



January 30, 2020

To: Citizens of the Hamlet of Granum

The Municipal District of Willow Creek has received official notification from the Minister of Municipal Affairs that the Lieutenant Governor in Council has made an Order Dissolving the Town of Granum effective February 1, 2020.

The Order In Council may be viewed at the following link:

http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Orders/Orders_in_Council/2020/2020_017.html

Our Council extends a sincere 'Welcome' to the newest citizens of the Municipal District of Willow Creek.

As a Council we are committed to providing fair representation and transparent governance to all of the citizens of the municipality. Councillor John Kroetsch represents the citizens of Division 2 which now includes the Hamlet of Granum: citizens in Granum are well represented at the municipal Council table.

An information package has been prepared and forwarded to the citizens of Granum which outlines important information related to local government services offered by the M.D. of Willow Creek including: payment of taxes and utilities, access to bylaw enforcement, the tax installment payment plan, online payments and other information including the location and mailing address of the M.D. Administration Office.

In an effort to eliminate the duplication of services the Granum Administration Office will be closed effective the date of dissolution. All municipal business including inquiries and payment of tax or utility bills will be conducted at the M.D. of Willow Creek Administration Office.

Administration staff of the M.D. of Willow Creek is prepared to answer questions pertaining to utilities, taxes, assessment, bylaw or any other matter which would normally be directed to the Town of Granum.

M.D. of Willow Creek staff will continue to ensure the operation and maintenance of road, solid waste, water, waste water services, fire and emergency and bylaw services.

Coordination between the M.D. and Granum organizations that provide valued community services including parks and recreation, historical, educational and cultural amenities continue to move forward as an understanding of the services that are being provided is coming to be fully understood by the M.D. of Willow Creek.

An open house will be conducted in February to provide the citizens of Granum an opportunity to provide feedback to M.D. of Willow Creek Council and administration on matters that include public infrastructure, governance and representation, public services and community institutions and other matters that are of concern and interest to the citizens of the community.

Sincerely,

The Council of the Municipal District of Willow Creek

Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26 Office Location

#273129 Secondary Highway 520 West

Business Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm

Telephone: (403) 625-3351

Toll Free: 1-888-337-3351

Bylaw Complaint Number: 403-625-2248

Fax: (403) 625-3886

Email: md26@mdwillowcreek.com

Municipal Office Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 550

Claresholm, AB. Canada T0L 0T0

For inquiries pertaining to:

Development

Water

Waste Water

Roads

Snowplowing

Garbage

Utility Bills

Taxes and Property Assessment

Dog and/or Cat Licenses

Local and Regional Business Licenses

Contact: 403-625-3351 – Press “0” and provide the Clerk the information pertaining to your question and you will be directed to the person who can address your concern.

For complaints and inquiries pertaining to Bylaw enforcement: contact 403-625-2248

Municipal District of Willow Creek Website: www.mdwillowcreek.com

Council Representative for Division 2 (including the Hamlet of Granum)

John Kroetsch Phone (403) 687-3969
Cell (403)-315-3160
Email: john.kroetsch@mdwillowcreek.com

MD of Willow Creek Meeting Dates and Times

All Meetings conducted at the M.D. of Willow Creek Administration Office Council Chambers

2nd Wednesday of each month – 9:00 a.m. Municipal Planning Commission followed by Council meeting

4th Wednesday of each month – 9:00 a.m. Agricultural Service Board followed by Council meeting

Tax Installment Payment Plan

All ratepayers may enter into an agreement for automated monthly withdrawal for the payment of property taxes from the bank account identified on a void cheque which is provided with your application.

Each transaction will occur on the 15th of the month or the next business day, if the 15th falls on a weekend. Once activated this authorization will remain in effect until notification of termination is given in writing to the MD of Willow Creek. If two payments are defaulted in one year due to insufficient funds the agreement will become null and void.

Deadline to enroll in the TIPPS program is November 10. Should you wish to enroll mid-year, we ask that you complete the payments required to in sync with the TIPPS schedule.

More details can be found by calling the Tax Clerk at the M.D. of Willow Creek.

OptionPay

The Municipal District of Willow Creek accepts credit card transactions for (but not limited to): Municipal taxes, Development Fees, Business Licenses and Invoices. Please follow the steps below to process a payment on your account.

OptionPay is a service that provides an additional option for payment methods. With this new method, there is a service fee that is charged to the cardholder of roughly 3% on the entire transaction. These charges are to cover the cost of this service per individual user. The MD of Willow Creek receives no income or profit from these service fees

1. Go to www.mdwillowcreek.com and click on the OptionPay logo in the top right-hand corner of our website. You will be re-directed to the OptionPay “Process a Payment” page. (See below for OptionPay logo example)

2. Begin to key in the required Credit Card details in the boxes provided, you will need to fill in all the yellow boxes.

3. After entering your card details you may now begin entering the transaction details (\$50.00 has been used as an example).

More details can be found by calling the Manager of Finance at the M.D. of Willow Creek.

Online Payments

For information pertaining to online payments of taxes or utilities please contact your financial institution.

Municipal Services

Questions pertaining to municipal services that include tax and utility payments, road maintenance, water and waste water infrastructure, signs etc can be directed to the M.D. of Willow Creek.

Development and Planning

For matters pertaining to Development and Planning including new development, renovations, home occupations, letter of compliance etc please contact the M.D. of Willow Creek.

Town of Granum Business Licenses

Town of Granum Business licenses that have been issued for the 2020 calendar year by the Town of Granum will remain valid in the MD of Willow Creek through to December 31, 2020.

Granum Businesses who have not renewed their Town of Granum Business license may renew their business license under the M.D. rate schedule by contacting the MD of Willow Creek. The Business License fee is \$25 per year and \$80 per year for the Regional Business License.

Town of Granum Dog and Cat Licenses

Animal licenses for the Town of Granum can continue to be purchased at the MD of Willow Creek office.

Granum Water Meter Project

The M.D. of Willow Creek will be undertaking a water meter upgrade program to include an Automated Meter Reading System (AMR) in the Hamlet of Granum. Residences and businesses will require the installation of a new meter to replace units that are outdated or incompatible with the new system. The upgraded reading technology will allow the M.D. of Willow Creek to read the water meters without entering your yard, home or business.

You will be receiving correspondence at the initiation of the project from our contractor to make an appointment with you to install the meter.

There will be no cost to residents for the meters or the installation. The project is being entirely funded by a grant.

The M.D. of Willow Creek has hired an installation contractor 'Metercor', who will undertake the work to complete the water meter installation. Upgrading the water meter will take approximately 20 to 60 minutes per home and may require a brief interruption of service. We ask that you allow the contractors access to the meters inside your homes in an effort to complete the project as quickly as possible.

The contractors will be wearing Metercor company uniforms, branded vehicles, and will carry photo identification. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask to see their ID, to call the M.D. of Willow Creek at 403-625-3351 or Metercor at [1-888-290-3070](tel:1-888-290-3070). Following the installation, you may see additional personnel from both MD of Willow Creek and/or Metercor performing quality control inspections. If re-entry is required, the service will be performed by Metercor or M.D. staff.

The project is slated to be completed by March 31, 2020 and will equip the of Hamlet of Granum water meters with walk-by or drive-by read capability.

The project will ensure the metering equipment is suitable for many years to come and will meet the goals of improved customer service, billing accuracy, and infrastructure leak detection. Together we can promote sustainable practices and increase operational efficiencies in our community.

We thank you in advance for making this transition a success.