

Village of Bittern Lake Viability Review

Initial Public Meeting
January 10, 2024

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Objectives



Viability Review Process



Viability Review Report



Community Input



Questions

What is a viability review?

A **viability review** is an objective review of a municipality's governance, finances, infrastructure, community and services, that provides options on how the community can become viable in the future.

Who can initiate a viability review?



**Municipal Council
(Council Request)**



Electors (Petition)



Minister of Municipal Affairs

Viability Review Process

Viability Review Initiated

Initial Public Information Session

**Mid-Review Public
Information Session**

Viability Review Process Information Collection



Infrastructure Audit & Information Collection and Analysis

Viability Review Support Group

Viability Review Process

**Viability Report Completion and
Distribution**

**Pre-Vote Public Information
Session Vote**

Vote of the Electors (Public Vote)

Viability Review Process Final Steps

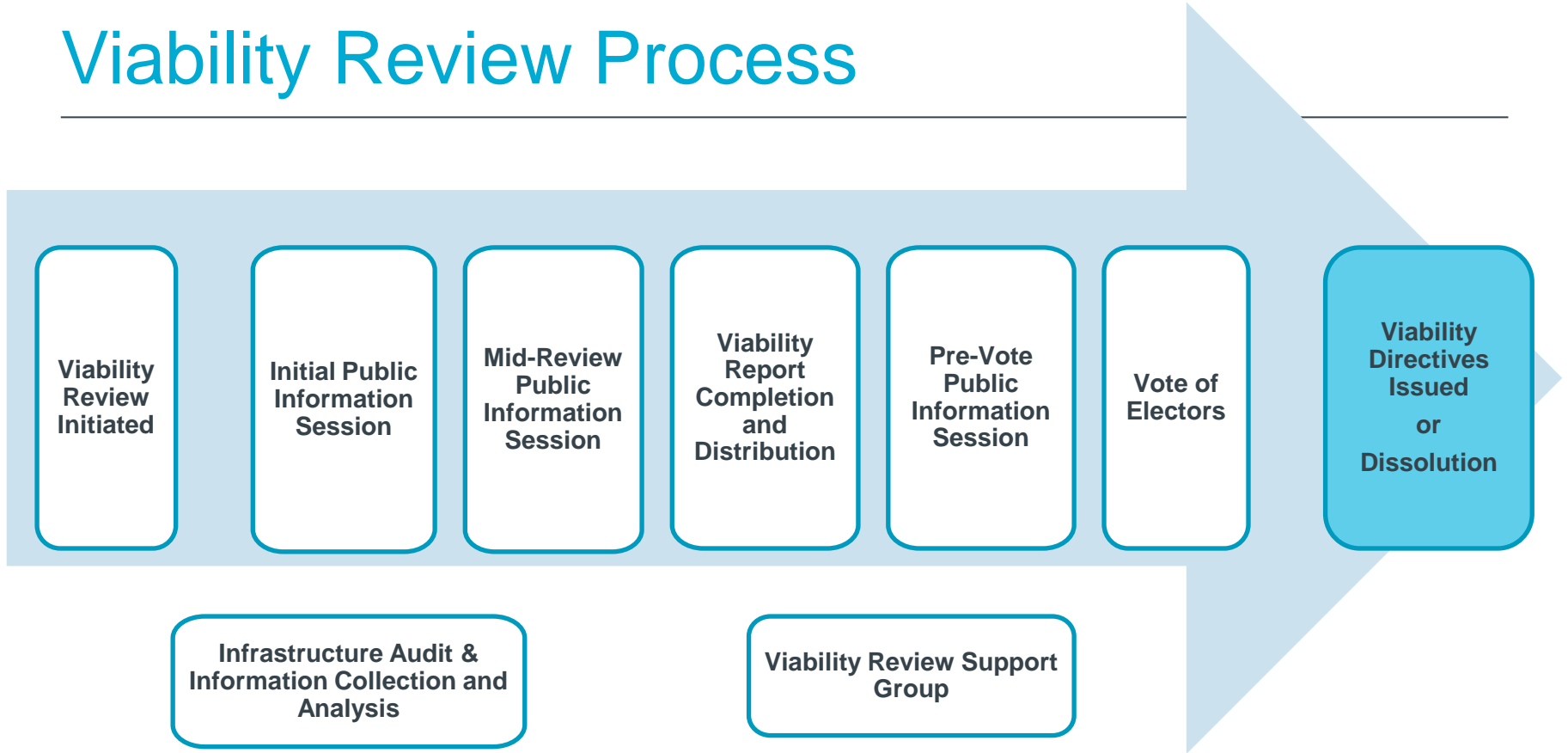
**Viability Report
Completion and
Distribution**

**Pre-Vote Public
Information Session**

Vote of Electors

**Viability Directives
Issued
or
Dissolution**

Viability Review Process



Questions?



Viability Factors Commonly Found

Significant infrastructure deficit

Lack of priority setting and long-term planning

Declining population

Lack of stable tax base

Depleting Accumulated Surpluses

Reliance on government transfers

What is Reviewed?

Governance

Administration
& Operations

Finances

Infrastructure

Community

Services

Questions?



How you can participate?

- Three public information sessions:
 - Initial public information session
 - Mid-review public information session
 - Pre-vote public information session
- There will be a vote of electors of the Village of Bittern Lake

Your Input

- A survey for community feedback will be available at <https://your.alberta.ca/embeds/projects/35700/survey-tools/36430>
- The survey will be available until February 16, 2024

Table Discussions

At your table for each question:

- If you wish, answer the questions on the survey
- Share your responses

Choose the 3 top ideas at your table

Before we move on to the next question we will ask you to share

Survey Questions

Where do you live?

Do you own property in the Village of Bittern Lake?

Do you operate a business in the Village of Bittern Lake?



Community

- What do you like most about living in Bittern Lake?
- What are your concerns with living in Bittern Lake?
- What concerns, if any, do you have with the village becoming a hamlet within the county?

Survey Questions



Survey Background and Questions

1. Governance - addresses council practices and procedures, compliance with legislation, citizen engagement, and strategic planning.



Governance

1. Do you feel heard and informed by your Council?
 - Why or why not?
2. If you had the opportunity, would you be interested in running for municipal council?

Survey Questions

Administration and Operations - addresses the capacity of the municipality to operate on a daily basis and implement council decisions.

Services- Addresses the capacity of the municipality to provide essential municipal services that meet public expectation and applicable regulated standards

Administration and Operations

- What existing municipal services are important to you?
- Does the village meet your expectations in providing these service to residents? Why or Why not?
- Do you believe the village has the capability and resources to deliver these existing service to residents?

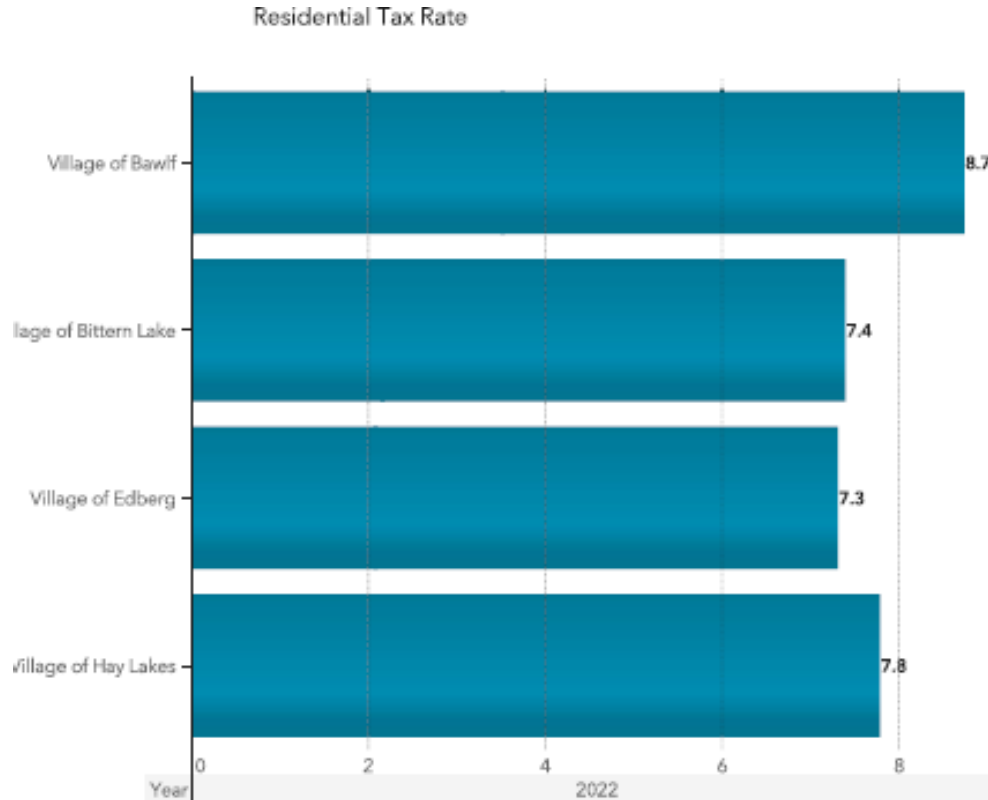
Finances

Addresses the municipality's capacity to

- generate and manage revenues (including property tax assessment and collection of taxes)
- sufficient to provide for necessary infrastructure and services now and in the future.



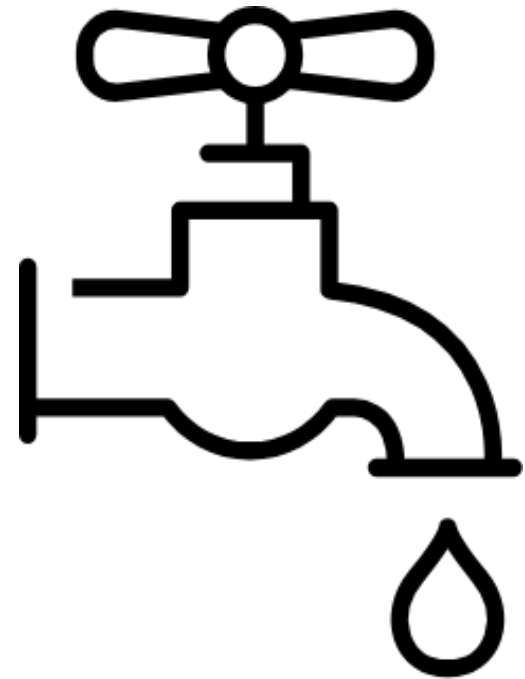
Survey Questions- Increasing Costs/Taxes



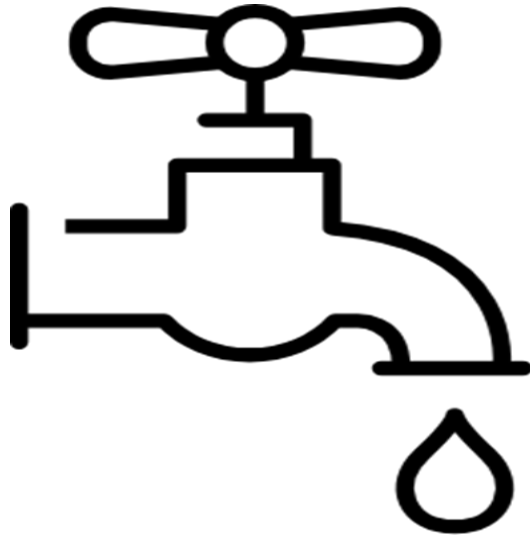
Costs to operate municipalities all over are increasing. The graph beside is a visual comparing 2022 tax rates. 2023 Bittern Lake tax rate 8.429 is a bit higher compared to 2022. ***What are your ideas to address increasing costs?***

Survey Questions Infrastructure -

Addresses the municipality's capacity to effectively and efficiently manage its infrastructure.



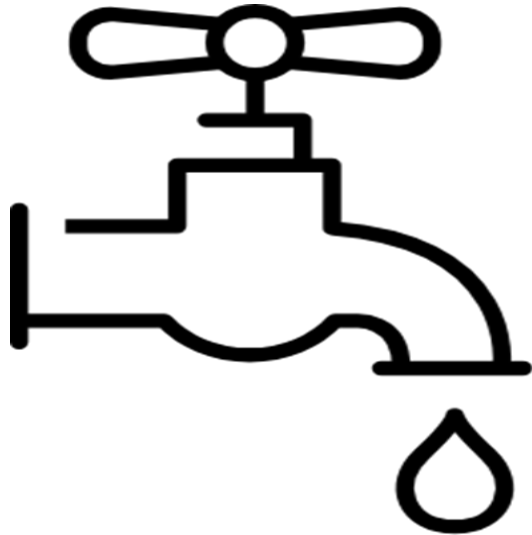
Infrastructure



Survey Questions

- Does the village's current infrastructure meet the existing needs of the community?
- What projects do you feel are most critical?

Infrastructure



Survey Questions

- If major upgrades are required to infrastructure, how should the municipality fund these improvements (loans, increase taxes, service fees)?

Survey Questions

What information do you need to make an informed decision on whether Bittern Lake should remain a village or become a hamlet in Camrose County?



Survey Questions

Do you have any other comments for us to consider during the village's viability review?



Next Steps

- Municipal Affairs
 - Review comments from the survey
 - Collect and analyse information
 - Develop Viability Review Report draft
- Municipalities
 - Provide initial information for report draft
 - Initiate the infrastructure audit

Questions?



Information



<https://www.alberta.ca/viability-reviews-for-municipalities.aspx>

<https://www.alberta.ca/municipal-maps-statistics.aspx>

Contacts



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