

Chairperson's Report

Hedley Improvement District's 73rd Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, July 9th, 2025
Chair's Report delivered by Wes Mufford

The Role of a Trustee:

The Hedley Improvement District was established by the province of British Columbia in September of 1952. Under the Letter's Patent the HID Trustees are responsible for delivering Drinking Water, Fire Protection, and Street Lighting services to Hedley's residents. To fulfill this responsibility, the Improvement District Manual mandates that the Trustee's collect sufficient funds for operating these services. All decisions impacting Hedley's citizens require a majority vote by the Trustees.

The Letters Patent states that there be five Trustees but can operate with a quorum of three. The people who take on these positions are all VOLUNTEERS. The Trustees do not receive a salary or an hourly wage for their services. An approved honorarium of \$100 is given to each Trustee by the property owners at each AGM.

The duties of a trustee include attending two or more meetings per month, managing tax and toll funds, overseeing HID assets, approving operating budgets, accompanying bylaws, making policy decisions, responding to emergencies, solving problems, and addressing resident complaints. Dealing with resident complaints consumes a significant portion of the Board's time. These challenges could be mitigated through research, communication with neighbours, and disregarding misinformation.

The Trustees are required to familiarize themselves with the Local Government Act, The Improvement District Manual, The Drinking Water Act, and the HID bylaws.

Current Legislation:

Current legislation provides Improvement Districts with significant autonomy to conduct their operations with deliberate oversight from the Provincial Government.

Services Provided by the HID

a) Fire Protection and Street Lighting:

The Hedley Improvement District provides fire protection and street lighting services. In the town, all streetlamps were converted to LED in 2019, resulting in reduced light pollution and lower annual expenses.

In relation to the Fire Department, we recruited new personnel, conducted training sessions, and updated our equipment. For further specifics, please consult Cory's report.

The provincial government funds all Fire Departments in the province through Property Tax collection. Grants are available for certain Homeowners and Senior Homeowners to help offset the costs.

The HID remained committed to enhancing community safety through FIRESMART practices and actively sought grants that would ensure year-round safety of the area.

b) Water System:

Overview:

We currently have two (2) wells, each with its' own pump. These pumps deliver water to our 100,000-gallon reservoir that services the people of Hedley. Furthermore, we have two (2) electrical grids that serve the substation. One from the East and the other West so our system does not rely on a generator.

The HID remains committed to planning and upgrading the existing water system within our financial constraints.

It is anticipated that there might be a minor adjustment to the parcel tax for 2026. The exact changes will be confirmed upon the completion of the water budget, which is projected to be finalized by the end of July 2025. Additional funding is earmarked for water system infrastructure maintenance and enhancements. The goal is to ensure that the town continues to meet the BC Drinking Water Standards.

2024 Planning year:

- a) We consulted several engineers regarding the pumphouse upgrades and selected one based in Penticton, BC.
- b) We engaged with electrical contractors and Technical Services BC, and chose a contractor from Princeton, BC for the final design.
- c) The plans for the pumphouse structural upgrades are underway and have been submitted to the engineer for review.
- d) I completed the leak detection course with MTS in March 2025.

2024 Committees:

We successfully formed the Revenue Enhancement Committee and are currently awaiting the necessary reports from their meetings. Unfortunately, we were unable to form the RDOS transition Committee due to insufficient member participation.

Future Endeavors:**The Pumphouse:**

Our focus remains on the pumphouse.

Leaks:

We continue to actively monitor any leaks as they occur. We have a several digs scheduled to locate leaks, identify water lines, and install a new curbstop.