

DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE
SPECIAL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008 AT 9:25 A.M.

Present **Council:** Mayor Harwood; Councillors Johnson, Kosolowsky and Johansson
Staff: C. Bonnick, Administrator; and B. Mercereau, Deputy Clerk
Others: C. Paterson, T. Drift, E. Frisch, R. Sawchuck, D. Summer, P. Enderlin, C. Lewis and R. Karst

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

Representatives from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources met with Council to discuss the oil and gas tenure process and to hear concerns from them. The following information was discussed:

- oil and gas tenures are sold by the Ministry by a sealed bid process;
- referrals for the proposed tenure sales are given to the First Nations, local governments, regional districts and government organizations that may be affected;
- consideration is taken with regards to local Official Community Plans and any land and resource management plans;
- an internal review is completed prior to posting the tenure, then the referrals are sent out with a 20 day review period, once all comments are received the types of caveats are determined and published unless the Ministry decides to wait if there are any major issues;
- during the internal reviews there are a number of parcels that are turned down permanently or deferred until another date;
- seven weeks prior to the sale the landowners are advised that the tenure will be advertised for sale;
- the landowners are advised of their rights and asked to identify any special features of their land that the Ministry can forward to the successful bidders;
- the checklist that is given to landowners to outline any special features is being reviewed and a survey being sent to landowners to see if they have any ideas on questions that can help enhance the form;
- the entire tenure process takes 99 days to complete; however, the process time will be increasing to 106 days in 2009;
- drilling licences are issued for a three year period with a one year renewal clause, this means that they have the rights to the subsurface but they still need to apply to the Oil and Gas Commission prior to doing any work;
- a company will need to apply for a Lease before they can begin production on any well;
- the landowner notification program did start as a pilot program and a six month review will be completed, but the representatives advised that there has only been positive comments and they do not see the program ending;
- they will check the status of whether the Agriculture Land Commission receives referrals or if there is an agreement with the Oil and Gas Commission on this issue;
- they are looking at producing a manual for landowners to help them understand their rights and the processes that take place.

The following comments were given by Council and the public:

- the landowner notification process should be done at the same stage as notification is given to local governments and First Nations, especially for those landowners who are within the Agriculture Land Reserve;
- if the notification process were done at an earlier stage then prospective bidders would have more knowledge about the land and the issues with the said land;

- residents who hold licences on Crown land, such as trappers and range licensees should be able to voice their concerns about the proposed sales, but at the current time these people are not notified of the sales as they are not the property owner;
- Council advised that the referral process at the Peace River Regional District is very confusing for the members;
- the ALC has a double standard as they allow the oil and gas activity to take place in the ALR; however if a landowner try to do any kind of industrial activity of their own they are not allowed; and
- lands that have pipelines on them can be a problem because of restrictions that Right-of-Way's have on the surface activities.

ADJOURNMENT

295/08

Moved by Councillor Johnson and Seconded by Councillor Johansson;
"That this Special meeting be adjourned." 10:44 am.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Clerk

Mayor