

The Corporation of the Village of New Denver

Proposed Municipal Boundary Extension – Summary of Proposal

The Village of New Denver is proposing a boundary extension to include new property within Village boundaries. This Proposed Municipal Boundary Extension includes properties primarily within the area known as Denver Siding; additional properties included in the proposal are either already serviced by Village water, are owned by the Village, or are properties that form a logical final boundary, as required by the Province. Eight Crown parcels are included in the proposed boundary extension area.

DENVER SIDING DRINKING WATER IMPROVEMENTS

This proposed boundary extension is driven by the opportunity for water infrastructure improvements within the boundary extension area. The Municipal Boundary Extension is being proposed in order to provide Denver Siding water system customers, currently within the jurisdiction of the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK), with a safe supply of drinking water. The Denver Siding Water System infrastructure is aging, relies on creek / spring water, and has been under a boil water advisory since April 2004 because of inadequate disinfection and treatment of surface water. Grant funds have been received by the Village of New Denver to improve the Denver Siding water distribution system in the event of a boundary extension taking place.

If the Proposed Municipal Boundary Extension is not successful, Denver Siding water system customers would remain on a Boil Water Advisory until RDCK decides, or is mandated by the Province, to upgrade the Denver Siding water system. A future upgrade to the water system by the RDCK would likely cost Denver Siding water users significantly more than the current proposal.

The Regional District of Central Kootenay has provided support for the proposal. They have agreed that having Denver Siding Water users switch to the Village's water supply is the most appropriate and cost-effective way to address Denver Siding's water contamination concerns. The RDCK Board and staff supported the Village's application for upgrades to the Denver Siding Water System as part of an intended boundary extension.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY CHANGES

If the Proposed Municipal Boundary Extension is successful, Denver Siding water system customers would be connected to the Village of New Denver's water system and the Village would assume responsibility for the area's regulations and local services. All privately owned properties within the boundary extension area would participate in all functions and services provided by the Village, except that those not connected to Village water would not be charged Village water rates.

Past Village Councils had requested that should a boundary extension occur, all properties currently outside of the Village but serviced by the Village of New Denver water system be included in the extension. As a result, properties north and east of the current Village boundaries and outside of Denver Siding are included also included in the proposal.

Maps of the Proposed Municipal Boundary Extension are available online and at the Village Office for interested parties to view.

REFERRAL PROCESS

Owners of property within the proposed boundary extension area were sent information about the proposed boundary extension in spring of 2020 and invited to submit their responses to the Boundary Extension Proposal. Because a public open house was not possible due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Village Staff encouraged individual phone calls, email correspondence, and small group in-person meetings to receive input from boundary extension area residents. The following communications resulted:

1. Over 20 phone conversations;
2. Email correspondence with more than 14 property owners;
3. Four (4) in person meetings with owners of 6 properties; and
4. Letter mail correspondence with owners of more than 2 properties.

The following responses were received in relation to the forty-six (46) privately owned properties in the proposed boundary extension area:

1. Owners of 19 properties submitted in support of the proposal;
2. Owners of 4 properties submitted in opposition to the proposal;
3. Owners of 9 properties discussed the proposal with Village staff but did not register as being in support of or opposed to the proposal; and

4. Owners of 15 properties did not communicate with the Village in response to the information package. Of these, follow-up phone or email messages were left with owners of 7 properties, where contact information was available, with no response received.

Following concerns submitted by boundary extension area residents about cost implications of the Proposed Municipal Boundary Extension, the Council of the Village of New Denver supported a five (5) year phased implementation of the tax rate increase for properties within the boundary extension area. Fire flow improvement fees to be incurred by property owners within the boundary extension area were a concern to some but they remain a requirement for boundary extension area property owners; this is in keeping with Village Council's direction that the Village of New Denver and existing Village residents and property owners incur minimal costs in association with a Municipal Boundary Extension.

At this time the Proposed Municipal Boundary Extension has been reviewed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. This occurred following the Village's referrals to residents within the boundary extension area, the RDCK, and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. Following the elector approval process currently underway, if elector approval is received Village Council will be asked for a resolution to proceed with the Municipal Boundary Extension and the request will be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A copy of the full Municipal Boundary Extension Proposal as submitted to the Province of BC's Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is available, for in-office viewing only, at the Village Office during office hours Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For more information contact the Village Office by phone at 250-358-2316 or by email at office@newdenver.ca.