



VILLAGE OF WASKATENAU

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Smoky Lake County
 Box 310
 Smoky Lake, Alberta
 T0A 3C0
 Attention: Kevin Lucas

July 31, 2024

Re: Notice of Intent to Annex Lands in Smoky Lake County

On July 18, 2024, the Council of the Village of Waskatenau directed Administration to proceed with a formal notice of intent to annex lands in Smoky Lake County adjacent to the Village.

This letter is intended to fulfill the requirements of Section 116 of the Municipal Government Act (the Act) which requires the initiating municipality to provide initial notice to:

- the municipality from which the land is to be annexed;
- the Minister of Municipal Affairs;
- the Land and Property Rights Tribunal; and
- All local authorities having jurisdiction to operate or provide services in the initiating municipal authority or in any of the municipal authorities from which the land is to be annexed.

Proposed Annexation Area

The lands proposed to be annexed are identified on the map included as **Schedule A – Proposed Annexation Area** to this notice. The proposed annexation area includes:

Privately Owned Land	Road Rights-of-Way
OT 5225CL	Part of Range Road 193B/52 Street
Lot 21, Block 16, Plan 8122847	Part of Range Road 193A/50 Street)
Lot 20, Block 16, Plan 8122847	
Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 0923870	Crown Land
Lot 2, Block 1, 1923509	Waskatenau Creek
Lot 1, Block 17, Plan 8022152	
Parts and Remainder of SW-16-59-19-W4 (four parcels in total)	
Lot 17, Plan 6353ET	

Purpose

The purpose for this proposed annexation is to facilitate future commercial and residential growth and development that benefits the Village's long term sustainability as a municipality. The Village currently does not have any jurisdictional control over lands adjacent to the Highway 28 corridor near the entrance to the Village, which is a major economic corridor in the Smoky Lake County Region.

The Village is of the opinion that extending the Village's boundaries north and west to the Highway 28 corridor is a logical extension of the Village boundaries and would enable the Village to capitalize on future growth and development along this important economic corridor, and to control future development patterns, servicing, and transportation connections adjacent to the Village's built footprint.

The Smoky Lake County & Village of Waskatenau IDP was adopted by both municipalities in 2022. The proposed annexation area is entirely within the 'Future Annexation Area Overlay' on Map 5.1 – Future Land Use Areas, and is consistent with the plan's goals, which aim to achieve the following benefits for both municipalities:

"Country living at its Best"

- Increase overall community and economic development capacity building essential to both short term and longer term community viability, sustainability, and quality of life.
- Increased business/investment attraction “presence” throughout the Smoky Lake Region.
- Improved regional fiscal and financial sustainability.

Proposed Engagement Strategy

As outlined in the Act, the Village recognizes that engagement must include:

- Residents of the Village of Waskatenau;
- Landowners within the proposed annexation area;
- Smoky Lake County; and
- Local authorities, agencies, and service providers operating in the Village and the proposed annexation area.

Following the distribution of this notice, the Village proposes to work with Smoky Lake County to identify the names and contact information for the current landowners in the proposed annexation area and provide them with a letter notifying them of the proposed annexation, identifying opportunities for future engagement and feedback, and to keep them apprised of the proposed annexation’s progress.

As part of the proposed annexation’s engagement plan, the Village is committed to:

- Creating a dedicated page on the Village’s website to host annexation information;
- Mail notifying current landowners of the proposed annexation
- Hosting a meeting with current landowners to discuss the annexation process and gather their feedback
- Hosting a public meeting (that may be attended by Village residents, current landowners in the proposed annexation area, adjacent landowners in the County, and local authorities, agencies, and service providers); and

The Village will document all public engagement materials and collect all feedback received for inclusion in the annexation report that will be submitted to the Land and Property Rights Tribunal.

Concluding Comments

The Village of Waskatenau looks forward to continuing its respectful discussions with Smoky Lake County on the future sustainability of both municipalities’ economies and hopes to progress towards an uncontested annexation. The Village looks forward to the County’s acknowledgement of this notice at their earliest convenience and invites the County to meet to discuss the next steps in this process.

Thank you,

Bernice Macyk
 Chief Administrative Officer
 Village of Waskatenau

Attachment:

Schedule A –Proposed Annexation Area

Cc:

Minister of Municipal Affairs, Honourable Ric McIver
 Village of Waskatenau Council
 Land and Property Rights Tribunal
 Atco Electric
 Just Energy

Smoky Lake County Natural Gas
 Highway 28/63 Regional Water Services Commission
 Canada Post
 Apex Utilities

Schedule A – Proposed Annexation Area

