



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held March 13th, 2019 In the Adult Learning Centre

Those in Attendance:

- Council:** Mayor Storey
Councillor LePoidevin
Councillor Watt-Senner
Councillor Fennema
Councillor Jenkinson
- Staff:** Laura McMaster, Director of Finance
LeEtta LaFontaine, Recreation Director
Vern Hilman, Director of Public Works

Agenda:

Mayor Storey called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Resolution 03-13-094 M/S Councillor Fennema/ Councillor Jenkinson
"Motion to adopt the Agenda"

Carried

Delegation:

None

Minutes from the Previous Meetings:

Resolution 03-13-095 M/S Councillor LePoidevin/ Councillor Jenkinson
"Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting February 27th, 2019"

Carried

Resolution 03-13-096 M/S Councillor LePoidevin/ Councillor Watt-Senner
"Motion to adopt the minutes of the In-Camera Meeting held February 27, 2019"

Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes:

None

Councillor Reports:

Councillor LePoidevin had nothing to report.

Councillor Fennema attended the Tri-Council meeting February 28th. She felt a deepening connection since the last meeting. Chief Patrick shared how important these meetings are. They are strengthening our understanding and building relationships that are good for all three communities.

On March 5th Councillor Fennema attended the budget meeting. She felt Council has made great progress and through in-depth discussions felt they had come to good decisions that she is willing to justify and stand by if questioned by our citizens.

On March 12th Councillor Fennema attended a luncheon with Mayor Storey and MLA John Rustad and his assistant. She found the discussion with them interesting.

Councillor Jenkinson also attended the Tri-Council meeting February 28th. He has spent time over the last several days doing liaison work with the works yard. He also worked with CAO Holland and Mayor Storey to help write resolutions.

Councillor Watt-Senner attended the Tri-Council meeting, Feb 28th. She finds these meeting to be very important and worthwhile.

On March 4th Councillor Watt-Senner attended the budget meeting.

Councillor Watt-Senner provided the following report for the recent Regional District meeting:

Kordyban Lodge is a residence in Prince George where patients and families can stay while being treated for cancer or other medical challenges. The residence is like a hotel/home cross environment. Counselling services are available on site. They have come to RD for funding. Their goal is to reduce the \$55 per night charge to \$20 a night; making a long-term stay more economical for patients and their family. Kordyban Lodge Board has decided to increase their ask for donations to further reduce the charge.

Recycle BC has changed their mandate to a newer version. Their goal is to get away from single stream waste management; which is what we have in Fraser Lake. The new model hopes to become more streamlined and to get to zero waste.

The RD is working with the Nak'azdli First Nations in Fort St James. They are proposing a recycling centre in their community. The plan is to build a recycling depot on the transfer station property to develop a full recycle depot.

Highway of Tears:

With Greyhound's cancellation of bus services to Northwestern BC, another form of transportation was sought. An action plan was developed. The BC Bus North service began in June of 2018. The service was not meant to replace Greyhound but they do want to have the same connections as the Northern Health Connections bus. Ridership has been increasing. The fare from Prince Rupert to Prince George is \$45 one way. From Smithers to Prince George is \$35. Prince Rupert to Prince George is the busiest route; with most riders getting on in Prince Rupert.

Mayor Storey met with Bernadette Jordan; Federal Minister for Rural Infrastructure. She and her team are travelling across Canada talking to different rural community leaders. Mayor Storey met with the Minister and her team at UNBC. The Minister wants to be familiar with the concerns of Rural Communities.

Mayor Storey mentioned the loss of our bank. The Minister suggested looking into what the Peace Valley Credit Union is doing in Fort St John regarding video banking; if Fraser Lake can't get full banking. Mayor Storey gave quite a list of rural challenges; including infrastructure deficits. Affordable housing and services to help people with the cost of living were also discussed.

NDIT is looking at funding for signage upgrades along the highways. NDIT is looking at methods of making it easier to apply for their grants. The Village has received only a small percentage of what was available last year. Mayor Storey noted our lack of available funding to meet our contribution requirements often inhibits our ability to apply for grants.

Mayor Storey met with MLA John Rustad over lunch. During their meeting, the Village concerns around paramedic issue was discussed. MLA Rustad would like to attend a tri-council meeting. If scheduled on a Friday, he would be able to attend.

Mayor Storey has been discussing recycling with Area Director Mark Fisher. He's of the opinion that if we could find the right investors, a processing plant could be built. Clothing recycling is now a big topic. There will be further discussion between herself and Mark Fisher about this soon.

Mayor Storey commented on being invited to accompany Chief Nooski to Toronto next week. She confirmed Councillor LePoidevin was available to be acting Mayor while she is away.

Resolution 03-13-097 M/S Councillor Watt-Senner/Councillor Fennema
"Motion to receive the Councillor Reports"

Carried

Accounts Payable:

Resolution 03-13-098 M/S Councillor Watt-Senner/ Councillor LePoidevin
"Motion to receive Accounts Payable and Payroll in the amount of \$68,895.44"

Carried

Councillor Jenkinson commented on this total being the lowest one yet. To which Director of Finance Laura McMaster replied she had to wait until the budget talks were complete before getting back to a regular schedule.

Correspondence List:

None

Business from the CAO:

Mayor Storey recognized Director of Finance Laura McMaster was stepping in for CAO Holland and congratulated her on her new job title and thanked her for all she does for the Village of Fraser Lake.

Wharf damage of a broken piling

It was discovered there is damage to a piling. This piling supports the NE corner of the wharf. It wasn't clear how the damage occurred; ice may have heaved the piling. An understanding of the integrity of the remaining pilings is important. Administration would like to consider an evaluation of the remaining pilings; especially those damaged by beaver. Public works is looking at ways of repairing it. Due to the damage, the wharf is closed to the public.

Council agreed that we should have the pilings evaluated.

A discussion followed about the pros and cons of different solutions that would best keep the public off the wharf and next steps to repair the wharf.

Resolution 03-13-099 M/S Councillor Jenkinson/ Councillor Watt-Senner

“Motion to investigate an engineering firm to evaluate the Wharf and to obtain professional advice on the appropriate correction to the broken post”

Carried

Resolution 03-13-100 M/S Councillor Watt-Senner/ Councillor Fennema

“Motion to take steps to stabilize the wharf and restrict public access as considered necessary”

Carried

Code of Conduct

UBCM Working Group has developed a model code of conduct for use by council. The UBCM Working Group has stated it is their belief that developing a code of responsible conduct is essential to good government.

Mayor Storey suggested tabling this discussion until all members of Council have had the opportunity to read through each handout. This material is intended to create discussion and

to provide examples of what other Council's have done. As our Council develops their own Code of Conduct policy, the provided material is intended to assist the process.

Resolution 03-13-101 M/S Councillor Fennema/ Councillor Watt-Senner

“Motion to table the development of the Code of Conduct until sometime in April”

Carried

Rural and Immigration Pilot:

Community Futures has requested a Letter of Support for their application to the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot Project. Community Futures has applied for \$300,000.00 to go into northern communities to gather information on skilled workers and their families. The program is a fully funded 4-year program. Although the application deadline has passed, Letters of Support can be forwarded to the funding agency by Community Futures.

Council felt they had not been provided enough information to clearly understand what they were being asked to support. They would like more clarity on this program.

Resolution 03-13-102 M/S Councillor Watt-Senner/ Councillor Fennema

“Motion to table this request for a Letter of Support for Community Futures”

Carried

NCLGA Resolutions:

Darcy Repen of Telkwa, B.C. has forwarded correspondence suggesting Council consider making an application under the Freedom of Information Act to see if motorists within the VOJ 1S0 postal code are paying appropriate ICBC insurance rate relative to the value of claims paid. ICBC classes premium rates and claims data by postal code. Darcy Repen believes northern residents are paying unreasonably inflated insurance premiums. He has proposed a resolution to NCLGA that demands a remedy to any reoccurring inequity imposed on rural British Columbian drivers who he believes are paying too much. He would like to seek reduced insurance premiums for rural drivers.

Mayor Storey asked about the cost of a Freedom of Information Request. If there are significant costs or staff capacity are an issue, she doesn't feel it should be done.

Councillor Jenkinson commented on a CBC report he'd listened too on how Smithers pays less in insurance than anyone in the Prince George region because they were in a different rural region.

Resolution 03-13-103 M/S Councillor Fennema/ Councillor Watt-Senner

“Motion to determine costs associated with a Freedom of Information submission”

Carried

Regional Emergency Support Services Agreement:

The RDBN Board has proposed a Regional Emergency Support Services Agreement between the RDBN and Village of Fraser Lake. Each Local Government is responsible for the provision of Emergency Social Services. This agreement serves as the mechanism for shared ESS resources. Through this agreement, we agree to support our ESS Team in providing services to our community and residents of Electoral Area D. The RDBN is agreeing to provide funding and support for the listed activities, while the Village agrees to support our portion of the agreement.

Councillor Fennema asked if this agreement is the same as any previous agreement. Director of Finance McMaster explained this is the first such agreement. This agreement has been constructed through several discussions between the RDBN and Village Administration. Director of Finance McMaster feels we are satisfied with the agreement.

Resolution 03-13-104 M/S Councillor Fennema/ Councillor LePoidevin
"Motion to sign the Regional Emergency Support Services Agreement"

Carried

Highway 16 Bid posting:

This is for Council's information. The Ministry of Transportation has posted a Request for Proposals to pave Highway 16 from Fort Fraser to Endako.

Invitation to Stellat'en Grand Opening of the Water Plant:

This event is scheduled for March 14th. Mayor Storey will attend.

There is also a Rio Tinto Information Session on March 14th in Vanderhoof, B.C.

Resolution 03-13-105 M/S Councillor LePoidevin/ Councillor Jenkinson
"Motion to receive the CAO Reports"

Carried

Staff Reports:

None

Reading List:

Resolution 03-13-106 M/S Councillor Watt-Senner/ Councillor Jenkinson
"Motion to receive the Reading List"

Carried

Councillor Fennema queried as to why they had received the Environmental and Climate Change Species at Risk.

Mayor Storey explained that this is a big deal at this time and could have a significant impact on our area. She shared this information so that Council can stay current on what's happening throughout our province regarding "Species at Risk".

New Business:

Councillor Watt-Senner asked about allocations of budget.

Council is interested in more clarity on how each Councillor's budget is allocated. Individuals are expected to ensure they remain within travel and meeting allowance allocations. As there are many opportunities for public attendance or training, it will be important for Council to carefully consider who and how many members of Council will attend.

Councillor Jenkinson commented on the water levels in Fraser Lake. He noted, we are seeing lower water levels; likely due to climate change. This is resulting in warmer water temperatures and more alga. Tourism could be affected. He is interested in sharing these concerns with Rio Tinto, Nadleh and Stellat'en.

Mayor Storey commented that these issues have been discussed. Unfortunately, there has been no clear remedy implemented.

Councillor Watt-Senner noted the sawmill draws a significant volume of water from the lake daily. She would like to know more about what they use and who regulates them.

Councillor Jenkinson commented the Federal Government regulates them.

Mayor Storey had a conversation with Mill Manager Ian Grady on the subject of grey water discharge. He shared how regulated this activity is. Mayor Storey and Mr. Grady have agreed to meet more often to discuss local issues and concerns.

Discussion on these issues continued. Council would like to invite a delegation from Rio Tinto to get more information around this concern.

Cancellation of the Regular Meeting of Council scheduled May 8th, 2019. This meeting date conflicts with the dates of the North Central Local Government Association conference in Williams Lake, B.C.

There is also concern about the scheduled meeting on May 22nd which conflicts with Minerals North in Chetwynd, B.C. Two members of Council are scheduled to attend that event.

Director of Finance Laura McMaster noted the requirement to finalize the budget before May 15, 2019. Mayor Storey suggested calling a Special Meeting prior to that date to ensure we meet our statutory timeline.

Resolution 03-13-107 M/S Councillor Watt-Senner/ Councillor Fennema
"Motion to receive New Business"

Carried

Next Meeting of Council

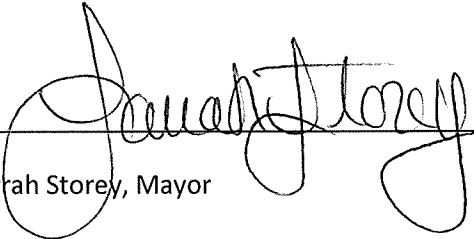
Next Council Meeting on March 27th, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Adult Learning Centre.

Adjournment:

Resolution 03-13-108 M/S Councillor LePoidevin
"Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm"

Carried

Certified Correct:



Sarah Storey, Mayor



Rodney J. Holland, Chief Administrative Officer