



DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE

AGENDA – ADDITION

Council Chambers

Monday December 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM

10. Correspondence

C5 Senior's Housing Society

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From: Gwen Johansson
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 2:34 PM
To: Tammy McKeown
Subject: FW: project
Attachments: notes on SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROPOSAL.docx

Tammy,

Here is the request from the Senior's Housing Society that came this morning.

From: Deborah Peck <deborahpeck3@gmail.com>
Date: December 12, 2016 11:28:59 AM MST
To: Gwen Johansson <gjohan@pris.ca>
Subject: project

Hi Gwen,

I know I've asked you before and you've sent on information to me however, I'm now in the happy situation of having persuaded the board of the Hudson's Hope healthcare and housing society that we should move forward with a plan to do a "needs assessment" for the community to see if this supportive housing idea is feasible/sustainable.

My idea is to apply to the BC Hydro "GO" fund for an initial needs assessment. I think we should fit into their parameters (vulnerable populations; services for seniors) - and I talked to Kim Wilson, manager of North Peace Senior's Housing Society in FSJ who gave me the name of the company who helped them get up and running with their Supportive housing plan. (Deane Strongitharm of CitySpaces) - and I will also write to Angela DeSmit and see what she suggests for "next steps". The next review of applications to the GO fund is in February, so the HHH&H society is having a meeting on Jan 9th. I would like to have a few more things organised ahead of that date....

One, of course, is to ask yourself and council if they are in support of this initiative and would provide a letter of support. (Can't apply without it!). Could you tell me what steps I have to take to do that?

I will attach some notes I put together for the October meeting (I wasn't able to attend that meeting). It wasn't until the December 6th meeting that a decision was made for the meeting January 9th. There are always pressing issues managing the Silver Willow Court, that take up time/energy, so planning for the future tends to go on the back burner, understandably!

I hope you can point me in the right direction (or tell me if you don't think this is a viable proposition!). Not my area of expertise.

Thanks,

Deborah

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Deborah Peck, Box 639, Hudson's Hope BC V0C 1V0 Canada

“Needs assessment” for SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROPOSAL, HUDSON’S HOPE

Seniors' supportive housing allows people to continue to live independently in the community, by providing some support services. The description below is from the government web page:

Supportive Housing:

http://www.bchousing.org/Options/Supportive_Housing/SSH/SSH

The Seniors' Supportive Housing program provides specially modified rental homes, in selected subsidized housing developments, primarily to low-income seniors or people with disabilities who need some assistance in order to continue to live independently.

Support Services Include:

- 24-hour response
- light housekeeping
- meals
- social and recreational activities.

Eligibility:

- you are a low-income senior or person with disabilities who would benefit from an accessible home
- you require some support services to continue to live independently
- you are able to manage your own lifestyle

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/accessing-health-care/home-community-care/care-options-and-cost/assisted-living>

Presently there is no seniors' supportive housing option in Hudson's Hope. Seniors have to leave the community to be able to access this type of housing. If supportive housing were offered, our seniors could continue to “age in place” in their own community and seniors from other communities may also choose to live in the friendly, rural community of Hudson's Hope. The housing would also provide some employment for the community.

The communities of Fort St John (North Peace Senior's Housing apartments 3 & 4) and Chetwynd (Surerus Place) both have supportive housing units available. Fort Nelson is in the process of opening their “Heritage House” and recently held an open house to celebrate.

Demonstrating "Need" in the community

The Hudson's Hope Health Care & Housing society has operated the Silver Willow Court since it opened in 1984. Silver Willow Court is a ten-unit independent living apartment building located at 10104 Ellis Crescent in Hudson's Hope. Two of the units have been modified to accommodate people with mobility issues (however, these units could not be considered as "wheelchair accessible"). Each unit has a bedroom, a bathroom and a living room with kitchen area, including a full-sized fridge and stove. The building also has a common room for social events or meetings, with kitchen facilities; a coin operated laundry; individual storage compartments and a large area/meeting room with kitchen facilities and washrooms in the basement (accessed only by stairs).

There is a waiting list for people seeking accommodation at the Silver Willow Court.

There is a need to accommodate people in the community who require a level of support that the Silver Willow Court units are unable to provide.

Seniors' Supportive Housing provides safe and barrier-free housing for those individuals who need some assistance allowing them to continue to live independently in the community. These new housing units could also provide wheelchair accessible accommodation for the community.

Because Hudson's Hope is a smaller community, a thorough assessment of the need for the supportive housing and a review of the viability/long term sustainability of such a housing expansion must be undertaken.

An option in order to complete this needs assessment and viability/long term sustainability study is to submit a funding application to the "BC Hydro GO fund". (Site C Project Supporting Peace Region Community Non Profits to **Generate Opportunities** <http://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/funding-programs/capacity-building/bc-hydro-go-fund/>)

The application form requires the applicant to describe the project and how the project will strengthen what our organization can offer the community. They also ask about collaboration with other services to ensure efficiencies and to avoid duplication of services.

The next part of the application involves a budget for the proposed needs/viability assessment of the project.

To assist with the project; the needs assessment; the application process and budget preparation **Deane Strongitharm, of City Spaces.** (<http://www.cityspaces.ca/>) has been contacted and has offered to

work us. He knows the area and has worked on the development of the Supportive housing apartments for the North Peace Seniors Housing association in Fort St John.

Applications are accepted for the BC Hydro GO fund quarterly, the first intake is this November, the next is in February 2017.

Next steps

There is a need in the community for supportive housing. The next task is to see how much of a need and whether it can be a financially viable proposition for the community.

1. Strike a committee to develop the proposal further. Invite members of the town council and community to participate in the committee (the Hudson's Hope Healthcare and Housing Society does not have the manpower to "go it alone"!)
2. Discuss the proposal further with Deane Strongitharm.
(dstrongitharm@cityspaces.ca)
3. Contact BC Housing northern representative to discuss the proposal.
4. Talk to other local communities about their supportive housing developments.
5. and much, much more!