## Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle No. 187 Public Meeting held at the Fort Qu'Appelle Legion Hall For Organized Hamlet of Pasqua Lake Proposed Incorporation to a Resort Village 197 Company Avenue S, Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan Friday, August 20, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.

Present:

Reeve:

Lee Carlson

**Council Members:** 

Division 2

**Ron Palmer** 

Division 4

**Gord Peagam** 

Division 5 Division 6 Don Nasheim

Staff:

Administrator

**Garnet Spanier** 

Dawn Lugrin

Assistant Administrator Gwen Lowe

Guests: OH Pasqua Lake Board Members: Larry Bedel, Tom Mullin, Stan Powell.

Village Planning Committee: Frank Darke, Sherry Dukart, Jim Holmes, Carla Taylor.

Municipal Advisors: Judy Kanak, Tobi Duck

Absent:

Councillor Division 3:

Nik Whalen

A quorum being present, Reeve Carlson called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

Approximately 78 People were in attendance, plus those named above as Council, guests & staff.

Reeve Carlson opened the meeting with welcome, and purpose of meeting, and invited Organized Hamlet Board Member and Village Planning Committee Chairperson, Stan Powell to make his presentation.

rganized Hamlet of Pasqua Lake Board Member and Planning committee Member, Larry Bedel, gave a presentation on proposed financials of the proposed resort village.

3:05 p.m., the presentations were completed and the public was invited to ask questions and provide comments.

question was asked to an anticipated time frame for this to be completed- response was earliest would-be January 1, 2024 for the proposed resort village to be a distinct and operational municipality.

Questions and comments regarding number of elected officials and administration staff that would be required for the proposed municipality;

Question was asked as to how much the existing Organized Hamlet of Pasqua Lake subsidizes the balance of the Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle? The response was the Organized Hamlet in no way subsidizes the Rural Municipality.

A question on if a formal vote or approval of the RM Council is required for the proposed incorporation to occur? Response was no formal approval or vote by the RM Council, but a sense of cooperation between the parties is favored; the application is to be submitted to the Minister of Government Relations, with comments from the RM Council as part of that application.

A question was asked as to what benchmarks were used to compare population and administrative costs? The response was the figures in the proposed budget presented today were determined by comparing the smaller Resort Villages of B-Say-Tah and Fort San and their populations, services and costs, then averaged for use in the Pasqua ake proposal. Also, the proposed \$110,000 administration figure is not only salary, but includes rentals & equipment. A ınment that to recruit & retain qualified administration requires a comparable salary. Cost sharing of services has been looked at, and that the Committee feels that administration sharing with the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle is not viable as the Town has fallen off the rails, and that there are other ways in a budget to cut costs.

^ comment made that this resident is in support of the proposal, and it is key to work closely with neighbouring nunicipalities, and that urban municipalities, such as a resort village, have very different needs than a rural municipality.

A question asked as to the cons, or challenges of becoming a resort village? Response included it is all unknown and new; determining what is a resort village and economies of scale; equipment and man-power needs; the need for quality people to sit on the new council - during discussion of preparedness, a question was raised at a planning committee meeting as to how many members would be prepared to sit on an interim council, all 8 hands of the members went up.

> RM of North Qu'Appelle No. 187 Valley of Festivals

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Questions on role clarity of a council – would ratepayers still have a vote in items such as annual budget? Response was that as a municipal council, members are elected by the voters of the municipality to make the decisions on the citizens behalf; the decision is Council's to make; the voters have their say during an election when they vote.

uestions as to including other areas of the rural municipality in this application that are adjacent and use the same services? Response was that discussions were held with Ministry officials, Planning Committee members and Organized Hamlet Board members that a merger of municipalities or annexation of other lands could be looked at, however not as part of this process. Also noted that the Planning Committee felt that at the 2019 AGM, they had authority to investigate the Organized Hamlet of Pasqua Lake becoming a resort village and that authority did not include Groome's Vista & Lakes End subdivisions in the RM.

A question was asked what land would become the proposed resort village? Response was should the application proceed, the lands that would become the potential resort village are those currently identified in the Minister's Order descriptions. Clarity to this was requested – what about lands that have been subdivided in recent years – are they included in the application? Again, the response was whatever lands are noted in the Minister's Order creating the Organized Hamlet of Pasqua Lake.

Questions raised on the actual population or number of eligible voters in the Organized Hamlet? How is information being conveyed to all voters? And, how do citizens get to vote on this issue? Response was it is difficult to determine an actual number of voters or citizens without a voting list or census that would need to be conducted by the Board members. Information has been conveyed through the Hamlet Gmail account, on the website and through a mailout to each voter in the Organized Hamlet. The Organized Hamlet tries and has not had success with engaging 100% of citizens. It is response to citizens voting on this matter — the petition was signed by 369 voters of the Organized Hamlet, the Planning Committee felt that was a strong representation to proceed. It is noted that there are 3 ways a vote on this matter can occur: the RM council can request a vote; the Organized Hamlet Board can request a vote; or the Minister can require a vote as part of the application process. Should either of the RM or Hamlet Board request a vote, the results are non-binding on the parties; the binding document is the petition. Should the Minister require a vote be held, at result would form a part of the decision.

Question asked are one of the parties going to call for a vote? Response from Reeve Carlson was that he could not speak for the RM Council at this time; Planning Committee Member Stan Powell commented that the committee does not plan to call for a vote at this time; they feel that the number of signatures on the petition is good.

Comment that the item should be taken to a vote, feels the petition was taken to residents without enough information and under the pretense that it was to further investigations, not to proceed with becoming a resort village.

Question asked what are the implications to the RM should Pasqua Lake leave? Response was that it would reduce the RM's population, thereby reducing grant funding to the RM; reduce per-capita expenses to the RM, reduce the number of Council members at the table, and a number of unknowns such as staffing and equipment/resource requirements.

A comment that a voter understood the petition was only to further the investigation – the voter would like to have the parties call a vote on the matter.

Question asked can residents petition for a vote, and what would requirements be? Advisory Services will provide the 'illage planning committee Chair and RM Administrator with a response on this, as further research is required.

Question asked on the transition status, and affect of bylaws? Response is that all bylaws of the RM would be effective for the resort village for a maximum of 1 year, or sooner, should the resort village pass their own bylaws. Exception to this is the Zoning Bylaw which has a 2-year time, unless the resort village passes their own bylaw sooner.

√ith no further comments or questions coming from the floor, Reeve Carlson called for the meeting to adjourn at 4:23p.m.

Approved this

day of

, 2021

Administrator

August