

DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE
BUDGET MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009 AT 9:00 A.M.

Present **Council:** Mayor Anderson, Councillors Quibell, Stacey, Webster, Johansson, and Summer
 Staff: Carolyn Bonnick, Administrator; Greg Mitchell, Director of Public Works; Rhonda Eastman, Deputy Treasurer; and Becky Mercereau, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am with Mayor Anderson presiding.

BUDGET REVIEW

The Deputy Treasurer and the Administrator presented the 2009 proposed budget. The Deputy Treasurer discussed all the changes to the revenue and expense accounts. Council reviewed the proposed budget and the questions from Council were answered as follows:

- extra funds have been added to deal with the pine beetle epidemic;
- protective service expenses have increased with the new position that was added;
- need a cost estimate for the environmental study that will be required for the broadband project;
- paving costs were deferred from last year's project;
- if the Beryl Prairie Road is being paved by the Ministry of Transportation, then we should consider fixing the Beryl Prairie subdivision road while the crews are in the area;
- the Director of Public Works will find out specifics on the Beryl Prairie Road situation;
- the heat recovery system at the arena will use heat from the compressors to heat the stands and funding will be applied for from the Building Canada fund;
- funds have been received from gas companies for the Beryl Prairie Park and Council should also consider putting some money towards developing the parkland;
- a new truck and another type of vehicle will be purchased for the outside staff;
- need extra grass seeding to try and choke out the dandelions, however these funds can be taken from operating costs;
- radios are being purchased to replace fire department radios;
- a new copier is needed in the office, as the current one is at its end of life period;
- thermal image camera will show if someone is still in a vehicle or if there are hotspots after a fire has been put out;
- the thermal image camera could possibly be rented out to BC Hydro;
- the electronic notice sign could be programmed to advertise events, pool and arena schedules and we could also charge businesses to advertise on it;
- the notice sign would be placed in Beattie Park and the visitor centre staff could be trained to update it;
- the council furniture was not paid for last year because of a stained section and therefore needs to be paid for this year after the panels are replaced;
- extra commercial water keys have been purchased for the commercial water stand;
- the water study number is an estimated cost;
- the pump reservoir should have a replacement and a spare in case of an

- emergency;
- a new furnace at the sewer lift station is required, but the costs seem high;
- new lighting and furnace for the shop could be used in a new facility if one is built within the next couple years;
- irrigation at the pool is required, especially if the dandelion problem is to be rectified;
- fencing isn't necessary at King Gething Campground, but should be considered for Alwin Holland Park;
- fencing at Alwin Holland Park should be considered because the District invites people to visit the park and therefore should not have steep cliffs unfenced that could cause injury or death;
- the fencing could be chain link or a wooden fence and would be installed as to not disturb the natural state as much as possible;
- the Director of Public Works will look at all the issues at the Transtor site, including a shed for the cardboard, bulky waste bins and a composting site;
- new promotional signage should be considered and we should look at whether the District should complete a "branding" process;
- need something behind the "welcome" signs, such as hedges planted;
- solar lighting will be installed this year as part of the "welcome" signs;
- discussed the grant writer funding from NDI Trust and decided that the money could be budgeted for and then if the project does not proceed the funds could be used for something else;
- the fair share funds are used for general operating costs;
- funds from Spectra Energy are included in the tax and utility class amounts;
- the water treatment grant money was never actually received by the District;
- need to apply for new grants for the water treatment project when ready to proceed;
- tax rates have stayed the same this year;
- the purchase of a new garbage truck has been held off until next year;
- approximately \$200,000.00 will be transferred to reserves;
- the Tangible Capital Assets program will require the District to prove how to replace all infrastructure and therefore funds in the reserve are going to be needed in the future;
- the zamboni doors at the arena could be postponed at the arena if they are not urgent;
- the heated generator room capital costs would be combined with the heat recovery system that is planned;
- the intruder alarm could be removed from the budget as the Director of Public Works had some ideas for other ways to fix the problem;
- previous upgrades to the sound system were only a microphone system and this new upgrade would augment the existing speakers;
- a genie-lift will allow staff to replace lighting at the arena and other buildings;
- the heat recovery system has a payback period of ten years;
- questioned whether a new boiler at the arena is needed or if on-demand water heaters could be used instead;
- the animal control contract will end in December, 2009 and can be reviewed at that time by Council; and
- discussed having BC Assessment come give an explanation to Council about properties within the community that have extremely high assessments but are not on District water or sewer.

The next budget meeting will be held on April 22, 2009 at 1:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

138/09

Moved by Councillor Johansson and Seconded by Councillor Quibell;
"That this special meeting of the Council be adjourned." (11:06 a.m.)

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Clerk

Mayor