



AMALGAMATION NEGOTIATIONS November 2020 Update



November 19, 2020

The Joint Friendship Agreement Committee agreed on seven mandated negotiation topics, established sub-committees for the negotiations, had a preliminary discussion of the public engagement strategy and negotiation schedule, and reconfirmed the amalgamation negotiation timelines in response to the Municipal Affairs letter regarding the Municipal Election Nomination Period.

Progress:

Decisions on the following topics were made and formal motions were made to include them in the amalgamation application to the Minister:

1. **Municipal Status:** the new municipality will be a Town. This is consistent with the Municipal Government Act's definition for Town.
2. **Incorporation Date:** the new municipality will be incorporated on January 1, 2023.
3. **Elected Officials Representation:** the new municipality will be represented by seven (7) elected officials. Most municipalities, especially Towns, have seven (7) elected officials.
4. **Municipal Boundaries:** the current boundaries of both Towns will form the proposed municipal boundaries.
5. **Contiguous Border:** there currently is a contiguous border and so no further changes are required.
6. **Municipal Office:** the main municipal office will be located in Black Diamond at 301 Centre Avenue West, with all current municipal facilities used going forward.

To complete the amalgamation negotiations effectively, four sub-committees were established, Terms of Reference reviewed, and membership appointed:

1. **Finance Sub-committee:**
 - o Black Diamond: Jackie Stickel and Brian Marconi
 - o Turner Valley: Cindy Holladay, Garry Raab
2. **Public Engagement Sub-Committee:**
 - o Black Diamond: Ted Bain, Veronica Kloiber, Sharon Hart
 - o Turner Valley: Barry Crane, Lana Hamilton, John Waring

3. Emergency Management Sub-Committee
 - Black Diamond: Daryl Lalonde, Ruth Goodwin
 - Turner Valley: Jonathan Gordon, Jamie Wilkie
4. Procedure Sub-Committee
 - Black Diamond: Ruth Goodwin, Daryl Lalonde, Jackie Stickel
 - Turner Valley: Barry Crane, Lana Hamilton, John Waring

The Joint Friendship Agreement Committee received a [response from Municipal Affairs](#) to their September 11, 2020 [Notice of Proposed Amalgamation](#) letter. The following information was provided by Municipal Affairs:

- An extension to the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework between each Town and Foothills County has been granted. The new deadline is April 1, 2022.
- Policing costs request was not granted.
- A further grant through the Alberta Community Partnership program and the Municipal Sustainability Initiative will be explored by Ministry staff and the Towns administrations.
- Municipal Election Nomination Period: the request to modify the election nomination period was responded to by providing three scenarios for the Town's to consider – two of which involved accelerating the amalgamation negotiation timeline. The Joint Friendship Agreement Committee decided to proceed with scenario 3 and the original timeline.

The next steps are to move ahead with the four sub-committees with particular emphasis on the Public Engagement Sub-Committee's work to develop the final engagement strategy.

If you have a question about the amalgamation, please email either amalgamation@town.blackdiamond.ab.ca or amalgamation@turnervalley.ca.

Each month the municipalities provide responses to any questions raised by members of the community through the monthly update.