



**Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held in the Municipal Chambers  
on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at 5:30 pm**

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Mayor S. Storey presided. Councillors present were A. Fennema and K. Watt-Senner. Councillor Jenkinson joined by video conference. Staff present were Chief Administrative Officer R. Holland, Economic Development Officer D. Christie, and Recording Secretary T. Austin.

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

**Agenda:**

Mayor Storey called for a motion to adopt the agenda and the declaration of new business.

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt the agenda.

Resolution 07-14-275

Carried

**Delegations & Guests:**

None

**Regular Council Minutes,  
June 23, 2021**

MOVED/SECONDED that the Regular Council Minutes of June 23, 2021, be adopted as amended on this day and that such Minutes as read set out all the business before Council that day and fully and properly record all the resolutions and bylaws passed and adopted by Council at that meeting.

Resolution 07-14-276

Carried

**Business arising from  
the Minutes:**

None

**Reports on Council  
Activities:**

**Councillor Watt-Senner**

None

**Councillor Fennema**

None

**Councillor Jenkinson**

Reported that he participated in an interview with CN Rail. He had the opportunity to discuss the concerns brought forward by Mayor and Council. Councillor Jenkinson noted that a follow-up discussion is planned in a month or two.

**Mayor Storey**

Reported that she attended the Canada Day events. She thanked EDO Christie and all the Village staff who made this day a success. She thought it went well for the first event since the covid restrictions were lifted and she appreciated that the event was planned in such a short amount of time.

Mayor Storey attended the ball tournament that was held July 2 – 4<sup>th</sup>. It went well.

Mayor Storey reported that she met with Kiel Giddens and Tom Syer of Stakeholder Relations at the Little Rock Lake Lodge for a tour. She noted that Wildfire BC firefighters are staying there as well. Full capacity later this year, but it will most likely be at max capacity within ten days. She noted that there is rapid testing on site and one of the gyms is now open. She noted that they are looking for support workers, like custodial, if anyone is looking for work.

Mayor Storey noted that she and CAO Holland met with James Simpson and Greg Marr to discuss Northern Health and paramedic issues. It was a good conversation. She noted that they also discussed Silver Birch, assisted living and the possibility of Northern Health providing a letter of support for new senior housing in Fraser Lake.

Mayor Storey noted that on June 23<sup>rd</sup> there was a Northern Connectivity Roundtable. She said that there was no new information but noted that staff were advocating for speed tests again. She reported that community members are expressing their frustration on the slow speeds, especially in the rural areas.

Mayor Storey reported that there was a Lakes District Coalition meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup>. She added CAO Holland attended one yesterday.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive Councillor Reports.

Resolution 07-14-277

Carried

**Accounts payable:**

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt Accounts Payable and payroll in the amount of \$463,313.17.

Resolution 07-14-278

Carried

**Business from the CAO:**

Village of Fraser Lake Annual Report

CAO Holland reported that a digital and paper copy of the Annual Report was provided to Mayor and Council. He listed all the components included in the report.

Mayor Storey requested that, if possible, the financial reports be moved to the end of the report and the projects and strategic priorities be moved closer to the beginning, as that information is more interesting to the public. Mayor Storey asked if the Cheslatta First Nation should be listed in the recognizing of the traditional territories section.

CAO Holland noted that the Cheslatta First Nation identifies the Village of Fraser Lake in their traditional territory.

CAO Holland noted that the information was collected from BC Stats and Statistics Canada, and that the report should match the information provided.

Mayor Storey also requested a few other minor edits.

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt the Village of Fraser Lake 2020 Annual Report as amended.

Resolution 07-14-279

Carried

#### Community Wildfire Protection Plan

CAO Holland reported that the Community Wildfire Protection Plan has been completed. The plan was completed through a contract by registered professional foresters and reviewed by the Ministry of Forests. The report identifies fuel load risks around the Village. CAO Holland noted that once the report is adopted, it allows the Village to apply for funding for fuel load remediation in the future.

Councillor Jenkinson asked if funding is received and the Village will be addressing the fuel load, can the work plan be passed by council prior to the work being done. He noted that wildlife habitat, slope stability and noise/privacy for nearby residents may be a concern.

CAO Holland confirmed that the plan would only be to remove the combustible materials on the ground like dead trees and grass. He noted that the work would leave behind a healthy forest.

EDO Christie commented about having walked along the greenbelt off Tunasa Crescent with one of the foresters. Dead trees with no combustible fuel around them, will be considered a wildlife tree and will not be removed because they are low risk.

Councillor Jenkinson asked why the report mentions possible landslides with the removal of the trees and concerns of noise to make fire breaks if that is not the intention.

CAO Holland replied the report may have commented on slope stability and considered various approaches to creating fire breaks, the report contains recommendations only. Clearcutting a firebreak is not a

consideration to deal with standing fuels such as dry grass and dead trees.

CAO Holland noted the province provided funding of \$25,000 to complete this professional assessment of our community and its susceptibilities. The Ministry of Forests has reviewed this report and confirmed the information.

Councillor Jenkinson commented on an area down Park Drive that was cleaned up for a firebreak that did not include consultation with the nearby residents. Councillor Jenkinson suggested that prior to doing any of the fire mitigation work, that council and residents be consulted. He understands the village may have to do what is the safest for the community, however, public consultation would be appreciated.

CAO Holland confirmed that if work is being considered, he can bring it to Council.

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt the Community Wildlife Protection Plan.

Resolution 07-14-280

Carried

#### Leak Detection Initiative

The village conducted a competitive bid process. Three bids were received. The winning bid was only able to do the work right away as the rest of their summer was already booked. CAO Holland reported that \$15,000 was already budgeted for this project but the winning bid came in at \$24,000. Prior to the work commencing, he confirmed with the mayor. He noted that the contractor's speciality is maintaining hydrants. He noted that in most water systems, hydrants are the number one cause for leaks. They have confirmed that is the case in the Village's system as well.

CAO Holland reported that another \$5600 has been spent to service all Village hydrants. Two hydrants were discovered to not be operational. Many of the other 55 hydrants are in rough shape. All of them leak. CAO Holland noted that this extra work provided a plan for future projects. Overall, the work conducted for the Leak Detection survey and the hydrant service, approximately \$30,000 has been expended. These expenditures are eligible expenditures under the Community Works Fund. The balance of this fund is over \$485,000.

CAO Holland noted this work was done in advance of the Council meeting due to the availability of the contractor. This was an important initiative that will assist in our Asset Management Planning for future works. The Leak Detection survey identifies where we have leaks and what needs to be addressed. The contractor has also supplied a prioritization for the replacement of our fire hydrants. It is administration's hope this information will assist in our annual capital planning.

Mayor Storey inquired if there anyway of repairing them.

CAO Holland noted most of our hydrants are of a 1965 to 1970 vintage. According to the contractor, parts are becoming hard to find. The contractor has identified eight hydrants that should be considered for replacement. This will be discussed during the 2022 budget talks. Once the final report is received, it will be shared with Council. CAO Holland noted the contractor also located several leaks. Once the report is received, public works will review the report and determine whether any of these leaks require immediate attention.

MOVED/SECONDED to accept the bid from Cutting Edge Project in the amount of \$24,200 to complete a leak detection survey. The \$14,200.00 that is not covered by grant will be expended from the Village of Fraser Lake's Community Works Fund.

Resolution 07-14-281

Carried

Mayor Storey inquired if any of the hydrants need replacing immediately.

CAO Holland recommends that Council wait for the final report and make decisions based on the contractor's recommendations.

Mayor Storey noted that the hydrant replacements could go through the Northern Capital and Planning Grant. She also noted that the two that are not working should be looked at immediately as they pose a safety risk.

Councillor Jenkinson inquired why all the hydrants were painted red.

CAO Holland explained the new coat of paint was part of the service. It helps preserve and seal the hydrants.

Councillor Jenkinson noted that is fine if red is the village's adopted colour.

MOVED/SECONDED to authorize the servicing of the fire hydrants and to expend the related costs of the service and any rebuilds from the Northern Capital and Planning Reserve.

Resolution 07-14-282

Carried

Wastewater / Drinking Water Agreement with Summit Camps –  
Extension to December 31, 2021

MOVED/SECONDED to extend the Sewer Access Agreement and Potable Water sales with Summit Camp Services until December 31, 2021.

Resolution 07-14-283

Carried

Request from Minor Hockey

A request has been received from minor hockey to put the ice into the arena two weeks early to allow the season to begin September 13, 2021. CAO Holland noted that it is possible, however, it will take two public works staff out of circulation on summer capital projects.

Mayor Storey inquired of EDO Christie how this would affect minor hockey.

EDO Christie responded that he explained to Minor Hockey that it must make sense for the village to put the ice in early. He also told Minor Hockey there will be an added expense to starting the ice early. He noted that it takes two weeks to put the ice in.

Mayor asked if the public work crew will consider putting the ice in two weeks early if all goes well.

CAO Holland confirmed they would try to accommodate the request.

Councillor Jenkinson noted that these types of requests should come in prior to budget talks so that CAO Holland and Director of Public Works Hilman have time to create a work plan. He noted that the cemetery project has already been promised to the community and should be completed first. Councillor Jenkinson noted that if all the capital projects go well and the public works crew is free at that time, he is fine with the ice going in early.

MOVED/SECONDED that a reply be given to Minor Hockey that, if possible, the Village will put in the ice two weeks early but early ice is dependent on the availability of the public works crew in early September.

Resolution 07-14-284

Carried

EDO Christie requested that as soon as the village crew knows they have time, they communicate with Minor Hockey to assist them in their planning.

Mayor Storey noted that she is happy to get the kids on the ice if it is feasible but if the works crew is unable, that is the way it is. She noted

that it may be possible to keep the ice in two weeks later. But Minor Hockey would need to put in that request well in advance to help the public works crew in their planning schedule.

Councillor Jenkinson inquired if there would be any losses to Minor Hockey if they were not able to have the ice two weeks early.

EDO Christie reported that in conversations with Minor Hockey they were thinking of hosting a camp to help subsidize the extra cost, but most likely there would not be any negative impacts if the ice went in at normal time on October 1<sup>st</sup>. He noted that it would be nice as hockey was shut down early last year due to covid.

#### Community Forest – Remote Log Yard Development

CAO Holland reported that Pinnacle is not accepting fiber due to renovations in their Burns Lake yard. Pinnacle has also experienced mechanical failures at other sites such as their export terminal in Prince Rupert, B.C. It may be some time before they will accept our biomass materials.

Administration and our contract foresters have been in discussion with Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) about creating a remote log yard to store fibre until it can be taken to Pinnacle. Pinnacle is interested in receiving our fiber once their renovations are complete, which could be some time in 2022. CAO Holland commented this is not a request to create the yard on airport lands, but it is an inquiry with Council to determine whether they would even consider it as an option.

Mayor Storey inquired about the cost to build the remote log yard. She also asked about other options being considered.

CAO Holland noted the Village and West Fraser are in discussion about the fibre. The preference is to transport the fibre from the bush to the mill, rather than adding several steps to the process. If an agreement can be made, the log yard may not be needed.

CAO Holland stated the purpose of this discussion is to determine if the development of a remote log yard is possible. Before advancing discussions with the funding agency, FESBC, administration would like to confirm Council's willingness to consider such an endeavour. Developing and operating a remote yard would cost approximately \$400,000. The plan is to seek funding through FESBC. The log yard would be constructed to west of the 100 FSR Road on Village of Fraser Lake Airport land between the 105 and 106 km.

MOVED/SECONDED to work with Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) to secure funding to develop a remote log yard on the Village of Fraser Lake Airport land in the vicinity of the 105 km and 106 km.

Resolution 07-14-285

Carried

Community Works Fund – Pending Change to the Funding Program

The Community Works Fund is scheduled to expire March 2024. CAO Holland noted these are gas tax funds received from the Province. If these funds are unexpended at the end of March 2024, the funds will need to be returned. CAO Holland noted that nothing needs to be decided today, but it will be something that Council will need to be aware of. He noted that broadband connectivity and new sidewalks are both eligible expenditures under this conditional funding.

Mayor Storey noted that it should be included in the upcoming budget talks. She suggested to add discussion on connectivity to the August meeting.

Complaints

CAO Holland reviewed the complaints received.

Endako Mud Bogs

A grant in aid application has been received from the Endako Mud Bogs organizing committee. The request is for \$900.00 to pay for portable toilets.

CAO Holland noted a conversation with Electoral Area D Director Mark Parker. He has not received a request for funding, however, at the end of the conversation, Mr. Parker indicated he would donate \$200 toward the event.

Mayor Storey indicated she would be fine also donating \$200 as the event is usually self-sustaining.

EDO Christie stated he put the organizer in contact with some local businesses. A local business has committed to supplying the portable outhouses.

Mayor Storey noted if that cost is covered, there is no need for the donation. She noted that if they need a donation for something else, they can re-apply.

CAO Holland noted he will write a letter to the organizers.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the Business from the CAO.

Resolution 07-14-286

Carried

Correspondence List:

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the Correspondence List.

Resolution 07-14-287



Carried

**Staff Reports:**

None

**Reading List:**

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the Reading List.

Resolution 07-14-288

Carried

**New Business:**

Insurance Update

Councillor Watt-Senner requested an update on the insurance claim for the sewer back up.

Mayor Storey noted the homeowner has heard from the insurance companies, however, they are still working on it.

Councillor Watt-Senner inquired if it was going amicably.

Mayor Storey hasn't heard otherwise, noting that it is just taking time.

CAO Holland confirmed that the insurance companies are talking, and it is in the works.

Village Office Lawn Watering

Councillor Watt-Senner inquired if the lawn could be watered at the Village Office.

CAO Holland and EDO Christie noted that they would schedule sprinkling in line with the sprinkling bylaws.

Request to not Trim Tall Grass – Fire Hazard

Councillor Jenkinson inquired if the Village considers not trimming the tall grass by Park Drive during high fire hazard times. He noted that YRB has put out a notice that they would not trim the roadways as the dried grass creates a fire hazard. He would like the Fire Chief to assess the conditions prior to mowing of tall grass.

Planters, Firepits & Picnic Table Update

Councillor Jenkinson requested an update on the new planters, firepits and picnic tables.

CAO Holland reported that they have been ordered. He noted that the forms for the concrete pads have been placed. Public Works will be pouring concrete in the next couple of days.

EDO Christie noted that the firepit is here, it just needs to be brought over once the public works department has time.

Signage Update

Councillor Fennema inquired if the signage would be here before the end of July.

EDO Christie noted that it will not be here before the end of July.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive New Business.

Resolution 07-14-289

Carried

**Bylaws:**

None

**Next Regular Meeting of Council:**

August 25, 2021, at 5:30 pm

**Adjournment:**

MOVED/SECONDED that the July 14, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council be now adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Resolution 07-14-290

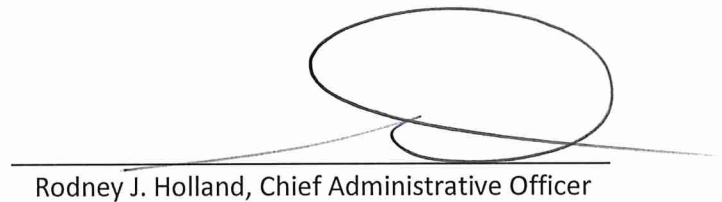
Carried

Certified Correct:



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Sarah Storey, Mayor



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Rodney J. Holland, Chief Administrative Officer