

## Rural Municipality of McCreary

Minutes of the public meeting held on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the McCreary Community Centre to discuss the amalgamation of the Rural Municipality of McCreary and the Village of McCreary.

Members of Council and Staff Present were:

### **Rural Municipality of McCreary**

Reeve	Larry McLauchlan
Councillor	Allan Whyte
Councillor	Shawn Buchanan
Councillor	Dennis Battershell
Chief Administrative Officer	Margaret I. Roncin
Office Assistant	Robin Cripps

### **Village of McCreary**

Mayor	Linda Cripps
Councillor	Kelvin Code
Councillor	Sandra Deslauriers
Councillor	Clayton Kohlman
Councillor	Jamie Hoskins
Municipal Administrator	Wendy Turko
Office Assistant	Jeannie Hoggins

### **Manitoba Local Government**

Field Consultant

Don Reid

Councillor Gordon Evenson of the R.M. of McCreary was unable to attend.

Notice of this Public Meeting was advertised in two issues of the Neepawa Banner on October 25, 2013 and November 1, 2013 and by posters being posted locally in various locations and in both municipal offices.

The following members of the public were in attendance:

Don Fletcher	Doris Fletcher	Sadie Leepart
Millie McLuckie	Jean Buchanan	Milton Buchanan
Joan Whyte	Reba Keele	Walter Sonnenberg
Bill Roncin	Wendy Williams	Rhonda Roncin
Chuck Morden	Rob Vachon	Gordon Froese
Don Krieser	Betty Dunning	Mervyn Dunning
Lucien Divers		

At 7:05 p.m. Reeve McLauchlan opened the public meeting and welcomed all. He also introduced all elected officials as well as Don Reid, Field Consultant.

Reeve McLauchlan acknowledged that Don Reid, Field Consultant, has helped us with preparation of our plan and invited Mr. Reid to give some background on himself and the amalgamation process.

Reeve McLauchlan advised that the two municipalities voluntarily agreed to amalgamate and reviewed the services already shared between the two municipalities. He also indicated that amalgamation would stream line current operations and allow for further sharing of staff, equipment, buildings. Amalgamation has been a topic of discussion in McCreary for many years. He also explained the use of differential mill rates by allocating expenses based on the three pots example of Pot A – former Village, Pot B – former Rural Municipality and Pot C – shared expenses. Any cost savings remains to be seen.

The Councils propose to have one office, one CAO, one Head of Council. The decision making process will be fast tracked with no more back and forth between the two. Rather than two entities with 500 people we would be one entity with one voice for 1,000 people.

Mayor Cripps presented the Draft Amalgamation Plan. A copy of the plan was provided to all in attendance and Mayor Cripps presented the content of the plan. She touched on the 2011 population of 948, the name of the new municipality proposed to be the Municipality of McCreary, the office to be at the R.M. of McCreary current location, the mailing address to be the current R.M. of McCreary address, the structure of the new Council to include one Reeve elected at Large, 3 Councillors elected at large from the Rural Ward (R.M. of McCreary as it exists now) and 3 Councillors elected at large from the Urban Ward (the Village of McCreary as it exists now), use of differential mill rates for the former Village and the former Rural Municipality for 8 years or 2 election terms, use of the most recently adopted by-laws or resolutions if conflicting, Reba Keele to act as Senior Election Official for the October 22, 2014 election of the Council for the new municipality with current elected officials remaining in office until December 31, 2014, meetings to be held twice monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday's of each month, staffing and many other issues will be proceeded with as quickly as possible once our plan has been approved by the Province of Manitoba.

Mayor Cripps also thanked all in attendance for their interest.

The floor was opened for questions which were received as follows:

Will all the by-laws be reviewed and those not necessary thrown out?

It is felt that all by-laws will eventually be reviewed and updated as required. When an amalgamation takes place, all existing by-laws move forward and will remain in place until changed by the new municipality. The plan indicates that to resolve a situation where there are conflicting By-Laws and/or Resolutions the most recently adopted will apply. Many by-laws will not conflict such as the Animal Control by-Laws that impose regulations on specific areas.

How will the rates of pay of the CAO and the new Council be set?

The rate of pay of the CAO will be set by by-law of the Council of the new amalgamated municipality. The indemnities for elected officials are a separate matter and will also be set by by-law by the Council of the new amalgamated municipality. The rates are different for each municipality at the present time. Don Reid suggested that these types of issues as well as the Procedures and Organizational By-Laws will be the first issues dealt with by the new amalgamated municipality.

Will this plan be accepted?

Don Reid advised that he could see no issues with the plan that would create an issue from the Province of Manitoba's perspective and it has been reviewed by the Province of Manitoba as a draft prior to tonight's meeting.

Will the fact that the amalgamated municipality will have a population less than 1,000 not be an issue?

Don Reid advised that all municipalities with a population less than 1,000 were required to submit an Amalgamation Plan; however the amalgamated municipality does not have to have a population over 1,000.

How will voting work for the new municipality? Will all vote on every issue?

All members of the Council of the amalgamated municipality will vote on all issues and deal with all issues as one entity.

Summarizing comments from elected officials included the following:

Approval of the plan by the Province of Manitoba is the starting point with many decisions to be made and discussions to be had after we are advised by the Province that our plan has been approved.

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There being no wards within the rural area will be a change for what is now the Rural Municipality of McCreary. Don Reid advised the existence of Wards is only allowed in rural municipalities and not in urban municipalities and is intended for election purposes only. The Municipal Act states that once elected each member of Council will act in the best interests of the municipality as a whole. Election of three Councillors for the Rural Ward on an At Large basis is supported by the existing members of Council.

Provisional Estimates for 2015 will also be dealt with at the first meeting of the new amalgamated municipality.

There will be growing pains that will require all involved to work together towards the best possible solution.

There being no further questions or comments, the public meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF McCREARY

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LARRY McLAUHLAN, Reeve

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MARGARET I. RONCIN, Chief Administrative Officer