

# Planning Committee to transition Organized Hamlet of Pasqua Lake to a Resort Village



June 15, 2022

A recent update from Don McMorris, Minister of Government Relations, advised that the Ministry would be conducting a survey of the Ratepayers of the Hamlet and the Ratepayers of RM#187 outside the Hamlet, regarding the Application received by the Ministry to transition the Hamlet of Pasqua Lake to the Resort Village of Pasqua Lake.

Since time has passed, we wanted to remind everyone how the Application to transition to a Resort Village took place.

The Hamlet of Pasqua Lake shared costs with the RM for many years at a rate of 25 (%) percent for Administration and miscellaneous charges based on population. The Hamlet also paid for all other services such as road maintenance, garbage pickup, etc.

Over a short period prior to 2019, the RM increased the Hamlet share to 43.69 (%) percent.

The Hamlet Board and many ratepayers considered this increase excessive and unfair.

At the 2019 Hamlet AGM, a motion was passed to investigate the possibility of becoming a Resort Village, which would take the Hamlet out of the RM and become a separate corporate body.

An investigative committee was formed and completed a review of neighboring Resort Village operations and finances, had meetings with the Ministry Municipal Relations staff, and a meeting with SUMA management.

**A surprising event occurred in July 2019 in that as word spread regarding the investigation committee activities, the RM moved to reduce the Hamlet share of expenses to 33.45 (%) percent, which was still considered unfair.**

The result of the investigation concluded that the Hamlet of Pasqua Lake had grown in sufficient size, population and taxable assessment to manage its own affairs as a Resort Village. In fact, if it became a Resort Village, it would be the fourth largest Resort Village or Village in the Province of Saskatchewan by taxable assessment; larger than both our neighboring Resort Villages of Fort San and B-Say-Tah.

The committee was prepared to present the findings at the Hamlet 2020 AGM but Covid 19 prevented a meeting from happening. So, the committee decided to conduct a Petition to become a Resort Village, and by canvassing the Hamlet Ratepayers. The response to the petition was overwhelming with 369 Hamlet Ratepayers signing the petition to become a Resort Village.

Following a Public meeting on August 20, 2021, an application to transition to a Resort Village was prepared by the committee and submitted to the Ministry in December 2021.

Because time has passed, we would like to review the reasons and benefits for becoming a Resort Village:

## Our Reasons

- There is a need for greater representation at the local level.
- There is a need to have an Official Community Plan, zoning and other bylaws that support the approval of the ratepayers and are complementary to the lake setting.
- There is a need and the time has come to assume our own identity and be governed by elected people who share a common interest.
- There is a need to control and funnel our resources in a direction which will contribute to the sustainable future of Pasqua Lake and its shore lands.

- There is a need to allow a Resort Village Council to plan development that is complementary and futuristic to the lake setting around Pasqua Lake.
- There is a need to have control over taxation and infrastructure development that is suited to a Resort Village municipal structure.

### **Benefits of Transitioning to a Resort Village**

1. All decisions will be made by Pasqua Lake property owners whereas, today the Hamlet Board can make recommendations but has no authority.
2. The ability to accumulate grants over a five-year period for larger projects, whereas under the RM they are to be used yearly, being much less efficient. Also, when grants are awarded to the Resort Village based on population, they will be received by the Resort Village. **In 2020, the RM received a grant of approximately \$30,000.00 based on the Hamlet population, but the RM chose to spend it on a new mower and do building maintenance, and not give any to the Hamlet.**
3. Control of present and future finances and administration by the property owners of Pasqua Lake, not by property owners who do not live on Pasqua Lake. This will allow for short- and long-term planning for capital projects, and reserve accounts for larger maintenance items.
4. Under the guidance of SUMA (urban) instead of SARM (agriculture), the support for a Resort Village would be superior to that provided by the RM under SARM.
5. Property Issues will be dealt with by a council that live or own property in the Resort Village who have a better understanding of the issues.
6. Control of the Permit process and formation of Bylaws that suit an urban setting.

We ask that everyone take the time to complete the survey to the Ministry, hopefully in favor of becoming a Resort Village. The survey link is on the RM#187 website (<https://rmnorthquappelle.ca/>). This link will take you to the Ministry website survey and all responses are tabulated by the Ministry or, scan the QR code attached.



Your OHPL Planning committee to transition to a Resort Village. Please feel free to call any member if you have questions.

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