




Subject: **Bylaw 1908, Electoral Boundaries and Council Composition**
 Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2024
 Prepared By: Carolyn Van der Kuil, Legislative Services Manager
 Presented By: Carolyn Van der Kuil, Legislative Services Manager

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT: (Check all that apply)

	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
High Quality Infrastructure		Economic Resilience		Quality of Life		Effective Leadership		Level of Service	

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Provincial (cite)- Municipal Government Act Section 148, 151, 143,
Council Bylaw/Policy (cite)- Bylaw 1384, Ward Boundaries Bylaw

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The Municipal Government Act states that Council may pass bylaws to specify the number of councillors comprising Kneehill County Council, divide Kneehill County into divisions, establish the boundaries of each division, as well as directing another title appropriate for the Chief Elected Officials, which are currently referred to as the Reeve and Deputy Reeve.

At the September 19, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting, the Committee recommended to Council to utilize internal resources for a Ward Boundary Review for Division 4 and Division 6, with the objective of placing the entire Hamlet of Torrington within a single ward boundary.

Administration provided a public engagement session in Torrington on August 14th. The objective of that engagement session was to inform the residents of why we were doing a ward boundary review, provide them with three different options and ask for feedback. We had 3 people attend this public engagement.

Boundary Options:

Option 1- Status Quo

Currently, the Hamlet of Torrington is split into two divisions:

- Division 4, which encompasses residents south of Highway 27, and
- Division 6, which encompasses residents north of Highway 27.

The biggest obstacle is for the 28 residents in the Torrington Mobile Park. They are north of Highway 27 and are currently electors of Division 6, and when it comes to election time, they cannot vote in the Hamlet of Torrington, where they reside, but need to travel north to Wimborne to cast their vote.

Option 2- Include the Entire Hamlet of Torrington in Division 4.

To eliminate the issue of residents in the Torrington Mobile Park being in a different electoral division than the rest of the Torrington residents, this option proposes to move the Torrington Mobile Park from Division 6 into Division 4.



This option would include the entire Hamlet of Torrington boundary into one electoral boundary

Option 3- Include SW ¼ 3-33-26 W4 into Division 4

To eliminate the issue of residents in the Torrington Mobile Park and residences north of Highway 27, who live close to the Hamlet of Torrington, being in a different electoral division than the rest of the Torrington residents.

This option proposes to move all the residences that reside in the South East Quarter of Section 3, Township 33, Range Road 26 from Division 6 into Division 4. (which includes the Torrington Mobile Park)

Survey Results:

A public participation survey was conducted online over 21 days, from August 14 to September 5, 2024. Of the 18 respondents, 8 were residents of the Hamlet of Torrington. Based on the feedback, 78% of all respondents preferred Option 2. Therefore Administration recommends a minor change to the Division 4 and Division 6 boundary to include the entire Hamlet of Torrington into the Division 4 Divisional boundary.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES/OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

The last time a boundary review was completed at Kneehill County was in 1998. Since then, legislation has changed immensely. The purpose of this report is to propose Electoral Boundaries and Council Composition Bylaw 1908, which aims to:

- Divide the County into seven electoral divisions, with a minor electoral boundary change for Division 4 and Division 6 to include the entire Hamlet of Torrington in Division 4. No Changes to boundaries of Divisions 1, 2, 3, 5, & 7.
- Request that one councillor represent each of the seven electoral divisions
- Require that candidates for the office of councillor be nominated and elected for each division
- Request that one councillor be appointed by the Council to the office of Chief Elected Official and one councillor be appointed by the Council to the office of Deputy Chief Elected Official from amongst the councillors
- Continue the title of the Chief Elected Official as "Reeve" and the Deputy Chief Elected Official as "Deputy Reeve"

Except for the minor boundary change, the above statements are not new for the County, as the County has operated this way since the County's formation. ([Ministerial Order dated December 15, 1943](#)) However, they were never formally stated in a bylaw prior to this.

The titles of Reeve and Deputy Reeve are currently outlined in Policy 3-2. However, they would be better suited in this bylaw, alongside the details of their appointment. This policy will be brought back to Council for deletion once the bylaw has been passed.

In accordance with the Municipal Government Act, bylaws to amend the electoral boundaries must be advertised and allow for a 60-day petition period after the last date of which the proposed bylaw is advertised, before third reading can be given.

Based on the timelines and the petition period requirements outlined in the Municipal Government Act, second and third reading will be brought back to Council at the December 10, 2024 Council meeting.

In order for the changes to be in effect for the next general election on October 20, 2025, the bylaw must be passed by December 31, 2024.

If the Electoral Boundaries and Council Composition Bylaw 1908 is defeated or delayed until after December 31, 2024, the next general election will default to the current electoral boundaries under Bylaw



#1384, and the opportunity to change the electoral boundaries will not take effect until the 2029 general election.

Timeline

September 18, 2023	• Committee of Whole, Council approved to review the ward boundaries surrounding Torrington
August 14, 2024	• Public Engagement on Ward Boundary
August 14- September 5, 2024	• Obtain feedback on ward boundary scenarios
September 10, 2024	• First reading of bylaw to approve ward boundaries by Council
September 18 & 25, 2024	• Advertising of the bylaw will be done in Three Hills Capital
November 25, 2024	• Last day to submit a petition regarding ward boundaries, which is 60 days after the last date of advertisement
December 10, 2024	• 2nd and 3rd reading of bylaw to approve ward boundaries by Council
2025	• Changes take effect for 2025 General Election

FINANCIAL & STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

There will be no financial or staffing implications if this Bylaw is passed.

RECOMMENDED ENGAGEMENT:

Directive Decision (Information Sharing, One-Way Communication)			
Tools:	Public Notification	Other:	

ATTACHMENTS:

- Bylaw 1384- Kneehill County’s Current Bylaw
- Proposed Bylaw 1908- Electoral Boundaries and Council Composition

COUNCIL OPTIONS:

1. Provide first reading to Bylaw 1908, as presented.
2. Provide first reading to Bylaw 1908, as amended.
3. Receive for information.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That Council provide first reading to Bylaw 1908, that being a bylaw to establish the composition of Kneehill County Council; divide Kneehill County into divisions and establish the boundaries of each division; and determine the title of the positions of Kneehill County’s Chief Elected Official and Councillors.



FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

Advertise Bylaw 1908 for two consecutive weeks in the Three Hills Capital and website.

Bring Bylaw 1908 back to the December 10, 2024 Council meeting for second and third reading.

APPROVAL(S):

Mike Haugen, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved-

