



Mountain View COUNTY

For Immediate Release

News Release

09.05.05

County and Staff Learn Respective Roles, Responsibilities

09.05.05 Mountain View County AB – As part of the Corporate Review being conducted by George Cuff and Associates for Mountain View County, Councillors and Senior Staff participated in a one-day workshop last week to learn about governance and the appropriate roles and responsibilities of elected municipal officials and administrative staff.

“Today, I hope you will learn something new,” said Cuff as he started the workshop which was held at Buffalo Diamond Lodge west of Sundre. “I am here to outline a framework of how municipal governance works best. My presentation is generic, but it is based on years of working with municipal governments across Canada and the legislation that governs Mountain View County in Alberta.”

Participants worked their way through a lively agenda that outlined, in no-nonsense terms, who should do what, why and how. The key message focused on Councillors as drivers of County policy and representatives of the public. Administration’s role was clearly outlined as implementers of the Council’s business plan.

“The Chief Administrative Officer (The Commissioner) is Council’s only employee and its most important one,” said Cuff. “Council must expect their CAO to deliver clear policy recommendations based on well researched, balanced facts drawn from Administration and the CAO’s knowledge of the Municipal Government Act. The choice to act on these recommendations lies solely with Council. The CAO is bound to respect their decision. Once policy and direction has been set, Council should not be involved in the day to day management of the County’s business. That’s what staff is hired to do. Council is however, mandated to keep watch on the value of public money spent.”

Cuff flavored his direct remarks with several anecdotes outlining true life experiences (albeit anonymous) of municipalities in rural communities across Canada and more than a few humorous moments.

“This was an incredibly valuable experience,” said Reeve, Al Kemmere. “Having solid information presented with such candor gives us very clear direction for the future. I think everyone of us – Councillors and staff included, came away with a much stronger appreciation for our respective roles. It was a day well spent.”

Results of the Corporate Review will be shared with the public.

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