

Transition Committees: Planning for New, Amalgamated Municipalities

Nov 4 – 6, 2014

Overview

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- ▶ Transition Committees
- ▶ Your Amalgamation Regulation
- ▶ Immediate Priorities
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Status of Amalgamations

- ▶ 107 municipalities merged:
- ▶ 47 new, amalgamated municipalities
 - ▶ 34 partnerships with 2 municipalities
 - ▶ 13 partnerships with 3 municipalities
- ▶ 135 municipalities (excl Wpg and Mystery Lake) on January 1, 2015 → decrease of 60

Transition Committees

- ▶ Legally established → Oct 23 – Dec 31, 2014
- ▶ Comprised of newly elected council of amalgamated municipality
- ▶ Committee Chair → head of council

Transition Committees – Purpose

- ▶ “Council in Waiting” → gives council a head start to prepare for the new municipality before taking office
- ▶ Understand new municipality
- ▶ Make recommendations → must be adopted by council after Jan 1, 2015 to have effect

No involvement in “old” municipality

Your Amalgamation Regulation

- ▶ Details how municipality will be governed / function
- ▶ Reflects decisions made by amalgamation partners
- ▶ Types of provisions:
 - Appointment of CAO
 - Size and structure of council – time limited
 - Taxation measures – time limited
 - By-laws and resolutions
 - Office location
 - Date, time, location of first council meeting
 - Municipal name & boundaries

Immediate Priorities – Make Outstanding Decisions

Some amalgamation partners deferred key decisions to new council → these decisions are priority

- ▶ Appointment of a CAO
- ▶ First meeting time and date
- ▶ Location of municipal office

Immediate Priorities – Review Organization and Procedures

- ▶ Organization and procedures are already established for the new municipality
- ▶ Consider changes needed for new municipality
- ▶ Review key by-laws:
 - Organizational By-law → council structure (role and membership on committees, appointment of deputy head)
 - Procedures By-law → council meeting / public hearing procedures (when and where council meetings are held, how notice given, rules for public participation)

Immediate Priorities – Establish an Organizational Structure

- ▶ Required to organize municipal resources
- ▶ Ensures services delivered efficiently and effectively
- ▶ Structure reflected in organizational chart:
 - Council committees
 - CAO
 - Departments (eg public works, admin, etc)

Other Priorities – 2015 Budget

- ▶ Interim operating budget
- ▶ 2015 is first budget for new municipality
- ▶ Includes use of transitional tax measures:
 - Differential mill rates → reflects different types and levels of services in former municipalities
 - LUDs → urban services funded by an LUD levy
- ▶ Transitional tax measures are time limited

Other Priorities – Human Resources

- ▶ Employees of amalgamation partners are continued as employees of new municipality
- ▶ Staffing decisions can be made once organizational structure determined
- ▶ Not all decisions need to be made now → take time to assess municipality needs, employee skills, etc.

Support for Transition Committees

- ▶ CAOs required to support Transition Committee work → may include:
 - Arranging committee meetings
 - Ensuring meeting minutes are taken
 - Providing information resources
 - Providing analysis of options
- ▶ CAOs also support existing councils

Transition Committee Meetings

- ▶ Frequency of meetings depends on:
 - Outstanding decisions
 - Progress of integration committees
 - Appointment of a CAO
- ▶ Open meetings → sets tone for new municipality
- ▶ Agree on how to treat confidential information

Compensation

- ▶ New council decides if Transition Committees will be compensated
- ▶ Compensation to be included in new municipality's compensation by-law
- ▶ Compensation is “retrospective” → paid in 2015

Questions?