

VILLAGE CONSIDERS OPTIONS AFTER LAND DEAL

Nobleford has decisions

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The Village of Nobleford annexation of 87 acres of farmland on its northern boundary was official Jan. 1, and planning for its commercial and industrial uses has started.

Kirk Hofman, Nobleford's chief administrative officer, said village council is working with the Oldman River Regional Services Commission in Lethbridge to develop a land-use plan in concert with concerned ratepayers that can fit for potential users and the village.

Hofman said that formal development plan will be explained and explored by the public at a special meeting in the village March 31.

The land purchase, directly from the landowner, was for \$2,000 an acre, about double the going farm land market value in the area.

Hofman said council is likely to follow a long-standing philosophy — it doesn't make money on land deals.

But by providing good land locations and services, Nobleford hopes to be able to attract new or expanding businesses and industry to create more jobs, increasing the village population and boosting the tax base.

"That is how Nobleford can help to keep costs down for everybody while providing high-quality living and working conditions," he said. "We think growth is important while controlling expenses."

Marguerite Wobick, mayor elected last October, said the annexation proposal had been started by the previous council because Nobleford was out of industrial land. "We had to do it."

She said a parcel of industrial and business development land is a plum for council, something which can help attract new companies to the village.

She said Nobleford will look at all offers, but will be firm — it wants environmentally-friendly industry and business.

"You will not see a nuclear power plant here," she said. "We want environmentally friendly companies to make sure Nobleford is a safe place to live and work."

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