

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held March 22, 2017  
In the Municipal Hall in Open Forum**

Those in Attendance: Mayor Lindstrom  
Councillor Reyden  
Councillor Storey

Staff: Rodney J. Holland, Chief Administrative Officer

Public: Garry Watson  
Lianne Olson  
Justus Benckhuysen

Mayor Lindstrom called the Regular Meeting of Council to order at 5:30 pm and welcomed those in attendance to the meeting.

**Agenda:**

Resolution 03-22-91 M/S Councillor Reyden/ Councillor Storey

“Motion to adopt the agenda”

Carried

**Delegation:**

Lianne Olson & Justus Benckhuysen - Rio Tinto

Lianne Olson and Justus Benckhuysen provided an update on Rio Tinto Operations, their contributions to the BC Economy and a seasonal update on the Rio Tinto Reservoir. Ms. Olson utilized a power point presentation that complimented her presentation. Rio Tinto’s operational footprint is based in Kitimat and Terrace. Their operational footprint involves a watershed that impacts the traditional territories of 13 First Nations; some of which fall completely within the watershed and others that are on the edge or near the Rio Tinto operating area. Each of these communities have interests in Rio Tinto operations and many of those interests are competing interests. The Kitimat Modernization Project resulted in almost a complete rebuild of the Kitimat smelter plant. Rio Tinto has also modernized their technology and have achieved one of the greenest and most energy efficient operations in the world; reducing both green house gas emissions plus all other emissions by 50%. They have increased their production by 38%. With the modernization of the Kitimat Plant, there was a requirement to train employees on the new

equipment and technology. The retraining process has been completed and Rio Tinto employees have now transitioned into the new plant. That process went well.

The reduction in green house gases has resulted in the lowest carbon aluminum in the world. This may be a benefit when marketing the product globally.

Rio Tinto is completing the preliminary work on the back up tunnel. This is not yet a project as it requires internal approval. The regulatory work for the first and second tunnel was completed in 2012. The initial link or tunnel was completed in 2013. The second tunnel and surge shafts have yet to be drilled or constructed. The additional tunnel will not equate to additional water usage. It moderates water flow through the system and provides a safety back up.

Rio Tinto plans to conduct open houses in area communities in early May. The proposed locations include Vanderhoof, Fort Fraser and Wisteria. More information will be provided as the dates for these community events are a little closer.

Rio Tinto is active in area communities. This past year Rio Tinto donated to the Fraser Lake Food Bank. The program coordinator asked for potatoes and peanut butter so that was the contribution.

Rio Tinto is the largest single contributor to the Provincial GDP. The new smelter will allow Rio Tinto to maintain its operations for decades. Rio Tinto's BC Operations contribute \$190 Million in salaries, \$43 M annually in municipal and provincial taxes and \$1 M in community investments through donations and sponsorship programs. In 2016 Rio Tinto spent approximately \$105 M through sub contractors and company services for our BC Operations. In total, \$339 M was expended in BC in 2016.

Rio Tinto provided \$1 million in community funding to organizations within their operating area. \$700,000.00 in the form of donations and sponsorships. \$300,000.00 was in kind funding. A lot of the in-kind came from the Kitimat Modernization Project wind down and disband.

Rio Tinto contributes to Research and Monitoring activities. They are involved with the Nechako Fisheries Society and BC Fisheries Society. According to Ms. Olson, the environment is very important to Rio Tinto.

Mayor Lindstrom asked how much money was provided for the sturgeon hatchery in Vanderhoof, B.C.?

Ms. Olson advised \$800,000.00 was provided for the construction of the hatchery. Then there is a 10-year commitment of \$450,000.00 per year for hatchery operations. There are additional funds available for educational activities.

In addition, Rio Tinto supports environmental programs in Kitimat that monitor Ooligan. They are also involved in Environmental monitoring in conjunction with the Nechako Fisheries Conservation program. This came out of the 1987 agreement that involved having a look at salmon, habitat and water temperatures. A significant amount of work was completed through this project. This work was completed in conjunction with DFO. The data shows this system is working, and the salmon are doing fine. Rio Tinto continues with water quality monitoring and water temperature monitoring and discharge rates to make sure it's conducted at times that are appropriate for the salmon. This work has now been turned over to a third party.

Justus Benckuysen provided the update on the Nechako Reservoir. Rio Tinto monitors snow pillow reports. These reports indicate snow pillow levels are near the long-term average in terms of snow. This provides information about the in flow during spring run off. Currently there is not a lot of water present. The conditions are neither dry or wet. Of course, these conditions are dependent on average spring precipitation. If the weather involves significant rainfall, it will impact reservoir capacity. There is always a risk of flood and a risk of drought.

In 2015 and 2016 Rio Tinto has been asking interested parties about what they want to know about the Nechako Reservoir. Initially, there was a lot of feedback about what people wanted to see. Rio Tinto has put the requested information in "real time" onto their website. They are hoping to check with interested parties to see if the information being provided is meeting their current needs or interests. The website is RioTinto.com. Rio Tinto believes they can make better decisions about their operations by working together with everyone. There is also a survey on the site. Rio Tinto would like to receive more feedback to the survey. This initiative is about creating more community engagement and more regular contact.

Ms. Olson advised they are assessing their communications. Are they providing the information people want? Is the method of dissemination appropriate? There will be some letters and open houses coming out. This is intended to help Rio Tinto determine what they are doing well and what can be improved. Are newspapers the best way of getting information out or is Facebook preferred? How does Rio Tinto use these tools to get information to the largest number of people? Feedback is important; Ms. Olson hopes people will complete their survey.

Councillor Reyden asked about the number of employees at the Kitimat plant following the Kitimat Modernization Project (KMP).

Ms. Olson stated the number of employees did go down following the KMP. Prior to the KMP there were 1400 employees. Following the KMP, there are 1000 employees.

Councillor Reyden asked how the Nechako River effects Fraser Lake?

Justus Benckuysen responded to the question, stating the Nechako River certainly does impact Fraser Lake. When Nechako River is full, it can back up the Nautley River which in turn backs up Fraser Lake.

Mayor Lindstrom asked about creating a weir in the Nautley River to stabilize lake water levels in Fraser Lake.

Justus Benckuysen advised there is already a weir in the Nautley River courtesy of Alcan in the 1960's and 1970's. The weir is located upstream of the bridge. It was built to establish a consistent lake water level. The weir was built once but due to the soft bottom of the Nautley River it needed to be refurbished. The last time the weir was assessed, the water levels in the lake were at the correct historical level. Mr. Benckuysen stated it could be looked at again to ensure it has not eroded. Relative to spring flooding, the weir will not influence spring water levels. Water entering Fraser Lake takes days and potentially weeks to leave the lake via the Nautley River. Spring runoff and significant weather events impact the existing water level of the lake. If there was a high-water event in the Nechako River, to the point where the Nautley River backs up, the potential downside of a higher lake level is that the lake is already full trough. Water levels would move more quickly to flood levels.

A general discussion followed.

Ms. Olson advises tours of the modernized Kitimat Plant will resume this year. She has offered to arrange a tour of the new plant upon request. It was noted a bus tour is available on May 2, 2017 during the NCLGA this May. If some other date is preferable, Ms. Olson has offered to assist with arranging a tour of the plant.

Mayor Lindstrom thanked Lianne Olson and Justus Benckuysen for their presentation.

#### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Resolution 03-22-92 M/S Councillor Storey/Councillor Reyden

“Motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council dated March 8, 2017.”

Carried

#### **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

Councillor Storey asked Administration to amend her comment relating to the extension of municipal boundaries to help people who don't have fire services and garbage pick up. She did not intend extension of water services.

#### **Councillor Reports:**

Councillor Reyden had nothing to report

Councillor Storey attended the Child, Youth, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee meeting. Mental Health week is scheduled May 8 – 13<sup>th</sup>. The committee is planning to hold a Youth Night at the legion. Their plans include bringing in a comedian for the event. There will be free pizza and pop. This event is not being advertised as a mental health event, however,

information will be provided to better inform youth about access to services. The comedian has agreed to offer a second show for adults as well. More details will be provided to the community as the date approaches.

Councillor Storey listened in on an Economic Development webinar on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Councillor Storey felt the webinar was directed to persons with limited experience with Economic Development. The next webinar is scheduled for tomorrow, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The webinar relates to Aboriginal Relationships. Councillor Storey intends to listen in on that webinar.

Councillor Storey attended the cheque presentation by MLA John Rustad to Autumn Services. Autumn Services received \$10,000.00.

On March 21<sup>st</sup> Mayor Lindstrom attended the cheque presentation at the Fraser Lake Crisis Centre. Minister Rustad presented a cheque for \$5,000.00 to the Crisis Centre toward the Secret Santa program. Mayor Lindstrom reported that earlier in the day, Minister Rustad presented a cheque of \$7,500.00 to the Endako Hall Society and \$5,000.00 for the Fraser Lake Men's Shed.

Mayor Lindstrom traveled to Prince George for Minister Todd Stone's Transportation announcement. The Village of Fraser Lake's Community Transportation proposal has been accepted and we will receive funding for a Community Bus. The Province will also be providing funding for operations in the first three years as well. There were 12 successful communities that received funding for community transportation.

Mayor Lindstrom attended the fundraiser at the Legion this past Friday evening. The event was well attended and a significant amount of money was raised in support of Youth Cancer Research.

Mayor Lindstrom participated in the Curling Bonspiel this past weekend. That was a good wind up to the season.

Resolution 03-22-93 M/S Councillor Storey/Councillor Reyden  
"Motion to receive Councillor Reports"

Carried

**Accounts Payable:**

Resolution 03-22-94 M/S Councillor Reyden/Councillor Storey  
"Motion to adopt Payroll and Accounts Payable in the amount of \$129,489.86"

Carried

### **Correspondence List:**

Resolution 03-22-95 M/S Councillor Storey/Councillor Reyden  
"Motion to receive the Correspondence List"

Carried

### **Business from the CAO:**

New Building Official Qualifications & New Owner Builder Authorizations:

CAO Holland presented letters from the Regional District to the Province on the noted concerns. CAO Holland participated in a conference call between the Province and the Regional District. The RD is concerned about the new Building Official Qualifications requirements. These new qualification requirements are likely to precipitate some retirements. It is anticipated these requirements will create some challenges in attracting other qualified building inspectors. The attraction and retention of Building Officials is expected to become quite competitive. How will small northern communities compete with larger centers? The Provincial representatives said they would take the concerns under advisement. Relative to the New Owner Builder Authorizations, in the 2009 revision of the Building Act, the province indicated it intended to take steps to establish consistency, innovation and competency for Owner Built construction. The province now requires owner builders to demonstrate their competency by passing a 100-question test. To prepare for the test, there is a study guide on the BC Housing site. To date, no steps have been taken to develop structured classroom training to prepare owner builders for this test. In the RDBN 90% of new builds are owner build's. Since July 2016 there have been no new builds in the RDBN. The Regional District cannot say whether the lack of new construction is economy based or the result of this new requirement. The second challenge is travel. Owner Builders wishing to write the exam must travel to Prince George, Smithers or Terrace to a certified site. The Village of Fraser Lake contracts with the RDBN for Building Inspection services. This is the most economical means of providing building inspection services to our community. Impacts on the availability of Building Officials at the RDBN will impact the Village.

Mayor Lindstrom noted Owner Builders construct their own homes because of the savings involved. Mayor Lindstrom would like to see the building inspectors continuing to work with our owner builders. Our building inspectors ensure consistency and competency.

Councillor Storey noted Fraser Lake does not have a CNC campus, however, people can write exams in Fraser Lake. Councillor Storey has proctored exams, so, if it is an on-line exam she can proctor the test.

### Raising the Profile Project:

CAO Holland brought the scheduled April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting to Council's attention. With our aging population, this may be a good opportunity to learn what other communities are doing to assist people to age in place.

Councillor Storey stated she was already registered for this event and will be attending.

Before discussing the next three items, CAO Holland advised Administration has been taking steps to identify potential project for our 2017 Federal Strategic Gas Tax Fund applications. The Gas Tax Fund provides up to 100% funding for eligible projects. Unfortunately, the Village has very few shelf ready projects that fit the criteria of the Gas Tax Fund. CAO Holland presented on the following three proposals:

### Additional Storage Lagoon at the Wastewater Treatment Plan – Update:

The addition of a 4<sup>th</sup> sewer lagoon was recommended by the engineer who conducted the professional assessment of our sewer treatment facility. The 4<sup>th</sup> lagoon would increase our capacity to address seasonal volumes of effluent that exceed our sewer treatment facilities limits. Our facility is typically able to remain in compliance 9 or 10 months of the year, the system overflows during periods of spring runoff or significant weather events. During these months, our system regularly exceeds our discharge limit of 1180 m<sup>3</sup> per day. The heavy flow of water and runoff through our system impacts the quality of our discharge into the lake. The 4<sup>th</sup> lagoon is considered to be the most practical means of addressing this problem. This project is proposed for our application to the 2017 Federal Strategic Gas Tax Fund. Municipalities can apply for up to two activities. They can include planning and/or capital construction.

Inquiries have been made with McElhanney Engineering, requesting their assistance in the development of our plan to move this project forward. Professional assistance was required to ensure our plan is appropriate and effective. McElhanney has proposed an initial plan that includes site survey, geo technical assessment of the site to ensure the ground is stable enough to hold the 4<sup>th</sup> lagoon, an environmental review to determine what permits are required, conduct of a pre-design assessment of existing infrastructure at the sewer lagoon, and development of plan drawings and specifications.

These activities would constitute phase one of a two-year project. Phase two is the construction of the 4<sup>th</sup> lagoon in 2018. Our application to the 2017 Federal Strategic Priorities Gas Tax Fund will fund these initial activities to bring this project to a shelf ready state. The Village will need to apply for new funding in 2018 to construct the 4<sup>th</sup> lagoon.

The second project for consideration for our 2017 Federal Strategic Priorities Gas Tax Fund is the Park Drive Water System extension. This project was first developed in 2009. Administration has asked L&M Engineering Consultants to update the project and to include

fire hydrants in the new plan drawing. Aside from updating the engineered drawings with the inclusion of fire hydrants, L&M Engineering will conduct a water flow assessment to ensure adequate water flow at Park Drive for fire response purposes. Their commitment includes provision of a current day estimate for the construction of this project. L&M will also assist the Village in writing a Federal Strategic Gas Tax Fund application if requested.

The third proposal is a Heat Recapture project at the arena. The purpose of this project is to develop efficiencies in our use of energy and water at the recreation complex. At the same time, the recaptured heat will be used to heat the spectator areas of the arena and curling rink plus the second-floor complex. Administration has contacted Scott Bilbrough at Stantec Engineering. Scott Bilbrough is the engineer who completed our water treatment facility. During our initial conversation with Scott Bilbrough, it was learned that Stantec is quite familiar with this type of project. They have already completed 10 heat recapture projects in arenas around the province. As with the sewage lagoon, Administration has asked Stantec to assist with developing a plan for this project. Administration has been very clear that this proposal must go to competitive bid, however, we need to have a clear understanding of what we can realistically look for as an outcome.

The three projects mentioned all have a history with the Village. They are good ideas that have been discussed in the past but not completed. The Park Drive waterline has been discussed for the past 20 years. Although it's been taken to a vote twice, our earlier conversations have indicated an interest on the part of Council to complete this project. The 4<sup>th</sup> lagoon was precipitated by the recommendations flowing from the professional assessment of our wastewater treatment processes.

CAO Holland advised Council the heat reclaim project caught the attention of Administration because of our review of our water consumption at the arena. This past year, the Village installed water meters on some of our facilities. A water meter was placed on the arena. In October 2016, the arena used 238,000 gallons of water to cool the ice plant. In January 2017, we used 275,000 gallons of water to cool the ice plant. This water cools the plant and then dumps into the storm sewer. Unfortunately, we have no ability to reuse this water. At \$0.022 per gallon, our January consumption of water to cool the ice plant equates to \$8,400.00 in water alone. Aside from the water consumption concern, there is a significant cost to our current practices.

Councillor Storey asked if there was a better ice plant available?

CAO Holland advised there are solutions that would assist our community in addressing this concerns. In our initial discussions with the Stantec Engineers, they have suggested a closed loop system that would cool the ice plant, recapture the heat from the plant and heat the complex may be possible. The captured heat would be directed through either radiators or a forced air system. Additionally, this heated water can be used to pre-heat resurfacing water for the Zamboni.



For each of the projects we have been clear with these engineers that we simply want a plan on how to proceed. Administration has been very clear; we are obligated to use a competitive bid process to ensure value for our community.

The Federal Strategic Gas Tax Fund allows applications for two capital projects or two planning projects or a combination of one planning and one capital project. Although Administration doesn't have all the details of these projects, CAO Holland introduced these proposed for initial thoughts or concerns.

**Community Transportation:**

CAO Holland announced the Village has been awarded the funding for our Community Transportation. The funding was provided because the Village will be providing service to the outlying areas; including Stelat'en and Nadleh Whut'en. The province will be sending out a Conditional Service Contract for our signature.

CAO Holland presented the details related to the proposed Mercedes Sprinter 12 passenger van. This vehicle is well recommended by users of this vehicle. They achieve good fuel mileage, are reliable and have a reasonable service schedule.

A general discussion followed. Mayor Lindstrom noted a conversation between himself and RD Director Mark Parker. They both would like to see a wheel chair lift in the vehicle. Administration will make inquiries for a wheel chair lift supplier. Other options were discussed including use of a ramp to load wheel chairs, etc.

Councillor Reyden stated he would like to see the various options around wheel chairs lifts and/or ramps.

Resolution 03-22-96 M/S Councillor Storey/Councillor Reyden  
"Motion to take steps to order the Mercedes Sprinter van"

Carried

Resolution 03-22-97 M/S Councillor Storey/Councillor Reyden  
"Motion to receive the CAO Reports"

Carried

**Staff Reports:**

None

**Reading List:**

Resolution 03-22-98 M/S Councillor Storey/Councillor Reyden  
"Motion to receive the Reading List"

Carried

### **New Business:**

Councillor Storey noted "National Volunteer Week" is coming up quickly; April 23 to 29<sup>th</sup>. Councillor Storey would like to put something on for our community volunteers. Councillor Storey would like Council's support and support from Village staff. She would like to recognize all our community volunteers. She would like to organize a banquet and proposes the event could take place in the upstairs of the Recreation Complex. Councillor Storey feels this is an important event that will bring the community together.

Mayor Lindstrom asked if this was volunteer of the year or volunteers of the year?

Councillor Storey would like to recognize all our community volunteers. Councillor Storey is available on Thursday April 27, however, any day during that week will work. She would like to see tickets sold, the bar open and a catered dinner. Councillor Storey has offered to spearhead this event.

Mayor Lindstrom would like to provide the second floor of the complex for this event.

A general discussion followed. Councillor Storey has proposed Thursday April 20<sup>th</sup> to ensure Mayor Lindstrom is available to attend.

Councillor Storey voiced concerns about the Food Share program in the community. Community Concerns have arisen that the Food Share program competes with the Crisis Centre. Councillor Storey stated the Food Share program serves a wide number of people in the community.

Councillor Storey voiced her interest in curbside pick up of cardboard. She is not suggesting glass or plastic initially; however, she would like to know the cost of recyclable materials picked up in town. She would like to see recycling move forward in our town.

Mayor Lindstrom noted, the Bottle Depot is paid to take cardboard. He also commented on the efforts of Janine Dougal who has been promoting recycling. Unfortunately, nobody wants to pay the cost of this activity.

Councillor Storey would like to see curbside pick-up of recyclable products in Fraser Lake.

CAO Holland commented that all forms of recycling are subsidized activities. West of Prince George, no communities are recycling glass or tin due to cost.

Councillor Storey noted the Public Consultation meeting for the disposal of the SD91 building, 298 McMillan Avenue is scheduled for Thursday March 30, 2017.

Councillor Storey would like some sort of signage about "hike the mouse". She would like something on the top of Mouse Mountain. If you hike mouse mountain, you could take the coupon to the Tourist Information Center and receive 10% off a meal in town. She would also like community signage that boasts "Home of the Canada Day Hospitality Hostages since 1996"

Councillor Storey would like to see a petition sent to the Federal Government about the Northern Living Allowance to have Fraser Lake put back on the Northern Living Allowance. Councillor Storey stated she had spoken with M.L.A. John Rustad about this proposal. Minister Rustad suggested it should be called the Rural Living Allowance. Councillor Storey feels this is something we should be petitioning for in support of rural residents who need to travel for medical, dental, eye doctors or groceries. Councillor Storey feels this allowance should be provided to rural communities that are in hardship.

Councillor Storey referred to Fort St. John and Dawson Creek. She commented they have a lot of services. Councillor Storey is concerned about the many people in our community who tell her they cannot afford to go to physio therapy or the chiropractor in Prince George. Her thought is that not all northern communities need to be on the northern living allowance.

Mayor Lindstrom suggested Councillor Storey take a run at it to see what happens.

Councillor Storey asked if this was something that could come from Council. Councillor Storey would like Administration to write a letter.

Resolution 03-22-99 M/S Councillor Reyden/Councillor Storey

"Motion to write a letter to the Federal Government to request Fraser Lake be place on the Northern Living Allowance list"

Resolution 03-22-100 M/S Councillor Lepoidevin/Councillor Ray

"Motion to receive New Business"

Carried

#### **Bylaws:**

Resolution 03-22-101 M/S Councillor Reyden/Councillor Storey

"Move the 4<sup>th</sup> reading of Bylaw 783, 2017 Council Indemnity Bylaw"

Carried

#### **Next Meeting:**

Resolution 03-22-102 M/S Councillor Storey/Councillor Reyden


"Move the next Regular Meeting of Council to be held on April 12, 2017 at 5:30 pm"

**Adjourn:**

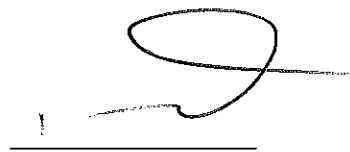
Resolution 03-22-103 Councillor Storey

"Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of Council at 7:20 pm"

Certified Correct

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Lindstrom', written over a horizontal line.

**Dwayne Lindstrom**  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rodney J Holland', written over a horizontal line.

**Rodney J Holland**  
Chief Administrative Officer