will be required to cover any additional costs over and above the retainer, and any funds in excess of those required for professional services will be refunded. No refund will be issued where professional expertise was engaged, and where an application is refused, unsuccessful, or withdrawn.

Council, at its discretion, may consider a reduction or waiver of any fee prescribed in this bylaw where:

- 1) Formal written request is made by the applicant;
- 2) Municipal resources required to process the specific proposal are negligible, or the fees prescribed would be excessive in the specific circumstance; and
- 3) A decision on the fee waiver is done by resolution of Council.

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF LAIRD NO. 404

SCHEDULE "B"

TO BYLAW NO. 02-2020

Rural Municipality of Laird No. 404 – Planning and Development Fee Bylaw Rationale

Introduction:

Planning and development fees are intended to allow the municipality to recoup at least a portion of the costs involved in the review, advertising, approval, enforcement, regulation and issuance of development permits, discretionary uses, minor variances, and planning bylaw amendments. A rationale for the schedule of fees prescribed in Schedule 'B' is hereby provided in accordance with subsection 51(2.1) of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* (PDA).

The time required for processing and hourly rate reflect a low estimate of contracted private planning services available in Saskatchewan, plus administrative time and resources required for review, processing, and execution. The volume of development within the RM of Laird No. 404 (RM) does not warrant a full-time planner on staff. Retaining the services of a private planning consultant on an on-demand basis is more cost-effective option for the RM. This approach will be reviewed on a periodic basis.

It is noted that while the private planning consultant will assume responsibility for most of the review process provided for in this bylaw, additional time and resources will be required of the RM nonetheless and will vary from proposal to proposal.

The fees presented in Schedule 'A' may be lesser than the general estimated costs listed in this rationale document. Council may elect to adopt a fee schedule lesser than estimated costs at its discretion and in the best interest of the RM and its ratepayers. The fees prescribed are an estimate and reflect the average amount of municipal time and resources involved in a review and are not intended to exceed cost-recovery.

The Process:

The sections below outline the duties and responsibilities of the RM upon receipt of an application, and its process for review and the resources required, or having those responsibilities handled by an outside planning consultant.

Application for Permitted Uses (Principal, Accessory, and Ancillary): Three (3) hours @ \$80.00/hour
Signs: One (1) hour @ \$80.00/hour

The review process may include some or all the following:

- Review of the physical application for completion;
- Determination of land use designation and zoning;
- Review of site plan, real property report, or engineering compliance certificate where applicable;
- Review of the application for bylaw compliance and requirements for the specific development;
- Finding the roll number and reviewing the file for previous development;
- Retrieval of a copy of title to determine if there are any interests or restrictions placed on the land;
- Preparation of any materials or information for Council (where required);
- Identification of municipal access and servicing requirements; and
- Consultation with governmental ministries or agencies (where required).

Discretionary Use Applications for Development Permits:

Four (4) hours @ \$80.00/hour

In addition to the process involved for review of a permitted use, the review of a discretionary use application also involves the following:

- Discretionary uses applications require additional resources and time for review. The nature of a discretionary use warrants special consideration by Council on its operation and effect(s) on surrounding land uses and overall intent for the zoning district in which they are located.
- Each discretionary use application must be presented to Council. A detailed summary of the proposed use must be prepared to outline all the relevant regulations and development standards related to said use, and any evaluative criteria that Council must apply in its decision-making process. Further information gathering specific to the site and the proposal is often required for inclusion in the summary.
- Applications for discretionary use are also subject to the public notification requirement in section 55 of the PDA. In addition to the costs incurred by the municipality to provide adjacent landowners with notice (which are addressed separately below), there may be additional time required by administration or outside planning services to process and present to Council any feedback that was received as a result of adjacent landowner notification.
- The review of a discretionary use application may also require consultation with outside professionals, government ministries or agencies, to ensure proper development.
- All the above result in additional time and resources required for review.

Additional Administrative Costs Related to Permitting

Other administrative costs are attributable to the development permit review process, are included in the fees listed in Schedule ‘A’ of the Development Fee Bylaw, and are as follows:

- Initial intake and review of the permit application;
- File preparation, organization and filing;
- Printing and copying material related to the permit review and for circulation to Council (where required);
- Site visitation (where required); and
- Consultation with outside professionals, government ministries or agencies (where required).

Minor Variance Applications:

Two (2) hours @ \$80.00/hour

The review process includes:

- Review of the physical application for completion;
- Determination of land use designation and zoning;
- Determination of whether the proposed variance meets the legislated provisions for variance;
- Assess for potential impact on adjacent landowners;
- Retrieval of a copy of title to determine if there are any interests or restrictions placed on the land;
- Preparation of any materials or information for Council;
- Notification to adjacent landowners and the handling of any potential response; and
- Consultation with governmental ministries or agencies (where required).

Planning Bylaw Amendment Costs

The fees for bylaw amendment in Schedule “A” of the Development Fee Bylaw, represent an average approximation of the time required to receive, process, prepare and gain provincial approval for a bylaw amendment at the estimated rate for planning services of \$80.00/hr.

- Official Community Plan Map and Textual Amendments:**
- Zoning Bylaw Textual Amendments:**
- Zoning Bylaw Map Amendments:**

Five (5) hours (minimum) @ \$80.00/hour
Five (5) hours (minimum) @ \$80.00/hour
varies based on class change* @ \$80.00/hour

* Where there is increased potential for a greater density of development, or greater potential for the introduction of land use conflict, an application review is generally more comprehensive and detailed to address all aspects of the proposal to ensure sustainable long-term planning and therefore, requires additional time and resources to review. The classes of zoning district identified in Schedule 'A' represent a spectrum of development possibilities. The zoning districts in Class 1 represent the lowest density of land use and are generally undeveloped and in large land holdings, whereas zoning districts in Class 3 represents higher density of development and increased potential for land use conflict. The classes of zoning districts are distinguished by:

- their current zoning designations and the amount of land area currently zoned as such;
- the intensity of development possible within the districts;
- the types of land use(s) generally accommodated within them;
- their potential to significantly affect existing land use patterns;
- their location and whether potential hazard land need to be considered;
- development possibilities that may impact Aboriginal Treaty Rights which may warrant engagement with First Nations and Métis peoples; and
- their potential to introduce land use conflict with adjacent properties.

Engagement with Outside Professionals

Fees collected through a retainer for the purpose of engaging outside professional expertise, and any additional fees for said expertise, are intended to allow the RM the ability to recover its costs related to the review of a permit or bylaw amendment application. Up front collection of fees is intended to communicate the costs related to a review, and recover said costs so as they are not a burden to general ratepayers.

Public Notification Costs – varies

- It is the opinion of Council that the costs related to legislated public notification and participation triggered by applications be borne by applicants and not general ratepayers. Applicants will be required to cover all costs related to the production, publication and delivery, of any public or landowner notice, and any public hearing, in accordance with the legislated public participation requirements relating to development permits, discretionary uses, minor variances, or planning bylaw amendments.
- Upon request, the RM will provide an estimate of its expected costs to applicants prior to public notification, and expects payment prior proceeding with notifications(s).

Enforcement

When reviewing applications, the municipality is ensuring the development conforms to municipal planning policy and regulations, and in its issuance of Notice of Decisions. In some instances where council refuses an application, or conditions are attached to a permit, follow up and bylaw enforcement is required which are additional costs for the RM. The covering of these costs should be accumulated through each individual development permit application fee to assign the costs to developers and not the entire community. No specific portion of the planning and development fees have been attributed to enforcement, but it is recognized that that this is a factor in fees charged by the RM.