

February 17, 2009

Minister rules against administrative inquiry of County

Council commits to conduct independent review to identify strengths, areas for improvement

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs will not be conducting an inquiry into the affairs of Mountain View County. In correspondence received on February 16, Minister of Municipal Affairs Hector Goudreau found a petition for an inquiry submitted by the Rural Roots Association “to be insufficient under the provisions of the Municipal Government Act.”

“There is no legal obligation for me to conduct an inquiry”, stated Minister Goudreau in a letter dated February 4, 2010. “[H]owever, I suggest that the municipality consider engaging a third party to conduct a review of the administrative, planning and governance processes in place.”

Goudreau added that a review presents an opportunity to evaluate the municipality’s strengths and to identify potential areas for improvement. “This evaluation should be a co-operative effort of council, administration and the community.”

At the Minister’s suggestion, Council directed the Chief Administrative Officer at the February 17 meeting of Regular Council to obtain proposals from experienced, qualified consultants on a review of the issues raised by petitioners, up to the date of the presentation of the petition to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Council have requested the review include necessary interviews and report:

- If administration has acted illegally or inappropriately
- If planning has acted illegally or inappropriately
- If operations has acted illegally or inappropriately
- If Council has acted illegally or inappropriately

As a part of the consultant’s mandate, a telephone survey of residents of Mountain View County will also take place to garner feedback on the municipality’s strengths and opportunities for improvement, with the consultant’s final report to be delivered to Council and the public simultaneously.

“Our Council stated last year that we have nothing to hide and that it is time to clear the air,” said Reeve Kemmere. “We are committed to conducting our affairs in an open and transparent manner, and we believe a review of the administrative, planning and governance processes in place is further evidence of that commitment.”

In the meantime, Council has agreed to move forward with new Land Use Bylaw and the Off-site Levy Bylaw, fulfilling a pledge made on November 4, 2009 to delay both processes until the Minister had made a decision on the Rural Roots Association’s request for an administrative review. A Public Open House and Discussion Forum on the revised Land Use Bylaw has been scheduled for April 19, 2010, with first reading of the bylaw expected to take place on May 26, 2010. Special Council Meetings for public hearings on the new Land Use Bylaw have been scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at 5 p.m. and Saturday, June 19, 2010 at 9 a.m. First reading of the Off-site Levy Bylaw is expected to take place in the Spring, with a phone survey and legal review to occur over the following months.

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Media inquiries may be directed to

Al Kemmere

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ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Minister
MLA, Dunvegan - Central Peace

AR45137

February 4, 2010

Reeve Albert Kemmere
and Council
Mountain View County
PO Bag 100
Didsbury, AB T0M 0W0


Dear Reeve Kemmere and Council:

The chief administrative officer (CAO) has reported to me on the sufficiency of the petition that the Honourable Ray Danyluk, former Minister of Municipal Affairs, received on December 16, 2009.

The CAO found the petition for an inquiry into the affairs of Mountain View County to be insufficient under the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*. There is no legal obligation for me to conduct an inquiry; however, I suggest that the municipality consider engaging a third party to conduct a review of the administrative, planning, and governance processes in place.

The review presents an opportunity to evaluate the municipality's strengths and identify potentials for improvement. This evaluation should be a co-operative effort of council, administration, and the community.

Sincerely,


Hector Goudreau
Minister of Municipal Affairs
MLA, Dunvegan-Central Peace

Alberta

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