



**Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held in the Municipal Chambers  
on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at 5:30 pm**

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Mayor S. Storey presided. Councillors present were A. Fennema, C. LePoidevin and K. Watt-Senner. Councillor J. Jenkinson joined by video conference.

Staff present were Chief Administrative Officer R. Holland, Economic Development Officer D. Christie, Director of Public Works V. Hilman, and Recording Secretary T. Austin.

Guest in attendance was Stefan Woloczyn from City West.

**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 09-08-311

Carried

**Regular Council Minutes,  
August 25, 2021**

MOVED/SECONDED that the Regular Council Minutes of August 25, 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 09-08-312

Carried

**In-Camera Council Minutes,  
August 25, 2021**

MOVED/SECONDED that the In-Camera Council Minutes of August 25, 2021, be adopted as presented 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 09-08-313

Carried

**Business arising from  
the Minutes:**

Councillor Fennema noted that she was interested in being on the standing committee for senior's housing.

Mayor Storey noted that the senior's housing discussion is scheduled for the next meeting.

## **Delegations & Guests:**

### **City West – Stefan Woloczyn**

Mr. Woloczyn presented a plan for City West to install broadband infrastructure and eventually to offer a new telecom service option for the Village of Fraser Lake. He noted that City West is municipally owned. It is a 110-year-old telecom company. They have customers from Prince Rupert to Vanderhoof and they provide internet and tv services. City West is comprised of 96 employees and thousands of customers. Mr. Woloczyn reported that they are a top-rated telecom company in BC. In comparison to other companies.

Mr. Woloczyn explained their community focus makes City West different from other companies. In each community they service, the utility is partially owned by the municipalities. They are not publicly traded, so, they do not have to consider profits for shareholders. This allows them to focus on the community's needs.

City West is the owner of the Connected Coast project, which is a 3,400 km fiber optic undersea project connecting 139 communities including 48 First Nation groups.

Mr. Woloczyn referred to the other telecom companies currently available to Fraser Lake residents and their services. Performance CIRA, allows independent homeowners to test their internet speed from home. In 2018 the federal government defined minimum internet standard at 50 megabits down and 10 megabits up. In today's digital world, that is not sufficient. The existing service in Fraser Lake provides 26 megabits down and 6 megabits up.

Mr. Woloczyn highlighted information on what demand for internet is projected to be in the future. 75% of utilization today is video. He noted that every year our demand grows by 37%. It is estimated that by 2023 the demand will be 142 megabits and up. By the end of 2022, televisions that stream on-line programming will be pulling 16 megabits from the 26 that is currently available for residents of Fraser Lake, which limits the number of devices being able to be used at one time in each household.

Mr. Woloczyn reviewed the service City West is proposing for Fraser Lake. They propose to bring fiber optics to the community. Residential consumers will be offered 1000 megabits down and 1000 megabits up. He compared the service to the existing DSL technology. Fiber Optic will provide significant improvements to internet speed, resiliency, unlimited scalability & upgradeability, lower operating costs & maintenance. Optic Fiber also enjoys low security risks in comparison to copper wire technology. Globally, fiber is recognized as the top solution for internet.

Mr. Woloczyn reviewed the financial side of the proposal. He noted that the cost to develop the fiber optic infrastructure in Fraser Lake would require an investment between \$2 million to \$2.5 million. City West is proposing that the Village of Fraser Lake contribute \$1.1 million towards the project. They would set-up a subsidiary company in which the Village

of Fraser Lake would become 40% owner in a local utility and obtain a portion of Net project revenues at the end of each year. He reviewed the potential per annum returns.

Mr. Woloczyn commented about City West looking forward to the possibility of a partnership with the Village of Fraser Lake.

Councillor Watt-Senner inquired what would happen to the 40% ownership if City West were to be bought out by a bigger company.

Mr. Woloczyn noted that there is no interest by City West in merging with larger companies and they have had offers over the last 40 years. He noted the vision of City West is different than larger firms. Even though he knows that there is no risk of being bought out, they could offer a first right of refusal clause in the agreement if that were ever to happen.

Mayor Storey inquired about who pays for maintenance costs. She also inquired on the monthly cost for the individual compared to the cost of the services offered now.

Mr. Woloczyn noted that the proposed dividends or percentage of the project revenues in the presentation would be calculated after maintenance costs have been paid. So, project revenues would be net revenues. Relative to the competitiveness question, City West's pricing is on par with the competition, but they provide significantly higher service with no data caps.

Councillor Watt-Senner inquired what is the typical amount a family would pay.

Mr. Woloczyn noted that it depends on the package they chose, but packages range in monthly costs from \$60-\$130/month. He noted that package options and pricing is publicly available on their website.

Councillor Watt-Senner inquired if all packages include unlimited bandwidth.

Mr. Woloczyn confirmed that it is unlimited bandwidth.

Councillor Fennema inquired if it would reach their residents on the other side of the lake and those that live in rural areas near Fraser Lake.

Mr. Woloczyn noted that they are looking at a potential wireless option from Mouse Mountain for those on the north shore and would provide 50 down/10 up service. He noted that while that does not provide the service that fiber would, this option would provide a significant increase to the current service. He noted that there may be funding available to assist City West to install fiber to other locations in the future.

Councillor Jenkinson inquired if this would be new fiber being installed by City West and not purchased service from already installed fiber by other companies.

Mr. Woloczyn confirmed it will be new fiber installed by City West.

Councillor Jenkinson inquired if City West plans to sell a certain amount of bandwidth to other providers.

Mr. Woloczyn confirmed that is the business model that City West uses. He noted that they are not anti-competitive, so if another provider has a customer along our line, we will always provide them with access.

Councillor Jenkinson asked what assurances are made that ensures a certain amount of bandwidth will always to be available to residents of Fraser Lake. He also asked if the profits of sales would be included in the joint business venture.

Mr. Woloczyn confirmed that all revenues generated from wholesale services provided through this project would roll-up into the 40-60% business entity. Regarding the band width question, he noted that in the past, they purchased the transport from Prince George to Vancouver, but with the Connected Coast project, they now own their own transport to Vancouver where the big interchange is located. Due to the Connected Coast project, there is no risk to bandwidth limit anymore.

Mayor Storey asked when this project would start if Council chose to support this proposal?

Mr. Woloczyn felt, services would begin sometime next summer if Council chose to endorse the project.

Councillor Fennema inquired about those households that would choose not to opt-in, would they still be able to remain with their current provider.

Mr. Woloczyn confirmed that City West runs a non-anti-competitive open-source platform, which means that anyone can use which ever service provider they choose.

There were no further questions.

Mr. Woloczyn thanked the Village for the opportunity to present their partnership proposal.

Mayor Storey noted that Council will discuss this proposal later in new business and CAO Holland will be in touch with Mr. Woloczyn with the decision of Council.

*Stefan Woloczyn left the meeting at 6:05 p.m.*

**Staff Reports:**

Director of Public Works Vern Hilman presented his summer project report.

Mayor Storey commented about seeing kids already enjoying the upgraded tennis courts. Everyone is looking forward to the arrival of the self-watering pots and other items that have been delayed due to covid. Mayor Storey thanked the work crew for all their work to fix the drainage in the cemetery.

Director of Public Works Vern Hilman gave an update on the cemetery work. The drain tile that has been installed seems to be working well.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive Staff Reports.

Resolution 09-08-314

Carried

**Reports on Council  
Activities:**

**Councillor Watt-Senner**

She attended a meeting at Autumn Services along with Mayor Storey.

Councillor Watt-Senner visited Granisle this past summer and met with Mayor McGuire. She noted they have been able to do a lot of beautification work around their town, even with the small number of residents who live in Granisle. She noted that Fraser Lake is such a beautiful location, however, she would like to see our beautification efforts expanded to add more colour.

Mayor noted a few projects have recently been completed that add to the town's appearance. She commented on the banners as you enter Vanderhoof, suggesting these kinds of projects could add to increased beautification.

Councillor Watt-Senner noted the importance of keeping up the momentum of beautification.

Councillor Fennema noted that even though the self-watering pots didn't arrive as expected, the old planters looked quite nice this summer. There was discussion on where the new self-watering planters are going to be located.

**Councillor Fennema**

None

**Councillor LePoidevin**

None

**Councillor Jenkinson**

Inquired who is on the CLC (Committee Liaison Committee) with him. He has received an inquiry from Val Erikson at Artemis Gold.

EDO Christie confirmed that he is on the committee with Councillor Jenkinson.

**Mayor Storey**

Reported that she has been preparing for the UBCM Provincial Cabinet Minister meetings. Three meetings have been scheduled. She will prepare a full report for council.

Mayor Storey noted one concern brought forward by Regional District is the cost of the 911 service. These costs are normally deducted from the revenue received from home phones/landlines; however, now that most people are discontinuing home phones, the RDBN will be requesting the funding for the 911 service be shifted to cell phone bills instead. She noted that would bring costs down for the Regional District which supports all communities.

Mayor Storey reported the provincial Liberal candidate, Mr. Ellis Ross, visited Fraser Lake. She also noted that Mr. Michael Lee visited the area. She has yet to meet Mr. Kevin Falcon. She wished all the candidates' luck in the upcoming election and thanked the candidates for showing interest in northern communities.

There was a discussion about attendance for UBCM next week.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive Councillor Reports.

Resolution 09-08-315

Carried

**Accounts payable:**

Council Fennema asked for more information about cheque 29886, She wanted to know more about "Members on Duty" insurance.

CAO Holland commented it was insurance for the Volunteers of the Fire Department. He offered to find out more about this insurance and report back to Council.

Mayor Storey asked for more information about cheque 29899 that related to a refund of \$770.00 after an over-payment?

CAO Holland explained there was a double payment of property taxes by the property owner and their bank. The bank had made the tax payment as if the homeowner's grant had not been claimed.

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt Accounts Payable and payroll in the amount of \$635,870.25.

Resolution 09-08-316

Carried

**Correspondence List:**

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the correspondence list.

Resolution 09-08-317

Carried

**Business from the CAO:**

**Water Tower Inspection**

CAO Holland reported that this inspection is part of our asset management planning program. The water tank inspection did not result in good news. The water tower is 40 years old. When constructed, an epoxy lining protected the steel shell from rusting. A significant amount of the epoxy lining has flaked off.

Due to a significant accumulation of sediment in the bottom of the reservoir, the contractor would like to drain the tank and clean out the sediment to complete the inspection before advising whether the tank can be salvaged. Unfortunately, without a second tank this will be difficult. As an interim measure, the contractor has suggested the installation of a cathodic protection system, which should extend the life of the reservoir.

Director of Public Works Hilman noted that the cathodic protection system works like the rod in a hot water tank, attracting the rust.

CAO Holland explained the life expectancy of the existing reservoir is limited and the rust in the tank affects water quality. The cathodic protection system is a temporary solution. Replacing the existing tank is the only long-term solution. Once a new reservoir tank is in place, Council may want to consider repairing the existing tank, if it is repairable. The advantage to the repair is it would increase the Village's water holding capacity and resiliency under similar circumstances. CAO Holland noted either choice will have significant financial costs.

Mayor Storey inquired about the cost of a new epoxy lining.

Director Hilman noted that the contractor is unable to give a firm quote until they can clearly see the bottom of the tank. He noted that fixing the old tank may cost as much or more than a new tank.

CAO Holland noted that a brand new fully installed tank is approximately \$1.3 million. The proposed tank is bigger than what we have now. The contractor has confirmed there is room at the current site for a new tank.

Mayor Storey noted that this concern seems like a priority. Mayor Storey inquired if this is a project that should be slated for next years' budget or could this project be scheduled in a few years.

Director Hilman advised the cathodic protection could add as much as 5 to 10 years of life to the reservoir tank, but 10 years is highly optimistic. Installing the cathodic protection could provide enough time to construct a new tank in the next 3-4 years. The contractor is cautious but is recommending it needs to be looked at soon.

CAO Holland noted the cathodic system will cost \$16,000.

Mayor Storey suggested putting away \$300,000-400,000 each year for the next 3-4 years. She believes having two reservoir tanks would be beneficial, so the village has a back-up.

Mayor Storey inquired about the life span of a new tank.

Director Hilman commented the contractor has recommended having a plan in place in under 5 years. That time span may change once the diver goes in. If the diver finds something that needs immediate attention, the time remaining may shorten.

Referring to Mayor Storey's question about the expected life span of a new reservoir, Director Hilman understands a new tank would have a life expectancy of approximately 50 years.

If possible, Mayor Storey would like to wait to create a savings plan for the water reservoir replacement. There may be other sources of capital available.

A discussion followed about next steps.

Director Hilman commented on the many variables that will determine the next steps. The cathodic anodes could last years, depending on the state of the bottom of the existing reservoir. He added, two new tanks may be the most cost-effective solution, rather than one new tank and a refurbished tank. He added if there were two tanks, it would be possible to shut down one or the other for regular maintenance which would extend the life expectancy of both water reservoirs.

A discussion followed about the feasibility of two water reservoirs.

CAO Holland noted the contractor has indicated up to a two-year lag between ordering a tank and installation.

Mayor Storey felt the Village should at least install the cathodic protection system.

Director Hilman noted that there was money set aside for cleaning the tank, however, they could not go ahead with that, so that portion could go towards other systems.



MOVED/SECONDED to install a cathodic protection system in the current water tank.

Resolution 09-08-318

Carried

Councillor Jenkinson noted that Granisle recently had water towers installed and asked if it would be possible to reach out to them for details.

CAO Holland advised inquiries would be made.

#### Sewer Dump Site Proposal

Mayor Storey asked about the land around the Men's shed. Mayor Storey was wondering if it was an option to build a road down to the 4<sup>th</sup> lagoon and build the sewer dump there. She was concerned about long-term impacts on the southside lots. The sewer dump may need to be moved again. She does not want to see a road through town but a new road to the lagoon would eliminate the concerns of noise, dust, smell, etc.

Director Hilman noted that a future business could utilize the sewer infrastructure on the southside lot, so if in the future there is interest, it would make the lot more sellable.

Councillor Fennema commented about her experience dumping their travel trailer at the Sani-dump recently. There have been people dumping without using their hose. There is sewage waste splattered on the ground around the Sani Dump. If we could move the Sani Dump to the south side, install a sloped splash pad those inconsiderate people who dump without using their hose, that may provide a solution to the issues surrounding our current Sani Dump site.

Mayor Storey noted that EDO Christie saw a kiosk-type set-up at another location that would require users to insert a card to pay for use of the service. She felt the Village may want to look at something like this. She noted that it is important that something needs to be done to fix this issue. Right now, it is pay by donation but not a lot is donated.

CAO Holland noted that the sewer dump station being discussed is not the Sani-dump but a commercial dump station but agreed both sites could be moved to the southside and incorporated in the same facility.

Councillor Watt-Senner inquired if a wall could be built at the existing Sani-dump location to provide privacy for the homes across the road.

Mayor Storey noted that if it were moved with the commercial station, that issue would be alleviated. Mayor Storey noted that if the Sani-dump were to stay where it is, a privacy wall and kiosk would be good additions to think about.

CAO Holland noted the existing commercial dump was developed when there were only two residents in the Fraser Lake Villa Trailer Park. With the re-development of the Fraser Lake Villa Trailer Park there are now eight (8) residents living there. Deliveries begin as early as 6:00 am and continue all day to as late as midnight. The facility is a good design but is no longer in a good location. The revenues received by the Village for accepting wastewater have been worthwhile. Regardless of the opportunity, however, there have been complaints. The site on the southside lot is being proposed because it would be out of sight and far from residential development.

The development of this wastewater station makes this property productive. This proposal would take lot 14 off the market for as long as the dump site is active. If the rumours of other pipelines are correct, that could be as much as 12 years, however, that is not certain so there is some risk associated with this proposal. CAO Holland added the infrastructure would not be detrimental to the future sale of this property.

Director Hilman estimates the cost to develop the new site would be approximately \$68,780.00.

Mayor Storey inquired how much would it cost for power, etc. to add a meter and payment kiosk.

CAO Holland agreed, this proposal was intended to initiate discussion. Administration will need to investigate the costs of mechanizing the system. The dispensing station at the arena was \$38,000 so mechanizing the new wastewater station could cost \$50,000.00 or more.

Mayor Storey inquired about the cost of a road near the Men's Shed. She felt land sale revenues could be used to recoup the costs of the road to the lagoons when Lot 14 sells in the future.

Councillor Fennema noted if the Commercial Wastewater Dumpsite was moved to the lagoon, the Sani-dump issues would still exist.

Director Hilman commented he would need to investigate the feasibility of the road to the sewer lagoon idea. He noted that when the commercial site was first installed, it was not expected to have this much success. Referring to our experiences, ideally, we want the wastewater dump site further away from residences. The site on the south side also has some benefits for the wastewater treatment facility. The length of time the sewage is in the system as it travels to the lagoons is beneficial. That prevents a rush of wastewater material into lagoon #1 which reduces the shock that normally results from heavy and sudden influxes of wastewater.

Mayor Storey noted that current location does not work with the trailer park residents for the long term.

Councillor Jenkinson inquired if this project should be delayed until the 2022 budget.

Mayor Storey noted that the proposal would be to do this work with the proceeds that have been accumulated in wastewater reserves from our wastewater processing from the Coastal Gaslink workforce accommodations.

The Village has been juggling wastewater dumping between manholes on the southside and the dumping station at the Fraser Lake Villa to reduce the disruption to the trailer park residents. These tactics are not ideal. No one is happy with either of the dumping locations.

Councillor Jenkinson inquired if the current tank could be moved to the new location.

CAO Holland noted that it is a poured-in-place concrete tank.

Director of Public Works Hilman stated they could investigate the cost and whether it was possible to move the tank.

MOVED/SECONDED that the Sewer Dump Proposal be tabled until the next Council meeting.

Resolution 09-08-319

Carried

#### End of Summer

The summer work for our student employees has ended with their return to school. In addition, the cooler weather and Public Works staff shifting their attention to the arena has prompted the seasonal closure of the splash park, skate park and kin park washrooms.

Mayor Storey was wondering about warm weather that is being predicted for the coming weekend.

Director Hilman commented the works crew will not be able to sanitize the splash pad and washrooms. There is no way to maintain those facilities in a satisfactory way at this point so they must be closed for the season.

#### Vandalism – Mouse Mountain Trail Signs

CAO Holland reported two cases of vandalism cases. The culprits in both instances are young and new to the community. He noted that the damage to the trail signs was done within hours of them being installed. In discussions with the police, non-violent crime by minors is being referred to the community. Letters of apology have been received from two youths. CAO Holland asked how Council would like to deal with these matters. Should the Village accept the youth's apology or ask the youth to present themselves to council to make an in-person apology to Mayor and Council.

Director Hilman noted that following the police investigation, Public Works was able to cover the rude language that was spray painted on the docks and washroom.

Mayor Storey suggested she would like to discuss placing more security cameras in high vandalism areas. Mayor Storey was disappointed about the loss of Village property and the staff time that was required to clean up the spray paint. This damage costs to the taxpayers. She suggested the possibility of making a presentation at the schools on civic pride and civic duties to help kids take more pride in our community.

CAO Holland noted that youth might find it difficult to come before the Council table to make an apology. However, if Mayor and Council request that they come before Council, Administration will ask for this and the fact that it is being requested may deter some youth.

Mayor Storey suggested if the kids won't come before the council table, she will try to schedule a meeting with them and talk about civic responsibility. Parents would be welcome to attend the meeting.

#### COVID-19 Planning

CAO Holland noted Covid Safety Plans are back. There are some changes in our plans due to different protocols set out in the Public Health Orders. Masks are again required in indoor public spaces. Spectators are allowed in limited numbers for sports

The driver of the community bus is encountering difficulty with some clients who are arguing and refusing to put on their masks or wear them properly. Signage has been posted in the bus and the driver will speak with the riders to ensure they know the rules. If the riders will not abide by the Public Health Orders, they will not be able to use the service.

Mayor Storey agreed that we must follow the guidelines set out by the provincial health officer. A policy should be developed for anyone using the bus service. She noted that we must keep our employees safe. Mayor Storey commented that it is not up to us to decide whether we agree with the passport idea, and whether staff should be vaccinated or not. The decision to be vaccinated or not vaccinated is very political. Some people are waiting for more long-term data. She commented that last year, many parents missed watching their kids and the opportunity to have spectators in the arena will be a good thing.

Councillor Jenkinson inquired if we have unvaccinated employees working in public space with other employees and the public such as the arena? Should the Village be mandating vaccination and has the Village updated the Covid Plan with the newly required Communicable Disease Response Plan.

CAO Holland advised a Communicable Disease plan has not been developed.

Regarding unvaccinated employees, they have a responsibility to safeguard the health of the public. If employers are found to be negligent, there are fines associated with each finding. He noted that they inquired with Northern Health and lawyers to get advice on employees who are working with the public and in recreation centers.

Mayor Storey noted that the website says proof of vaccination passport is required for indoor recreation for adults over 19 years but not required for youth sports 19 years or younger.

EDO Christie noted that there is confusion on youth sports. Youth does not require the vaccine passport but the anyone over 19, such as coaches and volunteers, would? He noted that there is a call happening with Via Sport and BC Hockey and hoping to have clarification on that by morning.

CAO Holland commented about the new Public Health Orders. He suspects the province received a lot of concerns about the closures last winter. They are trying to be more public friendly but that has created some confusion. The Village is required to have a certified attendant at the arena for 7 hours a day, 7 days a week, and if the province says that staff must be vaccinated, we might run into circumstances that require us to shut down the arena for the days vaccinated staff are unable to cover the shifts. CAO Holland noted that these are all things we will work through, but Council needs to know that we are addressing the issue.

Mayor Storey noted that it may take awhile to work through issues and get elders and seniors their COVID -19 cards. Mayor Storey thought it was good that they were trying to keep more businesses open this winter.

Councillor Jenkinson inquired if we do not mandate vaccines as a condition to work in public spaces such as the arena, and we had an unvaccinated employee who got sick or got covid and died, is that a compensable claim.

CAO Holland noted that covid is a compensable injury through BC Worker's Compensation.

Mayor Storey inquired on the Return to Sport 2.0 it mentions that Covid-19 Safety Plans are no longer required but sport organizations should consider developing a Communicable Disease Response Plan as per WorkSafeBC.

No motions were required at this time.

*Director of Public Works V. Hilman left the meeting at 7:52 p.m.*

#### UBCM Provincial Cabinet Ministers Meeting

Mayor Storey requested Councillors able to attend, to do so. Minister Beare's meeting was rescheduled to next Monday Mayor Storey reviewed the meeting dates and times as well as the discussion points. She noted if Councillors are interested in adding any comments or discussion points, please let her know or she can offer an opportunity near the end of the meetings for Councillor comments.

CAO Holland noted that the Minister of Health was unable to meet.

Mayor Storey noted that with her permission, Mayor McGuire was able to use Fraser Lake and our issues with paramedics as an example in her discussion with the Minister of Health.

CAO Holland noted the Resource Benefits Alliance Steering Committee is encouraging talk about a revenue sharing agreement. In a couple of UBCM meetings that have already happened, the province has asked what communities have done with the Northern Capital and Planning funds that have already been provided to communities. They are finding that smaller communities with limited revenue streams are saving the grants to leverage against other funding for bigger projects.

CAO Holland reported that the Village has about \$450,000 left in the Covid Restart Plan, \$600,000 left in the community works and approximately \$1.6 million in the Northern Capital Planning Grant. We can report that we are saving for projects like the water tower that will be \$1.3 million and the \$8.4 million water supply line project.

Mayor Storey noted that she talked with Minister Osborne regarding the water line project. Minister Osborne is aware of some of our Asset Management issues.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the CAO Report.

Resolution 09-08-320

Carried

#### Reading List:

None

#### New Business:

##### ESS

Councillor Fennema reported that as ESS Director they are being sent a new cabinet to house all the resources and inquired where it should go.

EDO Christie noted that all the ESS materials are already at the professional building. He noted that he can plan with Councillor Fennema for delivery and set up of the new cabinet at the Professional Building.

#### National Truth & Reconciliation Day

Councillor Fennema noted that the library is preparing a bulletin board for National Truth & Reconciliation Day and will assemble a book display.

#### Hill behind the Co-Op

Councillor Fennema inquired if any decision had been made regarding the hill behind the Co-Op.

Mayor Storey noted that some ideas have been discussed but nothing has been decided yet and it is still for sale.

#### Cats

Mayor Storey has received a call about cats. She noted that she reached out to CAO Holland and Fire Chief Pacheco to see how we might round up all the feral cats and have them taken to the SPCA. Mayor Storey noted she does not have an answer but recognizes there is a concern in the community.

CAO Holland reported that the Prince George SPCA did take approximately 70 cats out of that location before the building was demolished. He noted the SPCA stated they would not take anymore cats. Live traps have been loaned to residents who ask. These feral cats are a difficult situation. The Village will continue to lend out the live traps.

Mayor Storey noted that she receives many concerns about cats.

#### City West

Mayor Storey asked what Council thought of the proposal.

CAO Holland noted that we have funding in the Covid Restart Plan and Community Works Fund. Broadband infrastructure is an eligible use for these funds. Approximately \$1,030,000 is available in these two funds. Another \$70,000.00 would be needed and could appropriately come from the Northern Capital Planning Fund.

Mayor Storey inquired about Director of Finance McMaster's recommendation around using the funding this way?

Mayor Storey inquired if there are any other projects that this funding should be used for?

CAO Holland noted that there are a few other projects that would qualify. Unfortunately, we struggle with connectivity daily. Our demands for connectivity are constantly expanding with each new software upgrade. CAO Holland noted that we are already seeing the adverse effects. Phone calls are regularly received inquiring about connectivity. This matters to people looking at property in the Fraser Lake area.

Councillor Fennema noted that at the library they have people come in to use the internet. She also noted that she has been in businesses that are constantly having to restart payment machines due to connectivity issues.

Councillor Watt-Senner relayed about her conversations with four different out-of-town families that were interested in relocating to Fraser Lake. They were looking at Fraser Lake due to housing affordability and the beauty of the area but because of the connectivity issues, all of them chose either Vanderhoof or Burns Lake instead.

Mayor Storey polled a few community members, and everyone was in support of better connectivity. She noted that fiber in our community will allow us to be open for business. She noted that there are constant messages on social media regarding connectivity.

EDO Christie noted that they surveyed Fraser Lake businesses and 50% of businesses reported that the current broadband was an issue to their current business. Debit going down constantly or customers requesting free Wi-Fi. The existing service is not adequate. He noted that 50% of businesses were uncomfortable expanding to on-line services due to our current issues. EDO Christie has received call from potential businesses looking at Fraser Lake as an option, and connectivity is the first or second topic they inquire about.

CAO Holland noted that he believes that some people will migrate into town if connectivity is better. The standards that were developed in 2018 are already outdated. With 1000 Mbps service, this should service the community for a long time.

Councillor LePoidevin inquired if we used grant money for this partnership and we receive a revenue from the venture, are there any stipulations around where the revenues could be used?

Mayor Storey confirmed that using the grant money would have no restriction on the revenue. She inquired if we were receiving more Community Works Fund money next year?

CAO Holland noted that the Village received two payments of \$96,000 this year. In 2022 and 2023, the Village will receive payments of \$101,000.00 each year.

Mayor Storey noted that other communities are borrowing money, but we are in a position that doesn't require us to do that. No other service providers have approached us with options.

Councillor Watt-Senner noted that we have been discussing this issue for years and nothing has changed, and we are losing quality people in our community due to connectivity issues.

MOVED/SECONDED to proceed with the proposal from City West to install fiber optic infrastructure in Fraser Lake, and to expend \$1.1 million from the Village of Fraser Lake Community Works Fund and Covid



Restart Fund, and any additional costs will be expended from the Northern Capital and Planning Grant Reserve.

Resolution 09-321

Carried

Arena Renovation Update

EDO Christie noted that he and CAO Holland have a call with the architect on Monday. The plan is to have costing this year with construction starting in spring of 2022.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive New Business.

Resolution 09-08-322

Carried

**Bylaws:**

None

**Next Regular Meeting of Council:** September 22, 2021, at 5:30 pm

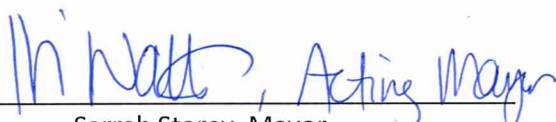
**Adjournment:**

MOVED/SECONDED that the September 8, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council be now adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Resolution 09-08-323

Carried

Certified Correct:

  
Sarrah Storey, Mayor

  
Rodney J. Holland, Chief Administrative Officer