

**DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2009 AT 3:00 P.M.**

Present    **Council:** Mayor Anderson, Councillors Webster, Summer, Johnson and Johansson (Via Telephone: Councillors Quibell and Stacey)  
              **Staff:**     Becky Mercereau, Deputy Clerk  
              **Other:**     D. Manson, University of Northern British Columbia

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm with Mayor Anderson presiding.

Councillor Quibell and Councillor Stacey joined the meeting via telephone for the following resolution.

289/09        Moved by Councillor Summer and Seconded by Councillor Johnson;  
              " That Council waive the 24 hour required notice for a special in camera meeting as required by the Community Charter section 127(4). "

CARRIED

**United Way Project**

Donald Manson from the University of Northern British Columbia has been asked by the United Way to conduct research about social service needs and gaps in northern BC communities. He advised that he was looking for updated information on the current services and future needs of communities. Council gave the following information on the different topics requested by Mr. Manson:

Service gaps for children and youth up to 19 years of age:

- no drop in centre for teens or youth
- lots of activities organized, but there are not enough interested to make program work; and
- as the youth are our future it is important to make them successful and try and keep them in our community.

Service gaps for families:

- no resident doctor, physiotherapist or mental health services in Hudson's Hope;
- the small town is a benefit to families, however the lack of some services cause them to not consider living here or leave after a period of time;
- employees who come to work for BC Hydro complete their required time at the dams in Hudson's Hope and then transfer to another facility;
- have declining numbers in the school;
- lack of sports, musical and cultural activities; and
- no public transportation.

It was suggested that exit surveys be completed for families that have decided to leave to determine the exact reasons for their departure.

Service gaps for seniors:

- the current senior centre building is becoming too small for the number of seniors that use the facility;
- more BC Hydro employees are retiring in Hudson's Hope;
- have a physiotherapy room with equipment at the health centre, but no physiotherapist willing to come to Hudson's Hope;

- if a senior does not drive then they are limited to their activities, as there is no public transportation;
- no full time doctor coverage, which is a consideration of most seniors if they decide to move to Hudson's Hope or due to medical issues have to move away because of this service gap;
- need more affordable housing for seniors;
- currently have one seniors housing unit, but it only has 10 units;
- lack of events targeted to seniors;
- have no assistance programs, such as Meals on Wheels; and
- have more people choosing Hudson's Hope as their retirement community.

Service gaps for healthy citizens and a supportive community:

- currently have an Alcoholics Anonymous program;
- the school offers some counselling for the students as required;
- a counsellor comes to Hudson's Hope from Fort St. John as required; and
- treatments for such problems as drug addictions are done outside the community.

Service gaps for poverty issues:

- have a food bank that is used by residents;
- not enough affordable housing for low income families;
- the Friends of Hudson's Hope operate a thrift store and will financially help families in need; and
- lack of information for people who need help with spousal abuse.

Council also gave the information on what services are needed within the community:

- with the possibility of a new coal mine operated by a Chinese company the need for ESL services in the community would be a benefit;
- currently have a Farmers Market in the summer, a grocery store and a food bank, however, the food and nutritional needs of the community could be enhanced; and
- almost all people who want to continue with post secondary education need to leave the Peace region.

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Mr. Manson advised that this study will be published on the United Way website once completed.

Moved by Councillor Johansson and Seconded by Councillor Webster;

"To recess this regular meeting and, pursuant to Part 4, Division 3 and Part 5, Division 2 of the *Community Charter*, convene a special meeting that will be closed to the public to discuss matters pertaining to personnel issues. (4:13 p.m.)

CARRIED

[This regular meeting reconvened at 4:45 p.m.]

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Certified Correct:

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Clerk

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Mayor