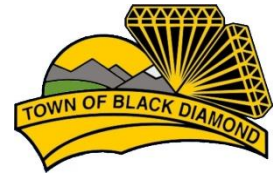




Joint Press Release



March 5, 2019

A committee of Councilors and Administrative Staff from Foothills County and the Town of Black Diamond have been engaged in annexation discussions for the past year. Black Diamond has been growing steadily in recent years and is running short of land for future growth. Annexation is necessary to provide opportunities for a mix of land uses including residential, commercial and industrial development that will provide a diverse and sustainable tax base for the Town into the future.

An Open House was held on October 15, 2018, showing a proposed annexation area of 4 quarter sections. After taking into consideration feedback from landowners and completing servicing studies for future water, sewer, and transportation networks the proposed annexation area has since been revised.

In order to grow in an efficient, orderly, and sustainable manner, it is necessary for the Town to plan for future growth. Plans for residential, commercial, and industrial areas, transportation routes, and infrastructure for water, sewer, and storm water are necessary to accommodate the long term growth of the Town. Annexation will allow the Town to invest in planning, engineering, and financing strategies with confidence by ensuring the lands required for future growth are within its jurisdiction.

Annexation is the process for a municipality to expand its boundaries in order to accommodate future growth. Properties within an annexation area would change from being in one municipality to being in another. Annexation does not change ownership rights, and owners are not required to develop or sell their property. Whereas expropriation is a process for a municipality to take ownership of land against an owner's wishes, annexation is simply a change of jurisdiction from one municipality to another. Black Diamond is proposing annexation, NOT expropriation. Black Diamond and Foothills have been consulting with affected landowners to with the goal of minimizing any impact on owners of annexed lands.

Foothills County and the Town of Black Diamond have identified a proposed annexation area of 779 acres. This includes 4 quarter sections east and south of town that will provide land for 50 years of growth for residential, commercial and industrial uses. The annexation area also includes land located between the Towns of Black Diamond and Turner Valley, which will result in a contiguous border between the towns, facilitating future amalgamation, should the Towns choose to do so.

A Public Open House will be held from 4 – 8 p.m. on Tuesday April 2 in the Town of Black Diamond Council Chambers where information concerning annexation will be presented. Elected officials and administration from the Town of Black Diamond and Foothills County will be in attendance to answer questions and receive comments.

For more information please contact:

Rod Ross, RPP, MCIP
Planning Manager
Town of Black Diamond
phone: 403.933.4348
Email: rodr@town.blackdiamond.ab.ca

Drew Granson, B.Sc. Geog., GIS
Planning and Development Officer
Foothills County
phone: 403-603-6218
Email: Drew.Granson@mdfoothills.com

Town of Black Diamond Proposed Annexation Area

