



**Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held in the Municipal Chambers on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 5:30 pm**

---

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

**Agenda:**

Mayor S. Storey presided. Councillors present were C. LePoidevin, A. Fennema and J. Jenkinson.  
Staff present were Chief Administrative Officer R. Holland, Dave Johnson, Jason Regnier, and Recording Secretary Tracy Austin

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

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt the agenda.

Resolution 05-12-211

Carried

**Regular Council Minutes,  
April 28, 2021**

MOVED/SECONDED that the Regular Council Minutes of April 28, 2021 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 the resolutions and bylaws passed and adopted by Council at that meeting.

Resolution 05-12-212

Carried

**Business arising from  
the Minutes:**

Councillor Fennema reported that as part of volunteering as the Emergency Social Services Director, she will need to take some courses through the Justice Institute, she will confirm with Laura.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the business arising from the minutes.

Resolution 05-12-213

Carried

**Reports on Council  
Activities:**

**Councillor LePoidevin**  
None

**Councillor Jenkinson**  
Reported that the Terms of Reference were finalized today for the Artemis Gold Blackwater Project.

**Councillor Fennema**  
Reported that she attended the Autumn Services meeting on April 29, 2021. The Board is working on some tasks, but there is no specific information to report at this time.

**Mayor Storey**

Reported that she attended a Coastal Gas Link (CGL) meeting this week. CGL is working on environmental and erosion assessments near Fraser Lake. They are still planning on holding the virtual open house where they will be showing how they move the pipes using a chair lift and other interesting activities. The pipeline reported that there have been two reported cases of Covid-19; however, that due to their safety protocols, they are not seeing transmissions within their operations.

*Dave Johnson and Jason Regnier joined the meeting at this time.*

Mayor Storey also attended a Circle of Hearts meeting this week. She noted that the Circle of Hearts society encourages women to pursue for leadership roles for various councils and boards in the area.

Mayor Storey reported that she had a very positive experience as the MC for the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) Conference this week. She noted that her term as president is now complete and she will move to a past-president role for the next year.

Councillor Jenkinson thanked Mayor Storey for being president for NCLGA and representing Fraser Lake so well this past year.

Mayor Storey noted that she had a phone meeting with Minister Osborne regarding the connectivity issues. She reported that the province is now scheduling their own speed tests in the Fraser Lake area, even though they were already done locally. She noted that she is continually advocating for increased connectivity and speed. She noted that she did receive an update on their application prior to the meeting from Mayor Lee Brain. There is a local ISP company that will be installing coaxial lines, which is not a permanent fix, but may help in the interim.

Councillor Jenkinson inquired where the lines were being installed.

Mayor Storey reported that she was not given the exact location but told that the lines were being run through town.

CAO Holland reported that he did see 4 vans in town installing the coaxial lines. CAO Holland noted that a concern he had was that standards set in 2017 are still being used in the area while newer standards are available elsewhere. Mayor Storey did let Minister Osborne know of the frustration over all the delays.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive Councillor Reports.

Resolution 05-12-214

Carried

**Accounts payable:**

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt Accounts Payable and payroll in the amount of \$433,830.63.

Resolution 05-12-215

Carried

**Correspondence List:**

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the correspondence list.

Resolution 05-12-216

Carried

**Business from the CAO:**

Fraser Lake Community Forest Update

Dave Johnson and Jason Regnier gave an update on the Fraser Lake Community Forest. The majority of the wood being harvested is damaged wood or problem stands. About 50% of each cut block is damaged wood, with most of the volume on the ground. These timber types show as non-contributing. The more that are harvested, the more it brings up the cut.

Jason stated because of good stumpage rates, they were able to log blocks that normally would be left. This harvesting is a form of rehabilitation. We are on target to make the uplift for the first five years. We will log about 2500 hectares which is about 11% of the Community Forest. Jason noted that they have been using some innovative logging systems which allows logging of smaller diameter logs without as much damage as would happen with conventional harvesting methods. This increases the salvageability. While this process is more expensive, it allows more cubic meters to be logged, generating more revenue per hectare. Once these areas of blown down are logged and replanted, they will become productive forests again. In the current log market, as long as the logs are elevated off the ground, even if they have been down for 15 years, they have a good chance of becoming a saw log vs. a pulp log. Jason reported that the market is quite high right now.

Dave commented that the rationale for cutting the uplift is to get all the rehab done before the logs lose their economic value. This maximizes the revenue to the Village. Dave added that an overall reduction in harvesting across the north will result in reduction in workforce availability in the future. At some point contractors will have to move from salvage harvesting to a thinning aspect. In the future, forestry operations may have to move to a more European model of smaller equipment and select logging. Road maintenance costs are also a consideration.

Once certain areas have been harvested, the plan is to deactivate the roads, let the wildlife move back in and let the forest grow naturally.

Dave noted that harvesting will not be at this elevated level forever and at some point, will have to transition to a different method.

Mayor Storey requested any information that would assist her and Council to better advocate for more jobs at the provincial level to keep local contractors employed in the area.

CAO Holland noted that the Community Forest has until December 31 of this year to reach the uplift target of 430,000 cubic meters. There may be an opportunity to discuss an extension in September. He noted that decision making for initiatives such as expanding the Community Forest land base requires more time as consultation with many groups is now required. A letter has been sent to the Minister of Forests to request more land base. There may also be commercial thinning opportunities and the possibility of harvesting of ungulate winter range nearby that is being developed. There are ongoing efforts to expand the Community Forest area to maintain local jobs.

Dave showed a picture of a finished cut block that shows very good retention, and they are proud of what was accomplished by the contractor.

Dave gave a detailed report of the local employment, from harvesting to truck drivers to skidding and falling to road building and road maintenance. Dave reviewed in detail the Forest Development Team from RFPs to Biologists to mapping to bookkeeping. Dave noted that some people are full time, while others are part time. Collectively they move through the process from the planning stage to the approved cutting permit.

Jason noted that during this elevated harvesting, this larger team is necessary to complete the work.

Dave reviewed the first five year cut for annual allowable cut, cubic meters logged, waste and the cut control balance by year.

Jason noted that they have already logged 80,000 m<sup>3</sup> of the 215,000 m<sup>3</sup> for this year.

Dave explained about grade 4 credits and noted that the Community Forest should receive its credits soon and so will be able to log that amount again. Dave noted that the 5-year cut will begin again in 2022. Dave noted that once we reset the damaged forest types, the future looks bright. Dave reviewed the short term, mid term and long term proposed annual cuts. Dave noted that about 40% of the trees are under 50 years old, so commercial thinning will be a good program as more and more stands will require thinning each year.

CAO Holland noted that we might have to change thinking to smaller equipment and selective logging practices in the future.

Dave reported that Jason organized the planting of 580,000 trees already this spring.

Dave explained carbon credits and noted that there were 40,000 additional trees planted that may fall under the funding the announcement from Prime Minister Trudeau to plant 2 billion trees.

Jason gave an update on soft carbon credits. He noted that at the airport property, 4 different species of trees were planted, as a carbon capture initiative. Jason reported on next years planting schedule. Jason noted that all the areas that were logged last year have been planted.

Dave noted that cleaning up the stands helps to reduce wildfire risk.

Mayor Storey thanked Dave and Jason for all their work.

Dave and Jason shared the idea of presenting appreciation awards for contractors.

Mayor and Council would be interested in being part of the appreciation.

Councillor Jenkinson asked about the fence posts.

Dave and Jason noted that finding a labour force has been a challenge, but they are moving forward. They noted that it could be a good business, but they have been focused on the logging. Jason noted that these fence posts will be treated at the Decker Lake Mill and then sold here in Fraser Lake. He noted most other fence post companies ship out of province for pressure treating, while they are hoping to keep ours local. He further noted that the process at Decker is a better pressure treating process than others. Jason noted that they are looking for a specific worker for this business.

Council LePoidevin asked how many of the planted seedlings are expected to die off.

Jason noted that about 95% will survive. He went over a few scenarios where the tree might die.

Dave and Jason invited Mayor and Council to come for a field tour.

*Dave Johnson and Jason Regnier left the meeting at this time.*

Business from the CAO  
CAO Holland presented a Grant in Aid application from the Royal Canadian Legion.

MOVED/SECONDED to approve the Grant in Aid for the Royal Canadian Legion in the amount of \$558.06.

Resolution 05-12-217

Carried

#### Admin Vehicle

CAO Holland noted that during the budget talks there was a motion to buy a F350 for the Admin vehicle. This proposal was discussed with the Director of Public Works. A second option is being presented.

CAO Holland believes that the needs of Public Works and Administration are different.

Councillor LePoidevin asked for confirmation that this vehicle is for admin use.

CAO Holland confirmed that this vehicle is intended for admin use. That includes Mayor and Council or any staff going for training, etc.

Councillor LePoidevin expressed concern about the idea of purchasing lease return trucks. They may not have warranty.

Mayor Storey expressed concern that a used truck, such as a lease return may require more maintenance.

Mayor Storey commented on the gas mileage of an F350. She noted that other municipalities are purchasing electric vehicles, but a pick-up truck may be more useful and safer on roads in the Fraser Lake area.

CAO Holland added he had discussed this initiative with staff. A pick-up truck is preferred over an SUV. The pickup is a better vehicle when the recreation program starts up again.

Councillor Jenkinson noted that during budget talks staff requested a larger pick-up for travelling back and forth to the Community Forest. Councillor Jenkinson added the truck could be passed down to the Fire Chief. The admin vehicle could then be replenished every 3-4 years.

A discussion followed.

Councillor Jenkinson asked about the F150 the Village already owns. CAO Holland noted that F150 is road safe, but it is 2-wheel drive and 15 years old. The interior is in rough shape. It will be moved to public works for summer student use. CAO Holland recommends the sale of the Ford Escape. It has 210,000 kms. The vehicle needs a new windshield but everything else is in adequate condition. CAO Holland requested an amendment to motion 03-09-115 to purchase a 2022 Ford F150 XLT.

MOVED/SECONDED to amend motion 03-09-115 to purchase a 2022 Ford F150 XLT and to expend the cost of this purchase from the Community Forest Reserve Fund.

Resolution 05-12-218

Carried

Complaints:

Mayor Storey discussed complaints.

Canada Summer Jobs:

CAO Holland noted that on the Canada Summer Jobs application indicated a \$20/hr wage for university students. CAO Holland commented the wage rate for high school students has gone up over the years based on the rise in minimum wage, however the university student rate has not seen similar increases. CAO Holland recommends that the university student rate be raised to \$20/hr.

MOVED/SECONDED to amend the Employee Benefits Rates of Pay policy to reflect a \$20.00 per hour rate of pay for University Students.

Resolution 05-12-219

Carried

Mayor Storey commented this may be something to look at in the future.

CAO Holland noted students who have graduated from Grade 12 but not yet attended post secondary studies are paid minimum wage.

A discussion followed.

Councillor Jenkinson noted that if summer student rates are being amended, staff rates should be looked at as well.

Mayor Storey noted that the HR review is intended to ensure the Village is paying fair wages.

MOVED/SECONDED to amend the Employee Benefits Rates of Pay policy to pay students who have graduated from grade 12 and can provide evidence of registration to a post-secondary institution in the fall be paid at the University Student rate for summer works positions.

Resolution 05-12-220

Carried

Library Energy Efficiency retrofit

The funding for the library energy efficiency retrofit has been awarded. Rick DeVauld of Shotgun Enterprises issued a quote for this project in September of 2020. In consideration of the funding timeline condition, issuing an RFP and obtaining three quotes as required by the Village of Fraser Lake Purchasing Policy will be time consuming and may impact our ability to meet the condition of completing the project by December 2021. It is at Council's discretion to do a direct award.

Councillor Fennema abstained from the vote.

MOVED/SECONDED to award the contract to complete the Library Energy Efficiency Upgrade Project to Rick DeVauld of Shotgun Enterprises Ltd.

Resolution 05-12-221

Carried

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the business of the CAO.

Resolution 05-12-222

Carried

**Staff Reports:**

MOVED/SECONDED to approve the amendment of Professional Building Rental Policy by adding a daily rental rate for the northern half of the professional building and setting that rate at \$350.00 per day.

Resolution 05-12-223

Carried

Fire Hall Feasibility Study

Mayor Storey noted that staff are not recommending this project at this time.

A discussion followed.

Councillor Jenkinson noted that because there are possible changes coming to the clinic and the BC Ambulance staffing model, staff should contact the organizations to see what their plans are for housing the Ambulance Service should the renovations to the Medical Clinic require the Ambulance Service to move to another location.

CAO Holland noted inquiries have been made with BC Ambulance to arrange a meeting.

Mayor Storey noted the importance of the renovations to the Fire Hall.

CAO Holland confirmed that staff will contact the property management companies for BC Ambulance and Northern Health to determine whether they are interested in discussing a future home for the Ambulance Service.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the staff reports.

Resolution 05-12-224

Carried

**Reading List:**

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the Reading List.

Resolution 05-12-225

Carried



## New Business:

Councillor LePoidevin would like to see flowers around town. If the Village would like to buy local, it would be good to purchase soon. He also wondered if the new self-watering flowerpots had arrived.

Mayor Storey requested flowers at the base of the Welcome to Fraser Lake signs.

Councillor Jenkinson noted that during budget talks it was discussed having dedicated staff for beautification during the summer.

CAO Holland reported that one of the summer students will be part-time museum and part-time beautification. CAO Holland will check on the status of the order of the self watering planters.

Councillor Fennema noticed that people using the RV water station to fill up big water tanks. Is there anything we can do?

CAO Holland noted a regulator was installed on the water line at the RV station. It was intended to discourage this type of activity.

Mayor Storey asked about repairing a yard after it is dug up by the Village to repair a water break. What is the timeline to bring it back to its original state?

CAO Holland confirmed public works does fix the lawn. When a water break occurs, the ground is saturated. Typically, the repair happens after the water dissipates and the ground settles. CAO Holland will check with public works to see where the task is on the work schedule.

Mayor Storey noted that Silver Birch has asked for help move the Assisted Living Facility forward. Mayor Storey asked if this could be a task for the new intern.

CAO Holland reported that a work plan has already been developed for the intern, but if the intern has a strong skill in planning it may be something for council to discuss for the future.

Mayor Storey noted that to assist seniors who wish to age in place, this needs to continue to stay a priority.

Mayor Storey inquired whether the Village of Fraser Lake flags were available for purchase by the public. CAO Holland confirmed they are. He estimated their cost at \$30 or \$40.00.

Mayor Storey recommended that they be available for sale at the museum and the Village office.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive New Business.

Resolution 05-12-226

Carried

**Bylaws:**

Village of Fraser Lake 5 Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 825,2021

MOVED/SECONDED to conduct the fourth and final reading of the Village of Fraser Lake 5 Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 825, 2021.

Resolution 05-12-227

Carried

Village of Fraser Lake Tax Rate Bylaw No. 826,2021

MOVED/SECONDED to conduct the fourth and final reading of the Village of Fraser Lake Tax Rate Bylaw No. 826, 2021.

Resolution 05-12-228

Carried

**Next Regular Meeting of Council:** May 26, 2021 at 5:30 pm

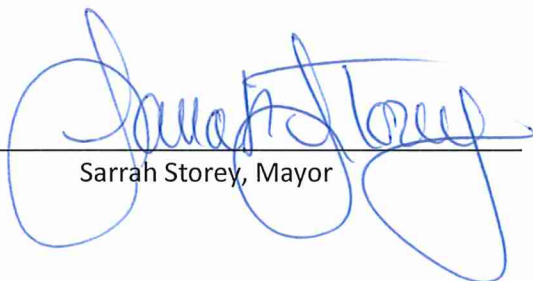
**Adjournment:**

MOVED/SECONDED that the May 12, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council be now adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Resolution 05-12-229

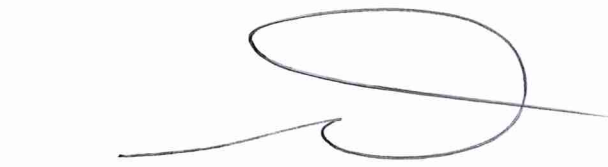
Carried

Certified Correct:



---

Sarah Storey, Mayor



---

Rodney J. Holland, Chief Administrative Officer