



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held August 22, 2018 In the Municipal Hall in Open Forum

Those in Attendance: Mayor Lindstrom
Councillor Reyden
Councillor Storey
Councillor Ray

Staff: Rodney J. Holland, Chief Administrative Officer
Laura McMaster, Finance Clerk
Joe Pacheco, Fire Chief

Public: Darrel Holland
Elaine Storey

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

Agenda:

Resolution 08-22-224 M/S Councillor Reyden/ Councillor Storey
"Motion to adopt the agenda"

Carried

Mayor Lindstrom thanked Councillor Storey for chairing the July 11th Council Meeting.

Delegation:

None

Minutes:

Resolution 08-22-225 M/S Councillor Ray/Councillor Reyden
"Motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 11, 2018"

Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes:

None

Council Reports:

Councillor Ray reports being busy with fire related activities over the summer break. He assisted people with their evacuation. He also helped to manage water pumps on neighbouring properties.

Councillor Reyden attended the Wildfire Public Information Meeting on August 18th at 2:00 pm. He found the meeting very informative. Councillor Reyden appreciated learning more about how things work in this type of operation. In his assessment, we are being well taken care of.

Councillor Storey met with MP Nathan Cullen. She and MP Cullen discussed the Village resolutions around water hazards and the Rural Living Allowance. Councillor Storey felt the conversation was productive and well received. MP Cullen seems to care about our community and wants to hear our concerns. He also wants to know what we need in Fraser Lake. Councillor Storey also reported on our Tri Council Meetings and how they are building relationships.

MP Cullen asked about local projects and how he could support, CAO Holland highlighted our Wastewater Expansion project and our intention to apply to the Canada-BC Infrastructure Fund. MP Cullen took notes and committed to supporting our application. He has asked to be notified when the application has been submitted. Councillor Storey appreciated the time MP Cullen provided for these conversations.

Chief Larry Nooski contacted Councillor Storey earlier today. Last week, Councillor Storey went to Nadleh to offer support. She'd taken teddy bears and other stuff to Nadleh Whut'en for their children. Chief Nooski talked about arranging a date for our next Tri Council Meeting. In response to Chief Nooski's query, Councillor Storey offered to discuss potential dates for the next Tri Council Meeting at this Council Meeting. Chief Nooski has also asked for a copy of all the Tri Council Meeting Minutes so he can review them.

Councillor Storey reports assisting Stellaquo with their evacuation efforts. Councillor Storey commended Fire Chief Joe Pacheco for his support their evacuation efforts. She noted, there has been a lot of support for Stellaquo. The Stelat'en community evacuated their elders because of the smoke.

Councillor Storey attended the three Wildfire Public Information Meetings and video taped the last one. It was hard to hear the speakers at the Fraser Lake arena. She feels the Village needs to consider a new sound system for the arena.

Councillor Storey has a friend working in the warehouse at the Fire Camp. She visited her friend and while at the Fire Camp offer her support. She reports they were doing well at the camp and not in need of anything at this time.

Councillor Storey went to Burns Lake to assist with their ESS Reception Centre. Councillor Storey commended our Emergency Social Service Director Laura McMaster for her organization of the Fraser Lake ESS Team. The level of organization and training of our local team became obvious when you see what is happening elsewhere. ESSD Laura McMaster and our ESS team of volunteers are well prepared and well organized.

Mayor Lindstrom attended a Wildfire meeting in Nadleh Whuten on August 17th. Minister Doug Donaldson attended. Mayor Lindstrom felt most people were surprised to see the Minister at the meeting. Chief Nooski was able to ask some hard questions of Minister Donaldson.

Mayor Lindstrom attended a Wildfire meeting in Burns Lake on August 21st. Premier Horgan was to be at the meeting, but his plane couldn't land due to the smoke. Regardless of that development, it was a good meeting. Both Fire bosses from the PG Fire Centre and the NW Fire Centre were present. They provided updates on the Island Lake and Shovel Lake fires, as well as other fires of significance in the area. The response to the Shovel Lake Fire and the Island Lake Fire have made significant advances. The Incident Management Team in Fraser Lake will take over the management of the Cheslatta Fire.

Mayor Lindstrom attended the Wildfire Public Information Meetings on July 31st and August 21st. He's also been attending the Village Office and listening to the daily Wildfire BC Operational calls at 2:00 pm. Those calls have been very informative; providing good information about what has been happening with our local fires.

Resolution 08-22-226 M/S Councillor Storey/Councillor Reyden

"Motion to receive Councillor Reports"

Carried

Accounts Payable:

Resolution 08-22-227 M/S Councillor Storey/Councillor Ray

"Motion to adopt accounts payable and payroll in the amount of \$926,715.20"

Carried

Councillor Reyden asked for more information about cheque 27550 to Rocky Mountain Phoenix for \$4,984.09. Councillor Reyden asked whether these repairs were covered by insurance or if the Village was on the hook for that expense?

Finance Clerk Laura McMaster explained the Village was responsible for a \$1,000.00 deductible. It was interesting to learn we were charged GST on the repair to our Rescue Truck. The Village will recover the GST portion of the invoice. This reduces the cost to the expected \$1,000.00 deductible.

Correspondence List:

Resolution 08-22-228 M/S Councillor Storey/Councillor Reyden
"Motion to receive the correspondence list"

Carried

CAO Reports:

Royal Canadian Legion – Application to change Liquor Licence

The Royal Canadian Legion would like to change their liquor licence from Liquor Primary Club to Liquor Primary. The purpose of the license change is to allow the legion to operate as a licensed commercial establishment; a bar.

The Royal Canadian Legion is zoned P2 for Public and Institutional Use. Their existing liquor license fits the "permitted uses" under our P2 zone; however, moving to a liquor primary licence does not comply with our zoning.

Inquiries with the Planning Department at the RDBN confirmed a change to the existing zoning is required to allow such a change in liquor licencing. Jason Llewellyn of the RDBN Planning Department has suggested two options; changing the "permitted uses" under our P2 Zone to allow operation of a Liquor Primary establishment by a club/Legion. Or a complete Re zoning the Legion property. The amendment to the "permitted uses" list is thought to be a simpler solution. Re zoning the property is more labour intensive and would require an amendment to our OCP.

The Zoning issues must be addressed before the Legion can submit their application. A small concern is that the Legion is not assured license change following submission of their application.

Administration would like to determine Council's level of support for the zoning amendments. A resolution to proceed is required. A separate issue is the Legion's application to upgrade their Liquor Licence. Administration is interested in learning Council's thoughts on that application.

Councillor Storey believes she knows why they want the Liquor Primary license. It is her understanding the Legion is struggling. The license change would allow the Legion to advertise food and drink specials. Councillor Storey believes this is a necessary change for the Legion. She would not like to lose any more businesses in the Village.

Mayor Lindstrom feels the same, however, he thought the Legion was already functioning as a Liquor primary.

Councillor Reyden asked if the re-zoning was required before the Legion can proceed with their application to the Province.

Administration explained the Legion needs the signature of the Village to submit their application. The Legion president is aware of this requirement. The Legion executive have been considering this application for the last 18 months. The Legion president understands we cannot sign the application knowing it will contravene our zoning bylaw. It is Administration's recommendation that the easiest way to address the zoning issue is to amend the "Permitted Uses" listed for our P2 Zone. This option includes being very specific to include liquor primary to a club or Legion for the Legion property alone within the P2 zone.

Resolution 08-22-229 M/S Councillor Storey/Councillor Reyden

"Motion to support the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 274 in their application for Liquor Primary Liquor License by amending the "Permitted Uses" under our P2 zone to permit the Fraser Lake Royal Canadian Legion Branch 274 to operate under a liquor primary liquor license as a Royal Canadian Legion in its current location"

Carried

Cannabis:

Administration provided an update on the most recent decisions around Cannabis retail. Retail applications will not be approved without municipal support.

The municipality remains responsible for regulating retail of cannabis and paraphernalia.

Does Council wish to establish guidelines around retail security, criminal records check for retailers, limitation on types of retail?

Another consideration deals with public consumption of cannabis. Cannabis is not tobacco, so, the restrictions for public consumption of tobacco do not apply to cannabis. To date, the Province has not regulated public consumption of cannabis. They are leaving that up to local governments. Should the Village regulate where people can consume/smoke cannabis? Should we establish buffer zones around schools, shopping centres, our library, our Recreation Centre, playgrounds and sports fields.

Finally, how should we deal with Head Shops; retailers of bongs, pipes, etc. Will it be OK for a van to sell a full array of cannabis paraphernalia on the side of the highway, across from the school, down in White Swan Park? Should we establish some guidelines around where this retail activity will be accepted.

One option available to Council is to do nothing. However, Council may choose to limit the number of retail shops in town. This could include deciding there should be no Cannabis Retail shops in town. Regulating these activities could be as simple as amending our existing Business License Bylaw to include a couple of caveats about cannabis retail. As an alternative, the Village may decide to have a bylaw that deals exclusively with cannabis retail, consumption and cultivation. As it stands, the Federal Government and the province have left regulation of

cannabis retail, public consumption and land use decisions around cultivation to Local Governments.

Mayor Lindstrom stated he is less concerned about the sale of cannabis paraphernalia than public consumption. He would not like to see cannabis users smoking cannabis around our arena, sports fields, public facilities or anywhere children frequent. He feels being able to smoke within 30 feet of a doorway is too close. Cannabis smoke typically has a strong odour that is offensive. Mayor Lindstrom is also concerned about cultivation in apartments, multi family units and rental properties. This should not be allowed.

Councillor Reyden suggested it would be appropriate to treat Cannabis more like alcohol rather than tobacco.

Councillor Storey agrees. She believes cultivation in apartments or rental properties will be a problem. As for consumption, she does not want to see people smoking cannabis in public areas. Most tobacco smokers don't abide by the 10-meter buffer from doorways, so, extending the same rules to cannabis is a concern. Aside from the annoyance of second hand cannabis smoke, Councillor Storey is worried about health impacts for people with respiratory issues. She does not want to see people smoking it around children at sporting events or in other places where the public frequents.

Administration referred to the correspondence from Lidstone & Company. They recommend Council seek public input to gauge the level of regulation expected by the community.

A discussion followed.

Councillor Ray agreed with the points being discussed. In Public Places, Cannabis needs to be treated like alcohol. He has less concern about establishment of a head shop; however, he does not want to see retail of cannabis paraphernalia at the roadside or the Farmer's Market. He also believes any kind of public input will assist Council in determining how to proceed with these decisions.

Council would like Administration to develop a community survey or similar means of obtaining public input.

Mayor Lindstrom noted Brian Frenkel has been active on a Committee to consider the impacts of Cannabis. Mr. Frenkel may be a good resource for more information.

Wildfires and Village response:

CAO Holland asked Emergency Social Service Director Laura McMaster for an update on the activities of the Fraser Lake ESS team. The Fraser Lake ESS team opened a Reception Centre just after the August long weekend. The Reception Centre was opened at the request of and in support of the Regional District. The Reception Centre was operated full days. During the

hours of operation, Laura ran training sessions and refresher sessions. Both seasoned ESS volunteers and new recruits participated. Everything went well.

In 2017 Laura and her team invested a significant amount of time getting organized and prepared. Those efforts paid off this year. Use of Council Chambers as the Reception Centre also worked very well.

Laura attended a GFOA conference the second week of Reception Centre operation. In her absence, she directed the Reception Centre be closed should our community become subject to an evacuation alert. She felt it would be important for the ESS volunteers to go home and organize their own households for potential evacuation. Laura states her team received criticism around that decision. People were angry they had to go to Burns Lake or Prince George to register. Laura felt it would be inappropriate for the Fraser Lake ESS team to be lodging people in Fraser Lake when there was a possibility of evacuation. Other considerations included local hotels were full and local restaurants had limited capacity to meet the growing needs. One restaurant wanted to only provide one meal a day. Another would not provide breakfast. Another closed because the family was going on vacation.

Laura held a team meeting this past Monday to debrief on their operations. It was agreed, they would re open the reception centre if the Regional District was supportive of the idea. The RD has asked the Fraser Lake ESS team to re open. There are individuals and families who remain subject to an evacuation order and have stayed in the Fraser Lake area. The Reception Centre will be open from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm each day to assist these folks with registering and access to benefits.

Mayor Lindstrom thanks ESSD Laura McMaster and the ESS team for their work. He appreciates the commitment and noted the long day for Laura.

Fire Chief Joe Pacheco was asked to provide a recap of his activities over the past three weeks.

Fire Chief Pacheco has been engaged in a wide variety of activities over the past three weeks. Since July 29th, he's worked with Forestry, BC Wildfire, Stellat'en and Nadleh Whuten First Nations. The initial focus was on structure protection for buildings and residences on the North Shore and the First Nation communities of Stellaquo and Nadleh. The Structure Protection Unit purchased by the Fraser Lake Fire Training Society was deployed almost immediately. It was set up to protect houses and buildings on Dahlgren Road and in the Nithi Valley.

Fire Chief Pacheco and his team have been involved with the orientation process for out of town Fire personnel. These orientations help familiarize fire personnel with the road networks or the lay of the land along the North Shore, Dahlgren Road and Nithi Road. These out of town fire departments patrolled the north shore through the night to suppressing spot fires and to enhance security.

Our own Fire Fighters, with the support by fire fighters and equipment from Stellaquo and Nadleh Whuten, were involved in safety talks and tail gate safety meetings. Other duties included notifying and assisting evacuees, working with our First Nations leadership to assist with their understanding of what was happening and assisting with the fires. Fire Chief Pacheco reports regular liaison with Chief Nooski or Chief Patrick. On several occasions, he was asked to attend Nadleh to speak with Chief Nooski. Fire Chief Pacheco noted each of these activities

take time. They also require a calm demeanor. Fire Chief Pacheco advises he's never been involved with an operation of this size. It's been a great learning experience. Fire Chief Pacheco thanked Dave Christie for his assistance as he was involved in most of these activities. Fire Chief Pacheco added he worked with representatives from the Office of the Fire Commissioner and Wildfire BC. There were many demands, but the Fire Department and Village staff were able to meet all requests. With this experience, Fire Chief Pacheco feels confident our Village would be able to manage a significant emergency in our community.

Administration completed the overview of the Village's response to the fires. Our Emergency Operations Centre was activated to a Level III. This level monitors the progress of the event. An active EOC is also required with the issuance of an Evacuation Alert. Although the Village was never thought to be in imminent danger from these fires, issues such as smoke and potential impacts on Highway 16 were concerns. When the RDBN extended their Evacuation Alert east to the Nechako River, it was appropriate to issue an evacuation alert for our community to ensure consistent messaging between the Village and the RDBN. The Operation of the EOC has been 7 days a week since August 8, 2018. CAO Holland thanked Sylvia Hendriksen and LeEtta Fontain for their assistance; taking phone calls, assisting at the front counter, managing Facebook and the Website. It has been a very busy three-week period. Everyone has been functioning very well. CAO Holland also complimented the Fire Centre; noting they were very responsive to our inquiries.

The Fire Camp is renting our soccer field and airport for a minimal charge. They are also renting the upstairs room of the Recreational Complex; using the space for their command centre. The Fire Camp is also accessing potable water from the dispensing station at the arena. Bud's Electric installed an electrical service for the Fire Camp. This eliminated the need to run a generator 24 hours a day. The Camp will pay the Village for their usage. JNik Septic is managing the camp's wastewater. JNik is pumping their wastewater and dumping it into our system via the holding tank at the trailer court. A dumping fee will be collected for each load dumped into our Wastewater Treatment system.

Mayor Lindstrom asked CAO Holland to talk about the EOC Operations, issuance of evacuation alerts and orders, rescinding alerts and orders.

Councillor Storey asked whether decisions to rescind an evacuation alert require a vote of Council? She reported having received hundreds of emails daily about what was going on. She explained she's made herself available from 8:00 am to 3:00 am everyday; trying to answer questions and to help people. Councillor Storey felt she wasn't well informed. She feels the circumstances she experienced are those where misinformation gets out. She had no idea an event like this would be so busy. She fielded numerous calls about whether we are on evacuation alert or are we subject to an evacuation order? She believes some of the responsibility lies with the Regional District. Councillor Storey would like to be involved in a debrief at some time in the future between the Village staff, members of Council and the RDBN.

CAO Holland asked Councillor Storey what information she needed.

Councillor Storey would like to know if there are better ways to manage such events so that its easier on the staff and members of Council.

Mayor Lindstrom commented this was the reason he asked his question. He stated he's posted several positive comments on social media and for the most part the response has been positive. As for the decisions to rescind the Evacuation Alert, Mayor Lindstrom advises it is not appropriate for him to comment on the subject until he receives the recommendation from the EOC.

CAO Holland explained, the EOC does not make uninformed decisions. For technical expertise on what is happening with the fire, the EOC refers to Wildfire BC and the Office of the Fire Commissioner. They are the subject matter experts. When their recommendations are received by the EOC manager, there is an opportunity to ask questions, seek clarification or to simply gather more information to clearly understand what is being recommended by those agencies. When those discussion have been completed, the EOC manager typically passes along the recommendation to the EOC Executive. In our case, this is the Mayor. Assuming the Mayor accepts the recommendation from the EOC Manager, the paperwork associated with the Evacuation Alert or Order is signed. During this time, the Mayor may decide to consult with Council. That is not a necessary part of the decision-making process. Requiring one point of contact for the EOC executive is to simplify the decision-making process. In an emergency, it may be difficult to assemble a quorum of Council. Although it is a good practice to keep members of Council informed of developments and potential decisions, there is no requirement to gather Council to make decisions.

CAO Holland suggested this experience accentuates the importance of EOC Training. Each year Emergency Management BC (EMBC) offers training around the operation of Emergency Operation Centres. They have a course specific to the role of elected officials and the EOC. With the operation of an EOC, there is a hierarchy. The Mayor or his designate is the EOC executive. Elected Officials are not part of the EOC Operational Team. The EOC manager is typically the CAO. The EOC manager is responsible for EOC operations and liaison between Operations and the Executive.

About Evacuation Alerts, Orders or State of Emergency Declarations, the Mayor or deputy Mayor receives recommendations from the EOC manager based on information gleaned through operational activities. There needs to be a level of trust and the Mayor or his designate have the right to request further information or to speak directly with the subject matter experts. Decision to order people out of their homes or decisions to rescind orders must be informed decisions.

CAO Holland acknowledge that Councillor Storey experienced a lot of people coming to her for information. However, she was not the Communications Officer for the EOC. Although the fires prompted activities that impacted the whole Village, none of the fires occurred in the Village. The emergency did not belong to the Village. The fires and all ordered evacuations occurred in the Regional District. As a result, communications and messaging were the

responsibility of the RDBN. The Village was echoing the messaging provided by Wildfire BC and the RDBN; however, it was not our place to create our own messages. We were simply supporting the community by providing another access to the information coming from the RDBN and Wildfire BC.

Councillor Storey stated most of the questions she was receiving related to phone numbers or how to find the ESS Reception Centre in Prince George, B.C.

CAO Holland noted the efforts of many were well intended. Everyone was doing their best to answer the onslaught of public inquiries. Inquiries were directed to members of Council, Village staff, our tourist information volunteers, staff at local restaurants and members of the community. Each of us were doing our best to support the evacuees, community members and travellers. Our collective efforts were successful. However, would there be benefit from further training? Administration believes this experience emphasizes the importance of training and preparedness. As EMBC training becomes available, members of Council will be notified and asked to consider participation in these learning opportunities.

Mayor Lindstrom reported asking Fire Chief Pacheco to take him for a tour of the North Shore. He was impressed with the number of men and the amount of equipment that was working on the north shore. He said these are activities that most people never see. Mayor Lindstrom would like something placed in the newsletter to continue the educational process on the difference between an Alert versus an Order.

Municipal Election:

CAO Holland presented the Nomination packages that Village staff assembled for our 2018 Municipal Elections. These new Candidate packages provide a broader information package than just the Candidates guide. The intention is to provide potential candidates more information around the role and function of Council.

Council Meeting Schedule:

CAO Holland noted the September 12, 2018 Council meeting was previously cancelled with the belief there would not be quorum available to hold the meeting. With only Councillor Storey attending UBCM, quorum would be available. Does Council want to revisit the decision to cancel the September 12th Council meeting. Finance Clerk Laura McMaster will act in CAO Holland's absence.

Resolution 08-22-230 M/S Councillor Reyden/Councillor Ray

“Motion to re institute the September 12, 2018 Regular Meeting of Council”

Carried

Resolution 08-22-231 M/S Councillor Storey/Councillor Ray

“Motion to receive the CAO Reports”

Carried

Staff Report:

None

Reading List:

Resolution 08-22-232 M/S Councillor Reyden/Councillor Ray
"Motion to receive the Reading List"

Carried

New Business:

Councillor Storey revisited her earlier comment about the sound system at the Arena. The existing system is not very effective as a Public Announcement system. There is a lot of echo. She would like a system that has a better PA component.

A discussion followed. It was agreed that many people are unable to understand the speaker due to the amount of echo. The sound quality is terrible from the existing sound system.

Resolution 08-22-233 M/S Councillor Storey/Councillor Ray
"Motion to look into a new sound system for the arena in 2019"

Carried

Councillor Storey spoke of scheduling the next Tri Council meeting. Stellaquo suggested September 4 or 5th. The Stelat'en would like to invite MLA John Rustad and MP Nathan Cullen to this meeting. Councillor Storey does not know of their availability. She's told Chief Nooski she would look into that.

Councillor Reyden suggested Chief Nooski should invite MLA Rustad and MP Cullen himself.

Councillor Storey agreed.

Councillor Storey reported there are several streetlights out around town.

Finance Clerk Laura McMaster explained streetlight outages need to be reported to BC Hydro. To make the report, you simply need to record the pole number. Where a pole number is not available, the closest civic address to the pole also works. BC Hydro owns the streetlights. They are responsible for their repair and maintenance.

Councillor Storey asked about the status of the Cross Walk light adjacent to the library.

CAO Holland advised the Village has several projects under way. The library light was lower on the list of priorities. Administration was waiting to see where expenses landed on the bigger projects before proceeding with the library cross walk light.

Councillor Storey advised NCLGA and UBCM are interested in identifying students who are interested in attending UBCM. They will take three students from each area associations. NCLGA and UBCM will cover most expenses.

A discussion followed.

Councillor Storey invited Council to identify a student who is interested in Municipal Management or Local Government politics who could be identified to NCLGA.

Resolution 08-22-232 M/S Councillor Reyden/Councillor Ray
"Motion to Receive New Business"

Carried

Bylaws:

None

Next Meeting of Council:

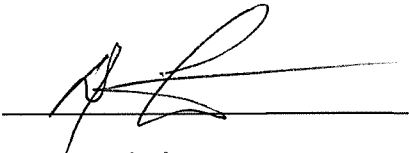
September 12, 2018 at 5:30 pm

Adjourn:

Resolution 08-22-233 M Councillor Ray
"Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 pm"

Carried

Certified Correct



**Dwayne Lindstrom,
Mayor**



**Rodney J Holland,
Chief Administrative Officer**