

**DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2009 AT 11:00 A.M.**

Present    **Council:** Mayor Anderson; Councillors Webster and Johansson  
              **Staff:** C. Bonnick, Administrator; and B. Mercereau, Deputy Clerk  
              **Others:** Greg Goodwin and Tamara Danshin

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Anderson called the special meeting to order at 11:11 am.

**RURAL BC SECRETARIAT**

Greg Goodwin and Tamara Danshin gave a presentation to Council on the BC Rural Secretariat and the Ministry of Community Development which together provide a direct service and information link between the provincial government and B.C.'s rural communities. The following information was also provided:

- the focus is on economic development within the communities;
- some areas that they may be able to assist with the pine beetle epidemic;
- there are five community development trusts in the province including the Northern Development Initiative Trust;
- they can assist and support municipalities by helping them with local government grants;
- they also help communities access federal and provincial programs;
- the province has tried to simplify the application forms, shorter notification for approval of grants and assist communities through the entire process;
- Tammy Danshin is the representative located in our region;
- have community adjustment offices in areas where there have been significant impacts on employment and help the community move forward, one of these offices have been set up in Mackenzie;
- a meeting will be held in Dawson Creek for the provincial, federal and territory Ministry representatives to discuss Northern economic issues;
- discussed the memorandum of understanding they have with Alberta with regards to rural development;
- they are in Hudson's Hope to listen to the top priorities and try and help the community find funding or help with any changes to regulations that may need to be made.

Council members discussed the following items that they believe are priority items for Hudson's Hope:

- need for affordable seniors housing;
  - currently have very high amount of rentals with BC Hydro contactors, and the Oil and Gas industry renting most available houses at high rates;
  - Vancouver seems to be receiving most of the funding for housing issues because of their high homelessness rate;
  - we have a more transient population with the Oil and Gas industry that cause people to want to rent rather than buy if they are only here for a limited time period;
- need to have better medical facility with a permanent doctor that would live in the

community;

- it is hard to attract a doctor to live here because they are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week;
- the current doctors are not here on Wednesdays or weekends;
- need to look at having a nurse practitioner who could take over some of the doctor duties;
- the ambulance service only has two drivers which means that they need to be on call all the time and receive minimal funds for being on call;
- we have the same barriers as other communities, such as Tumbler Ridge, where they have two or three doctors and we are not sure how they are attracting these people;
- there have been different legal opinions with regards to if the District can give incentives to doctors when we are unable to give benefits to any business;
- a physiotherapist service is needed in the community and we currently have a facility and equipment for this service;
- the last physiotherapist stopped the service because Northern Health would not pay mileage to drive to Hudson's Hope;
- a respiratory therapist would also be a great program to have in Hudson's Hope;
- as there is no return bus service from Hudson's Hope to other communities it is hard, especially for senior residents to travel for medical care;
- questioned the economic balance between the industries in Hudson's Hope;
  - the oil and gas industry is very busy in the District;
  - this area has Class A farmland;
  - discussed the balance between the oil and gas and the farming industries with regards to land use;
  - discussed the ALR lands which are not allowed to be subdivided, although many aging farmers would like to downsize their land;
  - no policy in the government that encourages farming;
- discussed the surface versus subsurface issues when dealing with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources;
  - no Ministry that looks after the surface land and the values of the land; and
  - the subsurface rights are purchased from the Ministry.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Special meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Certified Correct:

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Clerk

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Mayor