Town of Georgetown

Founded 1732 - Incorporated 1912

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May 8, 2018

Prince Edward Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission (IRAC)
P.O. Box 577
Charlottetown PE
C1A 7L1

To whom it may concern:

The Town of Georgetown Council objects to the proposal to establish the Greater Three Rivers Area municipality.

1) Violation of the Municipalities Act:
The five communities that have submitted this proposal are in violation of the Municipalities Act. A resolution is needed from each Council prior to the submission of the proposal.
One February 27th, 2018 Montague Town Council voted out of Amalgamation. All the resolutions noted on the application are prior to this date. The resolution for Cardigan states "amalgamating with 5 communities, Montague, Lower Montague, Brudenell, Valleyfield and Lorne Valley. Clearly these resolutions were made before this decision. Resolutions should have happened after February 27th to reflect new information.

2) Discrimination:
Tax rates are based on services- No explanation has been given as to why the Town of Georgetown would be required to pay the highest residential tax rate of any urban or rural area.

3) The Proposal Itself:
The proposal is not near ready for consideration. Study after Study shows from the Fraser Institute the benefits for amalgamation fail to materialize, costs increase after Amalgamation, because of harmonizing costs. Wages and service efficiency remains elusive. Transition costs are high, reducing or eliminating immediate cost savings. When studies like this are mentioned you get accused of fear mongering. Why does the Steering committee think there study is any more valid?
We have not been given any information on how this will affect our Fire Department which receives $70,000 from the municipal funds every year, on top of monies the Fire Department raises themselves for extra equipment. The Fire Department is not considered part of this proposal. This leads us to believe it

means raising fire taxes to maintain a service that is vital to our community, including the surrounding Fire District. and could lessen the services they receive (ie. first responders) and possibly response times.
The proposal states we would be responsible for our Sewer Corporation. This aging infrastructure was established our community in 1965, and our community has been planning in stages to update it in sections. The sewer corporation being user pay also relies on our Gas Tax money to aid in expensive projects. This proposal subjects our Gas Tax money to other projects in the region and will not be ours to use, this again means raising the town's taxes for the sewer corporation to fund its existence.
What is the consideration for all other buildings owned and maintained by the town? The proposal states the office will be in Montague or Cardigan. This is a loss of services for our community. What about the municipal staff? What about other facilities like the Three Rivers Sportsplex which has seen a substantial increase in revenue over the last two years? It is not a priority it seems.
This proposal has been touted as being "Stronger Together" Presently each area sets its own commercial tax rates. These vary based on community needs and other factors. The "Stronger Together" proposal suggests .90 cents for the largest municipalities and a modest rate of .40 cents for Brudenell. If this was truly geared towards strengthening the entire region the disparity would not be so evident. If a comparison is drawn demographically there is no need to look any further than the welcome to Montague sign. On one side businesses will pay .90 cents and on the other only .40 cents. This does not constitute equality in the region.

The steering committee has been in conflict for some time. The question was asked early in the process why the CAO's had a say in their future jobs and wages. It was indicated that the CAO's had no vote and were in attendance for municipal information only. An email released to the public stated Montague and Cardigan CAO's were voting members. The CAO of Cardigan was also an employee of Montague. In February Montague withdrew from the process. Against Montagues council's wishes, the Montague CAO not only continued to attend steering committee meetings but also helped write the letter/ proposal to IRAC.

The original Tax rate proposed from MRSB for taxes were never used with the public. It was believed that the unincorporated areas would not agree to the proposed Tax rate and Brian Harding stated his community would not be getting more than a nickel increase. The steering committee decided not to take professional advice but to make their own numbers.

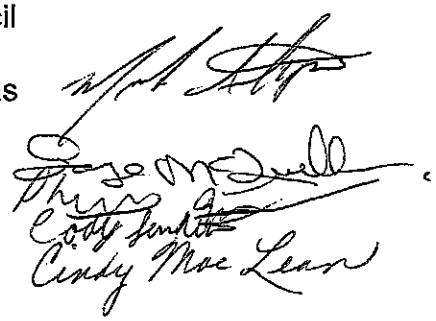
The five municipalities who submitted the proposal, are the areas that have serious shortcomings to become compliant under the new municipalities act, hence the rush and lack of consideration for issues that should be addressed.

In closing we feel this process needs to be rebooted. If we were to show up at a financial institution looking for assistance with just the details provided in this proposal we would surely be told no deal. This proposal does not provide enough

detail to make it a good business plan. Strategic planning and Asset management is required. Amalgamation should not be something we enter into easily. Yes this would bring about a new larger region municipality. But, will it maintain long term community sustainability? In our community it points clearly too increased taxes all around. This will not maintain long term sustainability in our community. More care needs to be taken to find **the best fit/Structure** for our municipal governments. We need more transparency, inclusion and perhaps to be geographically split in half. We know to form any relationship be it leadership or community, Trust is the foundation. We trust our objection is clear

Respectfully,

Town of Georgetown, Council
Mayor Lewis Lavandier
Deputy Mayor Mark Stephens
Councillor Ronald Gallant
Councillor Faye McQuillan
Councillor Phillip Hebert
Councillor Cody Jenkins
Councillor Cindy MacLean



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Minutes
Georgetown Town Council Meeting
Special Meeting
Thursday April 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance:
Mayor Lewis Lavandier
Councillor Mark Stephens
Councillor Ronald Gallant
Councillor Faye McQuillan
Councillor Cindy MacLean
Councillor Phillip Hebert
Councillor Cody Jenkins
Gallery: No Attendees

1.0 Call to Order Meeting
The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Mayor Lavandier

1.1 Conflict of Interest Provision
Part VI, Section 23 of the *Municipalities Act*, which maintains that no member of Council shall derive any profit or financial advantage from his/her position as a member of Council and, where a member of Council has any pecuniary interest in or is affected by any matter before the Council, shall declare his/her interest therein and abstain from voting and discussion thereon.

1.2 Declaration
No Conflict was declared

1.3 Be advised that we are recording these proceedings; If anyone-else is recording we would ask that you please declare same.

2.0 New Business:
a) Discussion: Removal of Trees
Due to the sensitive nature and the consideration of possible legal action. It was moved to close the meeting for the discussion of the sensitive issue.

It was moved by Councillor Hebert to close the meeting for the discussion of the sensitive issue, seconded by Councillor McQuillan, Motion Carried

The email was discussed and information was brought forward, from phone conversation from CAO Macdonald. After discussion Council opened the meeting for a decision.

Minutes
GEORGETOWN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday
April 26, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Mayor Lewis Lavandier
Deputy Mayor Mark Stephen
Councillor Ronald Gallant
Councillor Phillip Hebert
Councillor Cody Jenkins
Councillor Cindy MacLean
Councillor Faye McQuillan
CAO Dorothy Anne Macdonald

It was decided to allow CAO Macdonald the opportunity to email Ms. Perry, to explain further what appears to have been misinterpreted from the initial phone call. CAO Macdonald will cc all members of Council in her response. Council felt this was important to address and clarify any misunderstandings or misinformation.

b) Discussion: Proposal Three Rivers Area Municipality
Council began discussion on the whether they were going to file an objection to the proposal made to establish a new municipality before IRAC.

It was moved by Councillor Stephens to close the meeting for the discussion because of sensitive information. It was seconded by Councillor McQuillan, Motion Carried

The Council discussed the proposal and came to a decision. Council reopened the meeting and made the following Motion.

It was moved by Councillor Phillip Hebert that Georgetown Town Council file an objection with IRAC, in regards to the proposal submitted by the Three Rivers Steering Committee to form a new municipality this shall be submitted within the 30 day timeline which began on April 19th. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Jenkins. Motion Carried Unanimous Consent.

Council agreed they would met again and firm up details of the reasons they object to the Application.

3.0 **Adjournment**
No further business it was moved to adjourn at 8PM

Certified a true copy

Minutes recorded and prepared by:
Dorothy Anne Macdonald, CAO
and submitted by
Dorothy Anne Macdonald
May 7, 2018

Lewis Lavandier, Mayor

Dorothy Anne Macdonald, CAO

Prince Edward Island
CANADA

Form MGA-MR-2

Objection to a Proposal to Establish, Restructure, Dissolve a Municipality

Pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, CAP. M-12.1., Sec. 17, and the Principles, Standards and Criteria Regulations

Completing your Application: Important Information

- ✓ An objection to a proposal to establish, restructure or dissolve a municipality may be made by any person by filing a written objection in the form approved by the Minister to the Island Regulatory Appeals Commission (IRAC) within 30 days after the latest of the following dates:
  - The dates noted below in respect of a person to whom the Commission is required under to provide a copy of the proposal under section 16 of the *Municipal Government Act*;
  - The date of publication of the notice in a newspaper; or
  - The date of posting of the notice in the affected area.

- ✓ Any person may object to a proposal to establish, restructure or dissolve a municipality within:
  - 30 days after the date that a copy of the proposal required to be provided to a person under the Act is received by that person;
  - 30 days after the date a copy was either given or left for a person with the person authorized to accept documents on behalf of him or her; and
  - 30 days after the date the document was sent by mail to the person (deemed to be received by the person ten days after the date on which it was sent).

Part 1: Declaration of Objection:

I/We object to the proposal to Establish the Greater Three Rivers Area Municipality

The proposal was dated on April 19th, 2018

Part 2: Reason for Objection:

Describe the reason(s) for objection: Violations of Municipalities Act, Discrimination, the proposal itself, unfinished process, Missing information, Not a plan to sustain our

Community, Not transparent or inclusion. How can we be Stronger together when we were not included.

Part 3: Objection to a Proposal to Establish, Restructure, Dissolve a Municipality Filed by a Municipality (This section must be completed only if the objection is being filed by a municipality).

This objection is submitted by the Municipality of Town of Georgetown

Note: If objecting as a municipality, a copy of the resolution by council approving the objection must be attached.

Part 4: Contact Information

Signature

Dorothy Macdonald CAO Dorothy A Macdonald

Print Name Sign Name

Address: PO Box 89 36 Kent Street Georgetown PE.

E-Mail: dorothy.macdonald@georgetown.ca Phone: (H) 902 652-2924 (C)

Part 4: Submission Information

This completed form may be submitted for consideration to:

Prince Edward Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission (IRAC)
P.O. Box 577
Charlottetown PE
C1A 7L1

Phone: 902-892-3501
Toll-free (for area code 902) 1-800-501-6268
Email: proposal@irac.pe.ca

Personal information of applicant(s) on this application is collected under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* of PEI, Section 31(c), as it is necessary for processing this application of Objection to a Proposal to establish, restructure or dissolve a municipality.

Office Use Only

Date received:

Date deemed received: