

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held in the Municipal Chambers on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

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Mayor S. Storey presided. Councillors present were C. LePoidevin, A. Fennema and J. Jenkinson. Staff present were R.J. Holland, Chief Administrative Officer, L. McMaster, Director of Finance, V. Hilman, Director of Public Works and D. Christie, Economic Development Officer.

**Meeting Called to Order  
At 5:30 pm.**

**Agenda:**

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt the agenda and declare new business.

Resolution 06-24-229

Carried

**Delegations & Guests:**

None

**Minutes:**

**Regular Council Minutes,  
June 10, 2020**

MOVED/SECONDED that the Regular Council Minutes of June 10, 2020 be adopted as read on this day and that such Minutes as read set out all the business before Council that day and fully and properly record all of the resolutions and bylaws passed and adopted by Council at that meeting.

Resolution 06-24-230

Carried

**In-Camera Minutes,  
June 10, 2020**

MOVED/SECONDED that the In-Camera Minutes of June 10, 2020 be adopted as presented.

Resolution 06-24-231

Carried

**Business arising from the Minutes:**

None

**Reports on Council Activities:**

**Councillor LePoidevin**

Nothing to report.

**Councillor Jenkinson**

Councillor Jenkinson apologized for missing the last Council Meeting. His absence was due to work.

**Councillor Fennema**

Councillor Fennema has been approached by several residents about the lack of summer programming. Compliance with Provincial Health Orders related to COVID 19 have influenced Village programming and decisions.

Councillor Fennema noted the Autumn Services AGM is scheduled for July 16, 2020 at 5:00 pm.

Councillor Fennema noted workshops on how to apply for Gaming Grants will be provided in Fraser Lake. These grants are available to not-for-profit groups such as minor hockey or the Legion. These workshops will be held either July 15<sup>th</sup> or July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Councillor Fennema attended a meeting of the Historical Society. Their meetings will now be scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. The Historical Society has decided they need to pare back some of their activities. Aside from maintaining several cemeteries in the Regional District, they will focus their attention on the museum and Visitor's Centre. Councillor Fennema noted Richard Cannon donated his life insurance from the Sawmill to the Historical Society. This has assisted the society with their financial position.

Councillor Fennema commented on how nice the Grad Parade was.

**Mayor Storey**

Mayor Storey reports having been very busy. She met with Northern Health. At least 3077 COVID 19 tests have been conducted in Northern Health's jurisdiction. Currently, there no cases in hospital.

Turn around time for COVID 19 testing is normally 36 to 40 hours. At times it can be longer.

Mayor Storey participated in the conference call with Minister Robinson. The Province is interested in our ideas on how to

improve the Province's economic recovery. Mayor Storey asked that ideas be sent to her and she will pass them along.

Mayor Storey met with Sgt Jason Ruming of the Fraser Lake RCMP. He was discussing their new strategic direction for the detachment. Sgt. Ruming will attend a Council Meeting in October of each year to update Council and to determine community priorities. The following June or July will be reserved to provide an update on RCMP activities around community priorities.

Mayor Storey advises she has been elected as the next President of the NCLGA. She will occupy the role of NCLGA president next week. She has plans for change in the coming year.

At the NDIT Regional Advisory Committee, the Village of Fraser Lake was successful in two grant applications: \$15,000.00 for the Ice Plant Control Panel Upgrade project and \$13,000.00 for the Curling Rink and Complex Lighting Upgrade project. After a position was vacated by the past Mayor of Fort St. James, Mayor Storey nominate Area Director Mark Parker to the NDIT RAC. Area Director Parker has been elected to the Board. Mayor Storey feels this will be a positive development for our area.

Mayor Storey noted the Blackwater Project was recently Purchased by Artemis Gold. Mayor Storey attended a meeting to learn more about the impacts of this purchase. It looks like existing staff will retain their employment. Mayor Storey feels this development is positive and she is optimistic about the future of the Blackwater project.

Mayor Storey referred to the RDBN Parks & Recreation Study. She has asked members of Council to review the study. If Council would like, staff from the RDBN have offered to provide a presentation. Other issues discussed at the RDBN Board meeting include ESS Modernization and Connectivity in the area.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive Councillor Reports.

Resolution 06-24-232

Carried

**Accounts payable:**

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt Accounts Payable and Payroll in the amount of \$108,295.51.

Resolution 06-24-233

Carried

**Correspondence List:**

None.

**Business from the CAO:**

CAO Holland presented the 2019 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI). This report was prepared by Laura McMaster, Director of Finance. The report highlights our Audited Consolidated Financial Statements, the remuneration and expenses of members of Council, remuneration of Village employees who earn more than \$75,000.00 annually and it identifies suppliers or contractors with whom the Village spent more than \$25,000.00 in the past year.

CAO Holland directed further discussion or questions for the Director of Finance, Laura McMaster.

Councillor Fennema complimented Laura McMaster in the quality of the report.

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt the Village of Fraser Lake 2019 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) Report.

Resolution 06-24-234

Carried

Fraser Lake Villa Trailer Park:

The results of the soil sampling at the Fraser Lake Villa Trailer Park were good. There were no environmental or health concerns identified.

The installation of water, sewer and storm sewer went out for bid. Bids came in over the projected budget.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Storey feels this is an important initiative that will add new residents to our community. Those new residents will bring economic activity to our community. In general, the project will improve the appearance of this site.

Councillor Jenkinson is concerned that the Mine Apartments will come on the market and people will choose to reside in those units versus residing in a Modular Home Park. He added, with our many infrastructure concerns, is this the most responsible use of this money?

Economic Development Officer Dave Christie reported having spoken with Joan Goldhawk of MSJV. They expect a contingent of contractors and workers who will not reside in their camp.

These folks prefer to reside in their own trailer. Over the first three years of this project, these pipeline contractors and employees will be our long-term tenants.

EDO Christie added, in addition to rental income, there is an expected economic impact from these new residents. Based on industry standard projections, the 15 new households should contribute an additional \$80,000.00 to the local economy over the next three-year period.

An additional \$130,000.00 is required to complete this project. This involves \$100,000.00 to meet the bids received through the tender process plus \$30,000.00 for contingency.

Mayor Storey recognizes there is some risk with this investment but believes there is good potential for recovery of these cost and opportunities for growth in our community. Thinking long term, she likes the potential for improved local economic support of our businesses.

Councillor LePoidevin asked about the existing trailer and associated buildings. Can they be brought back into conformity with the new lot plan?

EDO Christie advised the Village entered into an agreement with the residents of that trailer in 2007. That agreement allowed them to expand their footprint to consume three lots. This leaves 15 lots for development and rental.

Councillor Fennema confirmed that once these tenants leave, their property will be restored to three separate lots.

EDO Christie confirmed that was the plan.

A discussion followed.

Councillor Jenkinson re-stated his concern about this expenditure. He is concerned about the return on this investment. He also wonders whether this money should be spent fixing water and sewer lines.

Mayor Storey agrees. She has been discussing similar concerns with Administration. She added, at the past Board Meeting of the RDBN, the Chairman made a statement about the Province wanting to see municipalities spending the Northern Capital and Planning Grant funding. Looking to the future, the Mayor would like to see the Village using the Northern Capital and Planning reserves to leverage other infrastructure grant funding to begin replacing buried infrastructure. Mayor Storey believes there will be more revenue sharing from the Province in the future. In the

meantime, the Fraser Lake Villa Trailer Park upgrade project meets community needs. We do not have this sort of infrastructure in our community.

MOVED/SECONDED to increase the budget for the Fraser Lake Trailer Park development to \$330,000.00 and to expend those funds from the Northern Capital and Planning Grant reserve.

Resolution 06-24-235

Carried  
Councillor Jenkinson Opposed

Capital Project review:

At the halfway point of the fiscal year, CAO Holland provided an update on our Capital projects and expenditures. Eighteen capital items have been completed. Current projects underway are the 4<sup>th</sup> Lagoon project, the Fraser Lake Villa Trailer Park development and the Fraser Lake Innovation Centre acquisition and renovation.

The Community Forest returns to operations following spring break up in the next couple of weeks. Community Forest operations are dependant on weather, fire season, log market and pulp prices. CAO Holland is anticipating another busy season in the Community Forest.

Vandalism and Video Cameras:

With the recent bout of vandalism to Village infrastructure, Council asked about the installation of Video Equipment around our various facilities.

Administration advised three camera and recording systems have been ordered. They will be installed once received. The proposed locations for the first three systems are White Swan Park, the Arena, and the Public Works yard. These sites were chosen to address vandalism and thefts. Assuming these systems work well, additional systems will be added.

Councillor Jenkinson asked about the need for a policy or bylaw relating to the use of these cameras.

Administration agreed, a policy will be required. Immediately, signage will be erected to notify the public the area is subject to video surveillance.

Welcome to Fraser Lake signs:

Council asked for an update on the "Welcome to Fraser Lake" signs.

Our Public Works staff took down and refurbished the sign at the east end of the community. It is back in place. With the first sign refurbished, the sign at the west end of the community is being refurbished. They have done a great job refurbishing and preserving the signs. They should last awhile. This will provide the Village time to decide what the updated signs should look like.

Council thanked the Public Works employees for doing a great job on these signs and their many summer maintenance projects around the community.

**Enabling Accessibility Grant:**

Administration updated Council on initiatives to improve accessibility to Village facilities. We were not successful in one of our funding applications. As a result, the installation of the "electric door assists" at the Village Office, Arena and Curling rink have been postponed with the hope of finding new funding to make these projects more affordable.

EDO Christie added, the Enabling Accessibility Grant provides 100% funding for accessibility upgrades. It will support the installation of the electric door assists. It will also support improvements for building and washroom accessibility. Potential projects such as larger washroom stalls and grab bars for wheelchair accessibility, ramps, etc. are all eligible for this funding. The grant allows for up to \$100,000.00. The plan is to review all Village Facilities, including the Fraser Lake Innovation Centre for accessibility upgrades. These will include ramps, door assists, washroom stall upgrades and grab bars.

Mayor Storey would like to see a ramp and platform at the arena to allow people in wheelchairs to watch activities on the arena ice.

Councillor Jenkinson suggested a ramp to the concession as well.

MOVED/SECONDED to apply to the Enabling Accessibility Fund for up to \$100,000.00 to complete accessibility upgrades to public washrooms and facilities with washroom stalls, grab bars and door assists.

Resolution 06-24-236

Carried

Fraser Lake Innovation Centre Renovation:

Administration provided Council with an update on the purchase of 298 McMillan Avenue, Fraser Lake, B.C. The process is proceeding but at a slower pace than anticipated. The School District has received permission from the Ministry to dispose of the property. The issue relating to the overhang on the east side of the building has been resolved through the purchase of a strip of land. That property purchase has yet to be registered with Land Titles Office. As this is a condition of purchase, our acquisition has not been completed.

The issue at hand is the renovation to this building. The funding is in place. The project was tendered. The successful contractor is available. The project has been scheduled into the contractor's schedule. Any delay in start date of the renovation while waiting for property registration may derail the renovation. A letter has been received from the School District acknowledging the sale of the property to the Village and providing permission to proceed with the renovation. As there is a small amount of risk involved, Council's direction is being sought.

MOVED/SECONDED to proceed with the renovation of the Fraser Lake Innovation Centre.

Resolution 06-24-237

Carried

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the business from the CAO.

Resolution 06-24-238

Carried

**Staff Reports:**

None.

**Reading List:**

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the Reading List.

Resolution 06-24-239

Carried

**New Business:**

**Councillor Jenkinson** – Councillor Jenkinson noted the machine caused damage to the seal coated pathway from the boat launch to the RV Park at White Swan Park. He asked the Director of



Public Works, Vern Hilman, if there was a means of reducing this damage.

The Director of Public Works advised this was the result of machine work while excavating for the lighting project. In the future, Vern felt plywood could be used to reduce damage of crossings and machine work.

**Mayor Storey** – Mayor Storey commented she has been receiving questions about Canada Day celebrations. She would like the Village to re-post the cancellation of Canada Day activities. Even though this was in our last Newsletter, an update would be appreciated.

Mayor Storey also thanked staff for the social media post about the vandalism. She has received comments from the community. Most were not aware of the problem and she expects they will be more vigilant going forward.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive New Business.

Resolution 06-24-240

Carried

**Bylaws:**

None

**Next Regular Meeting of Council:**

July 8, 2020 at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers

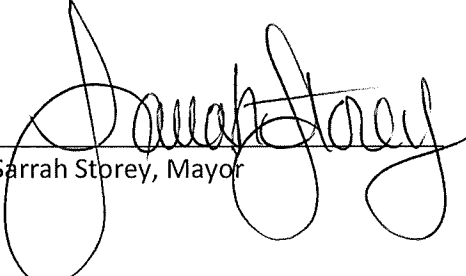
**Adjournment:**

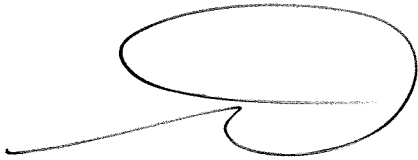
MOVED/SECONDED that the June 24, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Resolution 06-24-241

Carried

Certified Correct:

  
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Sarah Storey, Mayor

  
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Rodney J Holland, Chief Administrative Officer