

March 5, 2021

Dear Residents and Property Owners of the Village of Hythe:

I am writing to provide you with an update on the Village of Hythe viability review and information about the upcoming next steps.

As you are likely aware, the Minister of Municipal Affairs received a request from the Village of Hythe Council in May 2020, requesting a viability review.

Following the request from the Village of Hythe and an initial screening, the Minister of Municipal Affairs initiated a viability review of the village in May 2019. As part of the review, an infrastructure review was completed, that included the consolidation of previous studies completed by the village, to understand the scope of major repair and replacement work needed over the next decade.

Municipal Affairs developed a viability review report, in collaboration with the Village of Hythe, County of Grande Prairie and municipal associations. The report is attached for your review.

The Minister has called for a vote of village electors on the question of dissolution. If the result of the vote is in favour of dissolution, the Minister is required to recommend dissolution to the Lieutenant Governor in Council. If the result of the vote is not in favour of dissolution, the Village of Hythe will remain a stand-alone municipality; however, the Minister will issue directives ordering the council to take actions, based on the recommendations within the viability review report, that he considers appropriate to support the viability of the municipality.

Regardless of the outcome, the community will continue to be recognized as an important part of the region.

Municipal Affairs will hold an online public information session to review the viability review report on March 23, 2021 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Participants can access the link to the Zoom meeting at www.alberta.ca/viability-reviews-for-municipalities.aspx or by calling in at:

Telephone number: 1-587-328-1099

Meeting ID: 93272883377

Passcode: 003694

.../2

The session will provide residents, property owners, and community stakeholders an opportunity to learn about the viability review report and the vote of electors. Please note that participants joining by telephone will not be able to ask questions during the session and are encouraged to contact a municipal advisor from the ministry prior to the session and submit their questions.

The vote on the question of dissolution will be conducted using the process set out in the *Local Authorities Election Act*. Eligibility to vote on this important question is consistent with voting in municipal elections. A person is eligible to vote if the person:

- is at least 18 years old;
- is a Canadian citizen; and
- resides in Alberta and the person's place of residence on voting day is the Village of Hythe.

Voter identification showing residency in Hythe will be required.

The vote will be held over a two-day period on March 30, 2021 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., and on March 31, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion #93, 9818 - 100th Avenue, Hythe, AB.

Special ballots (mail-in) are available for electors who have a physical disability or will be away from the village during the days of the vote. An elector may request a special ballot from the returning officer by one of the following methods:

By mail:

Attention: Returning Officer – Village of Hythe Viability Vote
17th Floor, 10155-102 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5J 4L4;

By phone: Toll-free at 310-0000, 780-427-2225; and

By email: viabilityreview@gov.ab.ca.

Special ballots must be returned by mail to the address above by 4:00 p.m., Monday, March 29, 2021 in order to be counted in the vote.

For more information regarding the vote and the forms of identification required to vote, please refer to the **Notice of Vote** and **Voter Identification Requirements** document included in this package.

Ensuring the safety of the public and election administrators is the highest priority. A variety of measures will be taken to comply with public health guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Elections are permitted; however, electors should expect enforcement of physical distancing, mandatory use of face masks and availability of hand sanitizer, and regular cleaning/disinfecting of high touch surfaces and writing tools for forms and ballots.

If you have questions regarding the viability review report, public meeting, or vote of electors, please contact Linda Reynolds, Municipal Viability Advisor, toll-free at 310-0000, then 825-468-4274, or at viabilityreview@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you for your ongoing participation in this important matter, and your understanding of the public health measures put in place during these unprecedented times.

Yours truly,



Gary Sandberg
Assistant Deputy Minister

Attachments: Village of Hythe Viability Review Report
Notice of Vote
Voter ID requirements