



NEWS RELEASE
March 14, 2024

Amalgamation Negotiations Update

(Rocky Mountain House, AB) – On March 14, 2024, the Amalgamation Negotiation Committee met to continue the discussions on various operation matters. The agenda included updates to the Committee Charter and a revised work plan timeline.

The Committee agreed to reconsider previous decisions on the interim council makeup and electoral ward divisions for the proposed municipality.

Highlights from today's Committee meeting decisions include:

1. Planning & Development (operational)

- Existing staffing under 'Planning & Development (Operational)' will remain unchanged.
- Land use bylaws, policies, and service agreements related to land use enforcement from Clearwater County and the Village of Caroline will carry over to the new municipality.
- An amended/combined land use bylaw will be adopted during the transition period.

2. Assessment Matters

- Current year property assessments for the proposed municipality will be treated uniformly.

3. Authority to Impose Additional Tax to Service Pre-Amalgamation Debt

- The new municipality will not require authority to impose additional tax to service pre-amalgamation debt.

4. Tax Treatment for Previously Annexed Properties (Property Tax Exceptions) Report

- As there are no previously annexed properties within the County or Village, property tax exceptions are not required

5. Interim Tax Treatment

- The Committee accepted the Interim Tax Treatment Report, and agreed no interim tax treatment is required by the amalgamated municipality as the first day of a tax year (January 1) has been chosen as the proposed amalgamation date.

Furthermore, Clearwater County and the Village of Caroline have successfully been awarded a \$125,000 grant under the Municipal Restructuring component of the 2023/24 Alberta Community Partnership program for support in the amalgamation negotiations and amalgamation report project.

A Request for Proposal is currently open for a consultant to assist with data collection, public engagement, and drafting final negotiation report.

Upcoming public meetings are scheduled for:

- **April 17, 2024 (4:00 pm - 6:00 pm) - Caroline Community HUB**
- **April 18, 2024 (4:00 pm - 6:00 pm) - Leslieville Community Hall**
- **April 19, 2024 (11:00 am - 1:00 pm) - VIRTUAL ([click here to register](#))**

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More information is available on the project website at www.clearwatercounty.ca/m/amalgamation.

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