Okanagan Falls Incorporation Study Committee
Committee Meeting
February 5, 2024

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Eugene Dettling	Kelvin Hall
	Judy Garner	Eleanor Walker
	Randy Ludwar	Kea Adachi
	Ian Bowen	Rick Wilson
	Marcel Olsthoorn	
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Debbie Rose	
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:	Electoral Area "D" Director M. Taylor	
	Electoral Area "D" Alternate Director J. D'Andrea	
OTHERS PRESENT:		
	Allan Neilson, Neilson Strategies Inc.	
	Sherry Hurst, Leftside Partners Inc.	
	Natasha Horsman, Horsman Strategies	
	Simon Rasmussen, Ministry of Municipal Affairs	
STAFF PRESENT;	M. Aucoin, Legislative Coordinator	
	K. Roemer, Clerk	

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Rick Wilson, Chair

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED AND SECONDED
THAT the Minutes for the Okanagan Falls Incorporation Study Committee Meeting of November 21, 2023 be adopted. –**CARRIED**

C. INTRODUCTIONS

D. STUDY PURPOSE and PROCESS
The consultants reviewed with the Committee the purpose and process for the Incorporation Study.

E. SERVICE SHEETS

1. The Demographic Profile Sheet was presented and reviewed by the committee. Discussion included but was not limited to:
    a. *Question asked for clarification regarding averages / percentages shown on Demographic Profile Sheet and what impact they might mean for the study*
    b. *Question regarding where OK Falls would rate in comparison to other municipalities/ Villages within the province. EG – how many smaller, how many larger?*
        i. *Consultants will make some additions, and circulate a revised edition to the committee.*

2. The Solid Waste Services Sheet was presented and reviewed by the committee. Discussion included but was not limited to:
    a. *Question asked that once the current contract with Waste Management is over could the municipality take on some of the services themselves?*
        i. *Yes the municipality could take on some of the services but they may lose economies of scale in doing so.*
    b. *Question asked could the Area Director and Mayor of the municipality be the same person and then have two votes on the RDOS Board?*
        i. *In theory yes it could be the same person and they would have two votes. In reality, the new municipality would be represented on the Regional Dsitrict Baord by one Municipal Director (the Mayor, or a Councillor), and the Electoral Area would be represented by one Electoral Area Director. On weighted votes, the respective populations of each jurisdiction would determine the number of votes accorded to each Director.*

MOVED and SECONDED
THAT the Solid Waste Service Sheet be endorsed as presented by the consultants. **–CARRIED**

3. The Economic Development Services Sheet was presented and reviewed by the committee. Discussion included but was not limited to:
    a. *Director Taylor clarified that the Okanagan Falls office has transitioned from Economic Development to Community Services.*
    b. *Question asked about whether an Area "D" without Okanagan Falls would be able to opt out of contributing to an Economic Development service.*
        i. *Yes, Area "D" would not be obligated to contribute to the Economic Development service operated by an incorporated Okanagan Falls.*
    c. *Question asked about if the Okanagan Falls office is operating as a Community Services office, would the rest of Area "D" be more willing to contribute to the service.*
    d. *Committee asked about the financial impacts of changing the assumption in the Service Sheet to instead assume an incorporated Okanagan Falls continues with the current staffing (1.5 FTE) dedicated to economic development*
        i. *The consultants can make that change and bring the Service Sheet back to the committee with that change at the next meeting.*

MOVED AND SECONDED
THAT the Economic Development Service Sheet NOT be endorsed as presented by the consultants and THAT the consultants come back to the committee with more information for the March 19, 2024 meeting. **–CARRIED**

4. The Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Services Sheet was presented and reviewed by the committee. Discussion included but was not limited to:
    a. *Area "C" and the Town of Oliver was cited as an example of an electoral area and neighbouring municipality funding Parks and Recreation services together.*
    b. *Questions were raised about the number of parks in the study area, and the distinction between regional versus local parks.*
        i. *Consultants indicated that information was reviewed by RDOS, but they will provide some additional clarification and recirculate to the Committee*

MOVED AND SECONDED
The Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Services Sheet be endorsed as presented by the consultants. **–CARRIED**
Opposed: Committee member Garner

5. The Transportation Services Sheet was presented and reviewed by the committee. Discussion included but was not limited to:
    a. *Question asked about whether the surveyor of tax fee is included in numbers being presented to committee in all service sheets.*
        i. *It is not included but will be shown in the Administration Service Sheet.*

MOVED AND SECONDED
THAT the Transportation Services Sheet be endorsed as presented by the consultants.
–CARRIED

6. The Incorporation Impacts on Agricultural Properties Issue Sheet was presented and reviewed by the committee. Discussion included but was not limited to:
    a. *Question asked regarding tax levels for Farm Class properties.*
        i. *Consultants reminded the committee that decisions that may be made by a possible future Council are not within their purview.*

MOVED AND SECONDED
THAT the Incorporation Impacts on Agricultural Properties Issue Sheet be endorsed as presented by the consultants.
–CARRIED

F. PROJECT TEAM AND COMMUNICATIONS UPATES

1. The consultants briefed the Committee on the Project Team discussions that have occurred since the November 21, 2023 meeting.
2. The consultants reviewed with the Committee all the information that has been posted on the study website since mid-September.

G. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Members of the Public that were in attendance in person and online were given the opportunity to identify themselves and indicate if they lived in the study area to ask questions. Questions and discussion included but were not limited to:

a. *Question asked regarding road maintenance changes if incorporation moves forward.*
    i. Roads Service Sheet will be presented to the committee at the next meeting.
b. *A request was made for microphones or for committee members to speak so that the public in attendance are able to more easily hear the discussion.*
c. *Question regarding Service Sheet for Fire Department.*
    i. Service Sheet was presented at previous meeting and is available online and at the Okanagan Falls office.
d. *Question asked about public participation during committee meeting, rather than waiting until the end.*
    i. Chair Wilson clarified that at this stage of the process the committee is reviewing and endorsing information to go out to the public at the engagement stage, at which point the public will have greater input and opportunity to provide feedback.

H. NEXT MEETING

1. The next meeting is confirmed for March 19, 2024.
2. The consultants will provide a brief preview of what to expect at the next meeting.

I. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and SECONDED
THAT the meeting adjourn at 8:24 pm. **-CARRIED**