



Clearing the Air – NRCB Intervener Funding Support

Council has received a number of comments and questions about the recently appointed Committee to investigate information about NRCB intervener funding support.

Why was the Committee formed?

A two person committee was formed to pursue information about existing or pending policies and protocols regarding payment or support of legal fees for groups challenging NRCB decisions. This type of funding is often referred to as Intervener Funding. The committee was designed as a short-term initiative only.

Who was on the Committee?

Councillor Arnie Shea chaired the committee and was charged with the responsibility to choose one additional member. Councillor Shea appointed Murray Marsh to the two person committee. Mr. Marsh was identified because of his knowledge of NRCB policy resulting from his experience on the Committee for Lone Pine.

Wasn't this a conflict of interest for Mr. Marsh?

No. The Committee was appointed only to find information for presentation to Council. The Committee was not mandated to pursue intervener funding for Mr. Marsh or the Committee for Lone Pine. No funding has or will be directed to Mr. Marsh and the Committee for Lone Pine from Mountain View County. Mr. Marsh and Mr. Shea volunteered their time for the Committee work and neither Committee member were paid expenses.

What did the Committee discover?

In their information gathering process, The Committee discovered that the County of Grande Prairie is bringing forth a resolution to the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties to lobby the Alberta government for inclusion of Intervener funding in the AOPA policies.

What is Council's next step?

Mountain View County Council has received the Committee's report for information; decided to observe the progress of the County of Grande Prairie's resolution and support this in principle; and disband the Committee as their work has now been completed.

"We appreciate the time and energy invested by concerned ratepayers to bring their questions forward," says Reeve Al Kemmere. "It is this type of communication that keeps us accountable as a Council and encourages healthy dialogue and debate on issues of interest to us all. Keep your comments coming."

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