



**Amalgamation Update
Joint Friendship Agreement Committee
May 2021**



Over May there has been significant amalgamation related engagement activity. In early May, the What We Heard Report (WWHR) for the Kick Off Public Engagement Events was released providing the top themes of public input, as well as all verbatim comments, collected through the end of April 2021. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) were also themed into the most asked questions and responses, where available, have been provided. Both documents can be found on both Town websites. The FAQ will continue to be updated as further information becomes available.

In addition, the 'Naming' (closes on June 6th) and 'Electoral Representation' (closes on May 31) public activities were launched. Thank-you for your participation. Look for the results of these activities on the website throughout June.

The Joint Friendship Agreement Committee (JFAC) met on Wednesday, May 12th to make decisions on recommendations from the Emergency Services and Procedure Subcommittees, and for a general process and engagement update.

On May 12th, JFAC made the following decisions:

1) Emergency Services Level of Services

JFAC agreed to include in the amalgamation application report that the level of service will be maintained for three branches of Emergency Services which includes Fire, Emergency Management and Community Peace Officers in both Black Diamond and Turner Valley until incorporation date and maintain service levels until such time as the new CAO and the new Council determines the service levels and organizational structure.

2) Returning Officer

JFAC agreed to recommend in the amalgamation application report that the current Returning Officer of Black Diamond, Verna Staples will act as the Returning Officer for the Q4 2022 election of council for the newly amalgamated municipality.

3) Staffing

JFAC agreed to include in the amalgamation application report that all employees at the time of amalgamation will become employees of the new municipality to ensure uninterrupted service delivery until such time as the CAO, in conjunction with the Council elected in 2022, have determined service levels and organizational structure.

4) First Election

JFAC agreed to request the Procedure Subcommittee consider a date of the 2022 election to be recommended in the amalgamation application report.

If you have a question or wish to provide feedback about the amalgamation, please email either:

amalgamation@town.blackdiamond.ab.ca or amalgamation@turnervalley.ca.