

Council Highlights from the Special Council Meetings of January 30 and 31, 2020

At their **Special Council Meeting of January 30, 2020**, Town Council approved the draft Intermunicipal Regional Fire Rescue Service Agreement that was recommended for presentation by the negotiating teams of the three municipalities. Council also approved holding a special Tri-Council Meeting with Clearwater County and the Village of Caroline on February 4, 2020 to ratify the agreement.

Council held another **Special Council Meeting on January 31, 2020**, to address new circumstances with the agreement in that the Village of Caroline approved the draft agreement, but the draft agreement did not see the support of Clearwater County. At the meeting, Council cancelled the scheduled February 4, 2020 special Tri-Council Meeting.

Mayor Tammy Burke commented:

“The Town feels we are close to having a new regional fire service agreement with two of the three regional partners agreeing to the draft agreement. The Town is hopeful that one more negotiation meeting to address the concerns of Clearwater County will result in strong agreement that serves all residents with exceptional fire service that is fair and equitable for all.”

“We are very grateful for the dedication and service our firefighters give to our region. The Town is dedicated in trying to achieve the regional service they asked us for last June. We are confident that with our municipal partners, we will continue with a regional service under an agreement that benefits all.”

The next **mediation meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2020**. Below is the timeline of event, meetings and highlights of the process for information.

Regional Agreements Review Timelines

September 10, 2018

The three municipalities hold a Tri-Council Meeting. The three Councils unanimously agreed and approved the following:

- The Stronger Together agreement is re-endorsed;
- The Councils hold a ½ day Regional Strategic Planning Session;
- That amalgamation is part of the discussion in the planning session; and
- That a regional wastewater and economic development officer be explored.

January 9-10, 2019

The three municipalities work with a facilitator on regional strategic planning. The two-day session results in the municipalities adopting a noble cause and a design thinking framework.

April 17, 2019

The municipalities hold a second session with the facilitator. The session results in a template to discuss regional services keeping in mind the noble cause and design thinking framework established in the first

session. It is the recommendation of the facilitator that negotiations are conducted in a smaller group, which is the Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee (ICC) in the Stronger Together Agreement.

June 14, 2019

The three municipalities hold an ICC meeting to initiate discussions on regional solid waste and fire. The following was agreed upon unanimously by all members of the committee:

- That the principles discussed for a solid waste agreement be brought to each Council for consideration; and
- That the Town have a discussion with the volunteer firefighters at the Rocky Station to receive input from them on their desired fire service and bring the discussion results back to ICC.

June 17, 2019

Clearwater County calls a special Council Meeting and invokes the termination provision of the Regional Fire Service Agreement.

June 18, 2019

The Town receives the termination letter from Clearwater County. The letter identifies that the County is retaining the Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services brand and that new agreements would need to be drafted over the following months which may include mutual aid, automatic aid and lease agreements.

June 19, 2019

The Town requests an ICC meeting to discuss the recent decision of Clearwater County to terminate the fire agreement and to discuss service options. No response is received from Clearwater County.

June 27, 2019

The Town meets with the firefighters of Station 60. They express that they wish to remain part of a regional fire service. The Town agrees to pursue a regional fire service as requested.

July 2, 2019

As negotiations are not proceeding at the ICC level, the Town, in accordance to the Stronger Together Agreement, initiates the request for mediation as the next step to cooperatively work together for new regional agreements.

July 10, 2019

Clearwater County responds in agreement with mediation.

August 21, 2019

The three municipalities meet with Municipal Affairs from the Provincial Government to discuss the mediation process.

September 3 and 9, 2019

The three municipalities interview and select two mediators.

October 10 and 11, 2019

Mediation discussions begin with the drafting of Collaborative Discussion and Negotiation Protocols.

November 12, 2019

The Collaborative Discussion/Negotiations Protocols are signed by the three municipalities and negotiation begins on the regional fire, solid waste and revenue sharing agreements.

December 4 and 5, 2019

The mediation meetings focus on the fire agreement. Further discussion is agreed to continue in the next scheduled meeting date of January 6, 2020. It is also agreed to establish an end date for the Regional Solid Waste Agreement and commit to having a new agreement in place.

December 10, 2019

Clearwater County extends the December 31, 2019, termination date of the Intermunicipal Regional Fire Rescue Service Agreement to January 31, 2020, to allow for the completion of a new agreement. Clearwater County also passes a resolution for the termination of the current Solid Waste Agreement and to have a new agreement in place by February 28, 2020.

December 17, 2019

The Town passes a resolution to terminate the Regional Solid Waste Agreement and have a new agreement in place by February 28, 2020. The Village of Caroline passes the same resolution in their January 3, 2020, Council Meeting.

January 6 and 7, 2020

Mediation meetings are held, and a tentative framework is established for a new Regional Fire Service Agreement. It is agreed that the timeline for new regional solid waste agreement will need to be extended.

January 14, 2020

An agreement is signed by three municipalities to extend the termination of the Solid Waste Agreement to March 31, 2020, and to have a new agreement in place by that date.

January 29, 2020

A mediation meeting is held resulting in a draft agreement to be reviewed by each respective Council and that a Tri-Council Meeting be set for February 4, 2020, for the ratification of a new agreement.

January 30, 2020

All three municipalities hold a Special Council Meeting for the draft fire agreement. The Town of Rocky Mountain House and the Village of Caroline both pass resolutions agreeing to terms and conditions of the draft agreement and establish a date of February 4th for a Tri-Council Meeting to ratify the agreement. Clearwater County requests further discussion at the February 14, 2020, mediation meeting and extends their termination notice to March 30, 2020.

Next mediation date is scheduled for February 14, 2020.

If you have any questions on these or any other items, please contact:



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