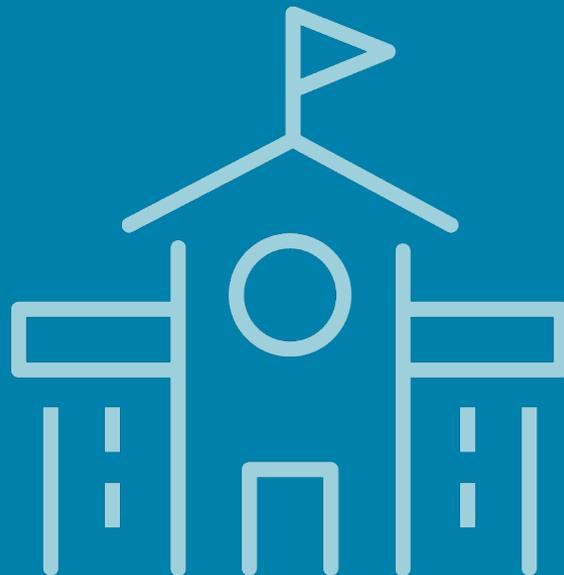


Village of Donalda Viability Review

Initial Public Meeting
January 21, 2025

Sharlene Brown, Municipal Viability Advisor
Denise Lines, Municipal Viability Advisor



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

Why are we here?

Village has had a history of citizen led petitions, council resignations and CAO turnover.

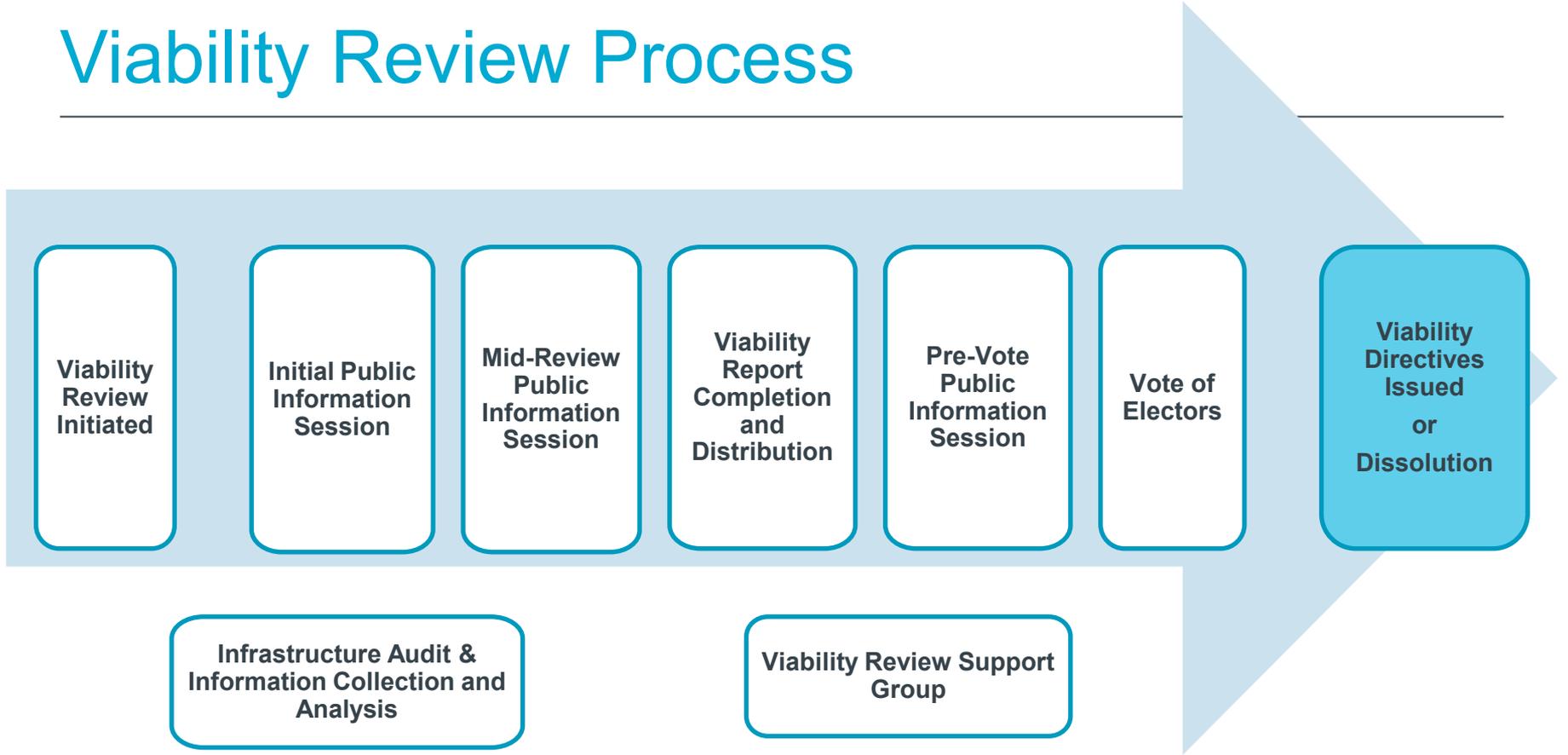
2024 - Notice of recall petition, loss of quorum twice, Official Administrators appointed as council in both cases.

February 2025 - Minister ordered viability screening

April 2025 - Council member resigned

July 2025 - Minister ordered a viability review based on the results of the viability screening.

Viability Review Process



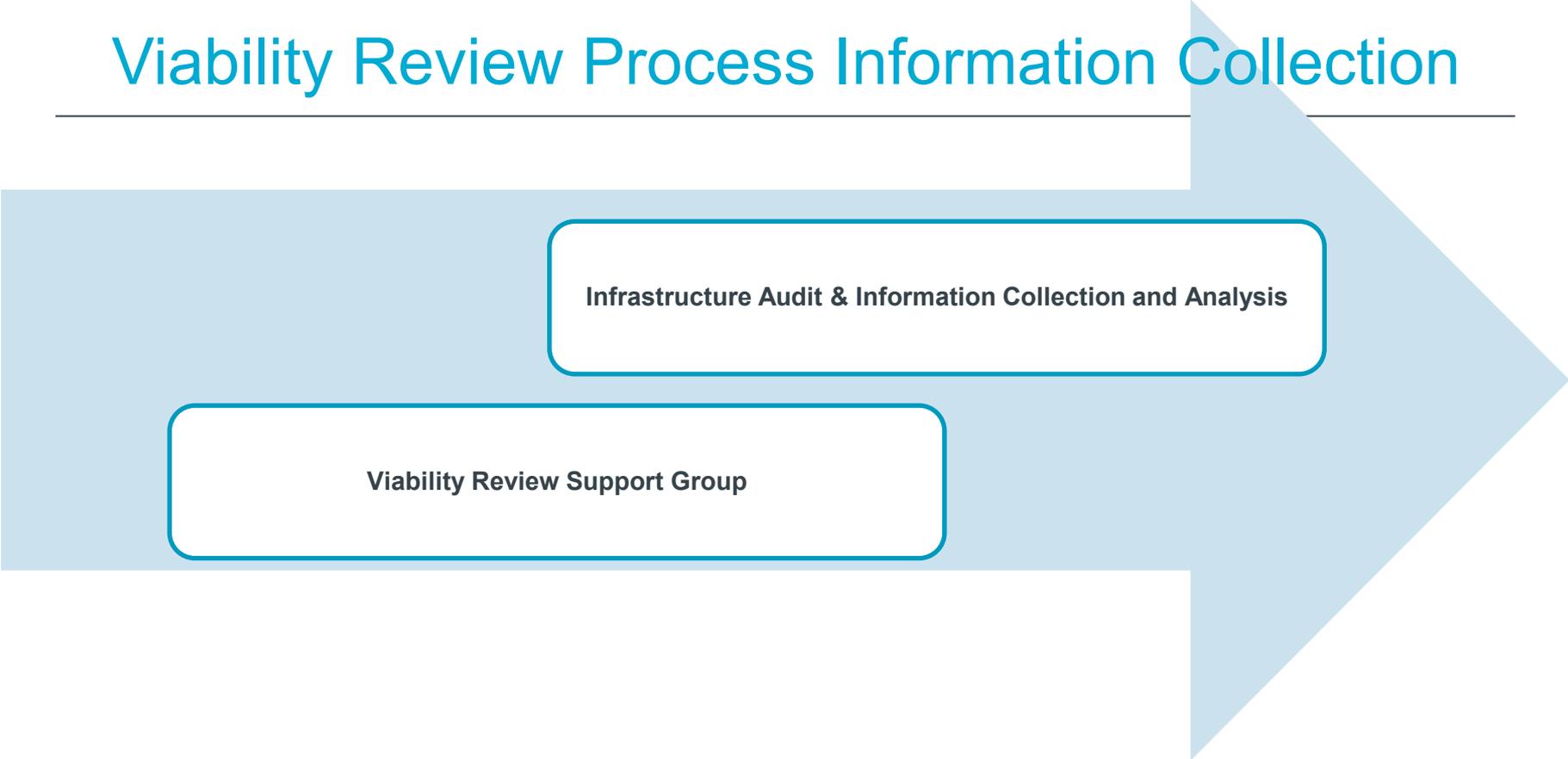
Viability Review Process

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 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?

Community

Governance

Administration

Services

Infrastructure

Finances

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 Donalda

Your Input

- A survey for community feedback will be available at
<https://www.alberta.ca/village-of-donalda-viability-review-survey>
- The survey will be available until February 27, 2026

Questions?



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 - Introduction

Where do you live?

Do you own property in the Village of Donalda?

Do you operate a business in the Village of Donalda?



Survey Questions – Community

1. What do you like most about living in Donalda?
2. What are your concerns with living in Donalda?
3. What potential changes, if any, might you be most concerned about if the community became a hamlet?



Pink Card

Governance

Addresses council practices and procedures, compliance with legislation, citizen engagement, and strategic planning.



Orange Card

Survey Questions - Governance

1. If you had the opportunity, would you be interested in running for municipal council?
2. Over the last 12 months, have you feel heard and informed by your Council?- Why or why not?
3. What governance change might you be most concerned about if the village became a hamlet.

Administration

Addresses the capacity of the municipality to operate on a daily basis and implement council decisions.

Blue Card

Survey Questions - Administration

1. Over the last 12 months, do you feel you have had reasonable access to the village office and municipal staff when needed?
2. Is the village meeting my expectations in communication with the residents and providing opportunities to engage on important municipal decisions?

Survey Question - Administration

3. What administrative changes might you be most concerned about if the village became a hamlet.

Services

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

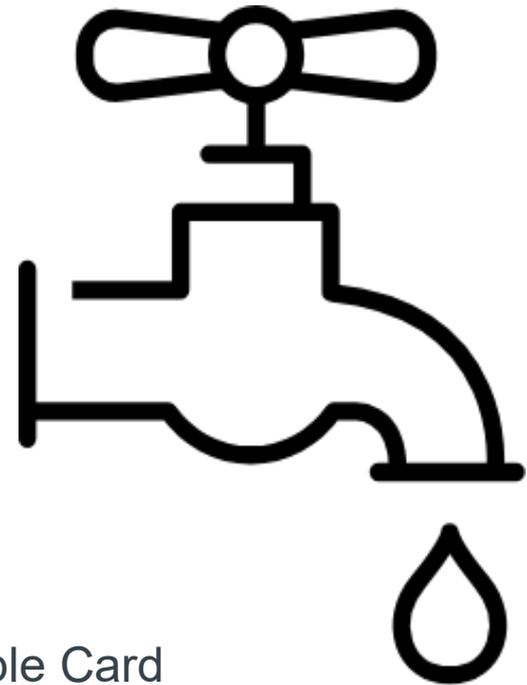
Grey Card

Survey Questions - Services

1. What existing municipal services are important to you?
2. Does the village meet your expectation in providing services to the community?
3. What potential changes in services might you be most concerned about if the village becomes a hamlet?

Infrastructure

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



Purple Card

Survey Questions - Infrastructure

1. Does the village's current infrastructure meet the needs of the community?
2. What current or planned infrastructure projects do you feel are most important for the long-term success of the village?
3. What infrastructure concerns might you have if the village became a hamlet?

Finances

Address the municipality's capacity to:

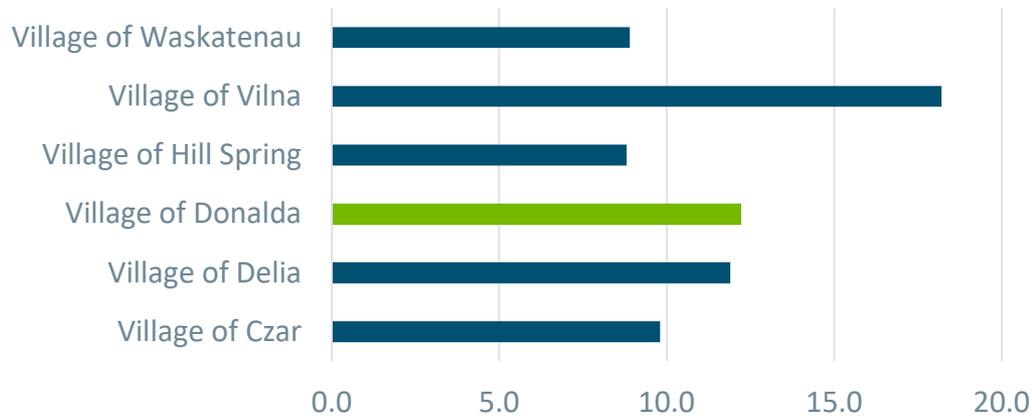
- generate and manage revenues (including property tax assessment and collection of taxes)
- sufficient to provide for necessary infrastructure and services now and in the future.



Green Card

Survey Questions- Increasing Costs/Taxes

Residential Tax rates 2024 in similar size municipalities in Alberta



Costs to operate municipalities all over are increasing. The graph beside is a visual comparing 2024 tax rates. 2024 Donaldda tax rate 12.2 is a bit higher compared to 2022.

What are your ideas to address increasing costs?

Survey Questions - Finances

1. What are your thoughts on the municipality's finances and taxation?
2. My Property taxes and utility fees are appropriate for the level and types of services the village provides?
3. What might concern you most about finances if the village became a hamlet?

Survey Questions – More Information?

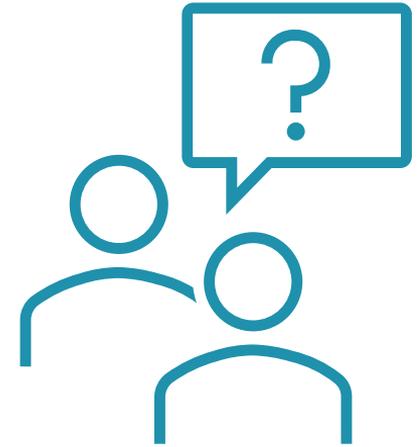
1. What information do you need to make an informed decision on whether Donalda should remain a village or become a hamlet in Stettler County?



White Card

Survey Questions – Other Comments?

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



White Card

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>

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