

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held in the Municipal Chambers on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

Mayor S. Storey presided. Councillors present were C. LePoidevin, K. Watt-Senner, A. Fennema and J. Jenkinson. Staff present were R. Holland, CAO, V. Hilman, Director of Public Works, J. Pacheco, Fire Chief, and D. Christie, Economic Development Officer

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

Mayor Storey welcomed the delegations and public to the meeting

Agenda:

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt the agenda and declare new business.

Resolution 10-28-313

Carried

Delegations & Guests:

Sgt Jason Rumming, Fraser Lake RCMP
Constable Calvin Ayrd – Fraser Lake RCMP
Rhonda Hooke – Victim Services
Elaine Storey – Autumn Services
Lisa Gandier – Autumn Services

Norman Delong-Guest

Sgt Rumming thanked Council for the opportunity to present. He commented that it's been some time since he last presented to Council. He would like to establish a schedule to meet with Council at least twice each year; once in March to discuss the RCMP Annual Performance Plan and once in October to review summer activities and events. These delegations will provide a snapshot of what has been going on in the community and what the RCMP have been focusing their efforts on.

Sgt Rumming noted several new staff members have come on board at the detachment. Sgt Rumming introduced the new Victim Services Coordinator, Rhonda Hooke.

Ms. Hooke introduced herself. She lives in Vanderhoof, B.C. She is providing Victim Services in both Vanderhoof and Fraser Lake. Her hours of work are split 50/50 between the two communities. Her office hours in Fraser Lake are on Tuesday and Thursday. The program is intended to provide practical and emotional support for Victims of Crime. Although they also provide some support to victims of trauma such as notifications of families following a serious car accident but, their primary role is providing victims of

crime with support, from the time they report a crime to the completion of court proceedings.

As Ms. Hooke establishes herself in her role, her priority is to build relationships with other service providers. Most of her work comes from referrals from the police. It is important to build a good relationship with the members of the detachment to ensure they are making referrals when appropriate. She noted the case load in Fraser Lake is low so, she hopes to develop some community-based education around domestic violence and sexual assault. Elder abuse is also a concern. Covid-19 is impacting some of the community-based initiatives.

Councillor Watt-Senner noted from Sgt Rumming's report events of mischief are up significantly. She asked if Victim Service would be responding to this type of crime?

Ms. Hooke stated she would focus on violent crime, community engagement and community education.

Councillor Watt-Senner commented on how Fraser Lake is a quiet community, and she wants to make sure Ms. Hooke's skills are used in Fraser Lake

Ms. Hooke advised most of her work comes from referrals from the police. She does not function as a councillor but rather provides referrals to other professionals. She acts as the constant for victims of crime as they work their way through all of the other services.

Councillor Watt-Senner stated she is happy to have Victim Services in Fraser Lake. It will be beneficial for our community.

Sgt Rumming introduced Constable Calvin Ayrd.

Constable Ayrd transferred from Prince George to Fraser Lake. Prior to Prince George, he was posted in Masset, B.C. Constable Ayrd provided some personal background. He and his family are excited to be in a small community. He looks forward to working with the community.

Constable Ayrd provided his policing background. He began as an Auxiliary Officer in Kamloops, B.C. During his posting in Masset, he was the First Nations Police Officer. In Prince George, Constable Ayrd was tasked with General Duties. The last three years, he was working on the downtown unit. That unit's focus was on proactive initiatives to combat drugs and alcohol use in the downtown core.

Since arriving in Fraser Lake, Constable Ayrd has become involved with hockey.

Mayor Storey welcomed Constable Ayrd to the community.

Sgt Rumming presented a report which provided an overview of statistics. He noted there are some emerging trends this year in comparison to previous years. The Village has had problems with property offences such as break & enter and mischief. Sgt Rumming recognizes the impact of these activities on the community.

The detachment looked at these increases and has developed a crime reduction strategy intended to be proactive rather than reactive. Persons who have been active in these criminal activities have been identified and the detachment is taking steps to change their behaviour. In addition, the detachment is endeavouring to use Crime Stoppers more and communicating with the community through their *Buffalo Tracks* page in the Fraser Connector.

In comparing the number of calls for service in 2019 versus 2020, the number of calls is down in 2020. Covid-19 was impacting those numbers as people were simply not contacting the police for several reasons. There are several areas that have increased. Specifically, the number of breaches of condition offenses. The detachment has teamed up with Vanderhoof Community Corrections to ensure the RCMP members have all the information. This has resulted in a significant increase in the detection of these types of offences. This strategy has resulted in a decrease in the overall number of crimes in the community, including property crime.

Sgt Rumming reviewed Traffic enforcement. He noted Covid has impacted this type of enforcement. In 2019 the detachment apprehended 12 impaired drivers. In 2020, the detachment has apprehended 5 impaired drivers. Violation tickets are down. Sgt Rumming advised traffic has been down by as much as 40 percent. Serious motor vehicle accidents are also down.

Sgt Rumming anticipates an increase in traffic with the advent of the pipeline. The Detachment has been working with PAPC to discuss traffic safety.

Sgt Rumming discussed staffing at the detachment. The detachment is fully staffed with 5 police officers and a full-time steno. The detachment is currently looking for a second administrative assistant to fill a term employment opportunity. The RCMP have recently purchased three residences. Sgt Rumming talked about how this housing is helping to attract RCMP members to the community. RCMP Property Management has provided final approval for two more homes.

One of these homes will be constructed in 2021. The second home will be constructed in 2022.

Sgt Rummig provided a review of the detachment's Annual Performance Plan (APP). The 2020 APP set out a number of goals for operational activities in 2020. The first was to reduce domestic violence by 5 percent. Sgt Rummig advised that can be done by targeting individuals involved in those types of activities. The detachment has been successful in meeting that goal.

A second initiative was to identify victims of crime and to make referrals to Victim Services. The goal was to increase the number of referrals to Victim Services by 10 percent. That has been achieved.

The third goal was to reduce the impact of prolific offenders in the community. The plan was to increase the number of compliance and curfew checks by 10 percent. The detachment has achieved those goals.

Sgt Rummig noted a few of the people who were being monitored are not from the community. Most have been transplanted from other places to Fraser Lake. Some of these folks have left the community as they do not like the regular compliance checks.

The detachment participates in the Senior Constable's program that is run out of the North District. This is a skills development program. This is a mentorship style program. Constable Calvin Ayrd is participating in this program. He will be the acting detachment commander in Sgt Rummig's absence.

A final initiative the detachment took on this year is the enhancement of their relationships with Indigenous communities. Their focus has been to be out in the aboriginal communities and to be part of those communities. Sgt Rummig hopes to be able to acquire a First Nations Policing member for the detachment. The detachment members already provide all the services that would be provided through the dedicated First Nations position.

Mayor Storey asked if the detachment was seeing any issues with the opioid crisis.

Sgt Rummig advised there had been no issues in Fraser Lake.

Mayor Storey commented on the speed of vehicles driving through Fraser Lake on the highway. She also commented on the use of engine brakes as commercial vehicles are travelling through town. Mayor Storey added she would like to know if the additional activity from the pipeline was causing problems.

Sgt Rummig advised the pipeline is gearing up. So far it is having very little impact on the detachment. There was an event at one of the local establishments but issues stemming from the pipeline have been limited.

Councillor Watt-Senner asked about drug statistics. She asked if there was a problem with drugs in the community.

Sgt Rummig agreed there were no drug statistics. He advised there is little to no drug work being done. Sgt Rummig is taking steps to ensure the necessary skill sets and planning is in place to increase policing activity in this area.

Councillor Jenkinson thanked Sgt Rummig for his presentation. He then asked how the detachment is doing for guards and matrons?

Sgt Rummig advised they would like to hear from anyone who is interested in guarding. The detachment can always use more guards. Unfortunately, the clearance and training process are very slow and can be demotivating for applicants. This process can take as much as a year. That said, the detachment would like to receive applications from interested persons.

Councillor Jenkinson asked what Council can do to assist the RCMP to make Fraser Lake a safer community?

Sgt Rummig stated not everyone communicates with the RCMP. If Council hears things that cause concern, please do not hesitate to contact Sgt Rummig with the concern.

Mayor Storey thanked Sgt Rummig for his presentation.

Delegation #2:

Elaine Storey and Lisa Gandier

Elaine Storey talked about Autumn Services signage. They have installed a sign on the front of the Fraser Lake Mall. Another illuminated sign will be installed on the signpost in the parking lot. Autumn Services would like to erect two more signs on the posts where the Festival of the Arts signs are located. It is Mrs. Storey's understanding; those posts belong to the Village so, they are seeking permission.

Mrs Storey advised the funding for the signage came from NDI. Other Autumn Services projects include a new kitchen. This has significantly improved the facility.

A discussion followed.

Elaine Storey and Lisa Gandier asked about snowplowing. The Better at Home program has limited financial capacity. The Better at Home program has 108 clients, 75 to 80 percent of whom reside in Fraser Lake. The Better at Home program provides light house keeping, yard work, transportation to appointments and snow clearing. Only 15 of the clients who live in Fraser Lake receive snow clearing. The Better at Home budget gets eaten up very quickly and they do not have capacity for all the seniors who need snow clearing.

Lisa Gandier noted there were many seniors who previously received snow clearing from the Village. If those people are not already a Better at Home client, the program does not have the means to take them on as additional clients.

Mrs. Storey commented about snow clearing on sidewalks and walkways. Seniors who depend on their scooters to get around will be housebound if the Village does not clear sidewalks and pathways.

A discussion followed.

Councillor Jenkinson asked about the grant for the signage.

Mrs. Storey advised they had received a grant from NDI for the signage. They are hoping to apply for funding under the Business Façade to top up the funding.

Councillor LePoidevin asked about eligibility for the Better at Home program.

Lisa Gandier provided details. The Provincial Government sets the thresholds. Most clients under the local program receive 100 percent coverage.

Mrs. Storey commented that although the cost of living was reasonable in Fraser Lake, the cost of transportation to appointments in other communities is huge.

Minutes:

**Regular Council Minutes,
October 14, 2020**

MOVED/SECONDED that the Regular Council Minutes of October 14, 2020 be adopted with the requested amendments and that such Minutes as read set out all the business before Council that day and fully and properly record all of the resolutions and bylaws passed and adopted by Council at that meeting.

Resolution 10-28-314

Carried

Councillor Jenkinson was concerned how one of his statements was depicted in the October 14th Minutes. The way it was set out was not the intended meaning. Last year the Village spent a lot of money on equipment. This year, Councillor Jenkinson would like to see training for the Public Works crew, such as project management, or equipment certification for backhoe or grader operators. The following year, Councillor Jenkinson believes it may be appropriate to provide supervisory training. Its all about giving people the tools to do their jobs.

Mayor Storey agreed. Her recollection of Councillor Jenkinson's statement was that it was Council's job to provide the tools to staff so they can do their jobs.

**Business arising from
the Minutes:**

Mayor Storey asked if anyone sent EDO Christie options for names of the Professional Building? Mayor Storey stated she was talking to the new massage therapist and asked her if she had any ideas. Mayor Storey felt we should ask the people working in the building what they would like to see the building named.

Mayor Storey asked staff if they had any other thoughts.

CAO Holland responded, our suggestion is the "Fraser Lake Professional Building". CAO Holland asked Council how they would like staff to deal with the naming of the building.

A discussion followed.

CAO Holland noted a sign has not been built for the building. Before the signage is ordered, the name of the building should be established.

Councillor Watt-Senner proposed "Fraser Lake Professional Plaza".

Mayor Storey suggested McMillan Resource Square or McMillan Hub or Fraser Lake and Area Resource Centre. She stated if there were no other ideas, we can leave it as the Fraser Lake Professional Building. She commented about how people typically abbreviate the names so the building name will likely become The Professional Building.

Councillor Jenkinson asked who the funders were for the purchase and renovation of the building?

CAO Holland advised NDTIT provided \$98,000.00 to purchase the building. NKDF and the RDBN each provided \$87,810.00 for the energy upgrades and renovations.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive Business Arising

Resolution 10-28-315

Carried

Reports on Council

Activities:

Councillor LePoidevin

Nothing to report

Councillor Watt-Senner

Attended a Chamber of Commerce Meeting on October 24th. Chris King from Hub Space, Prince George, B.C. was the guest speaker.

The Federal Government is pumping money into small businesses to help them succeed. The Federal Gov't has a new program where small and medium sized businesses can apply for funding for rent subsidies and a loan program under the CEVA program. Any small business can contact Hub Space. They will conduct an analysis on your business and your website. They provide recommendations around how to bring yourself up to par. This includes recommendations on marketing. Councillor Watt-Senner has availed herself of these services and she stated it is amazing to be working with these professionals. Hub Space will assist any small business. All you do is give them a call.

PAPC also presented to those in attendance. PAPC would like to change the way they are doing business at the camp. They want to have a pop-up market at the camp. Unfortunately, they don't believe they will be able to have these markets until after Christmas.

PAPC also talked about hiring protocols. If anyone is interested in a job, they ask those people to contact PAPC

Councillor Jenkinson

Toured the Community Forest on his own. He was impressed with the groups who are working out there. He is impressed with the use of fibre in the community forest.

Councillor Fennema

Nothing to report

Mayor Storey

Mayor Storey reported on two delegations that presented at the last RDBN meeting.

Artemis Gold presented and she wanted questions around how the Blackwater project would impact Fraser Lake.

Mayor Storey advised Artemis Gold is boasting the Blackwater Project could be the largest gold mine in the world. The mine life has been increased from 17 to 22 years. Construction is scheduled for Q2 of 2022. They are working on permitting right now. The plan for the mine has been set out in phases.

Earlier today, Mayor Storey participated in another meeting with Artemis. They discussed social responsibility. Mayor Storey would like people to pick Vanderhoof or Fraser Lake as the places they want to live rather than a fly in/fly out scenario. The hope is for Artemis to hire local. Mayor Storey noted Artemis will be going into construction as the pipeline is winding down. Although the community has limited vacancy at this time, those people associated with the pipeline who are renting in town will be moving on. That will open housing for the Artemis employees. Mayor Storey met with the Regional SAR Manager. He told her there are an average of 30 volunteers per SAR group. Funding is stable now. An issue has developed around team skills. No SAR group is supposed to have it all. EMBC does not feel any team should be trying to do it all. Keeping people current with their training over such a breadth of skills is not thought to be sustainable. Mayor Storey has asked Artemis Gold to present to our council. They have agreed. Mayor Storey has also requested a tour of the Blackwater site so our members of Council have an idea of what the mine site will look like.

Mayor Storey sat in on a presentation from Hub Space. They will also be presenting at NCLGA. Their presentation will be shared with all Chambers of Commerce.

Mayor Storey attended the Northern Health update meeting. The Mayors are being told Northern Health saw more drug related deaths due to opioid overdoses than any other health authority.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive Councillor Reports.

Resolution 10-28-316

Carried

Accounts payable:

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt Accounts Payable in the amount of \$460,874.62

Resolution 10-28-317

Carried

Correspondence List:

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the correspondence list.

Resolution 10-28-318

Carried

Business from the CAO:

None

Staff Reports:

EDO Christie recommends applying to the Canadian Heritage Celebrate Canada Grant. The funding is up to \$5,000.00 for Canada Day/Mouse Mountain Day celebrations.

MOVED/SECONDED to apply to the Canadian Heritage Celebrate Canada grant for up to \$5,000.00 in support of our Canada Day Celebrations.

Resolution 10-28-319

Carried

Reading List:

None

New Business:

Councillor Jenkinson

Asked for an update on the Grad firewood fundraiser.

Councillor LePoidevin advised the Grad's have received their firewood.

Councillor Fennema

Commented about a number of complaints about the lack of seniors snowplowing this year.

Councillor Fennema was approached about the EV Station.

She was also approached about the fire hydrants; whether they had been raised or not.

Mayor Storey

Is wondering what should be done regarding Remembrance Day. She felt a video could be created and posted. She has also heard a siren will be sounded for 11:00 am.

Fire Chief Pacheco reports he's spoken with the Legion President, Norm Delong. This year, there will not be a public ceremony. The Fire Department will sound the siren at 10:58 am.

Norm Delong was present and stated the RCMP and the Legion will be meeting at Endako and Chowsunket. A small delegation of 6 or 8 people will go to the cenotaph to lay 4 or 5 wreaths. The RCMP will lower and raise the flag. They will say the prayer at the cenotaph.

At 11:00 am, the Legion representatives will play O'Canada.

Norm Delong would like encourage people to come outside their homes at 11:00 am to remember but they should not gather at the cenotaph.

Wreaths are being distributed to businesses so they can display them. Most will not be laying their wreath at the cenotaph. The Legion is also putting out the poppy boxes.

Norm Delong advised a letter would be coming to the Village inviting Mayor Storey to join this delegation, otherwise the Legion could lay the wreath on her behalf.

Mayor Storey asked if we could live stream the event at the cenotaph.

Fire Chief Pacheco advised the Fire Department will not be advertising the event. They will march to the cenotaph and lay a wreath. Fire Chief Pacheco invited Mayor Storey to join the Fire Fighters if she would like.

Mayor Storey advised she is receiving complaints about commercial vehicles using engine brakes when they are entering the community. Mayor Storey would like to have some signage on the highway asking people to slow down as they enter the community.

EV Charging Station. Mayor Storey has received a complaint from a concerned citizen. Mayor Storey agrees with the concern about the lack of a washroom. She does not want to see people finding alternatives to a washroom while charging their vehicles. She is also concerned about noise when people are charging their vehicle during nighttime hours.

CAO Holland advised, when discussions began with BC Hydro, they would not consider locating the EV Charging Station anywhere other than Village owned property. Since then, BC Hydro has recognized most preferable sites are privately owned. BC Hydro has begun discussion with the owners of the Mall. If those discussions are productive, that is probably the better location for the EV Charging Station.

Mayor Storey commented on Halloween Fireworks. She has heard we may see people from other communities because other communities are not planning to have fireworks. Mayor Storey wonders if we should put a post on our Village website and Facebook page to tell people this is for locals only.

Fire Chief Pacheco advised we don't want vehicles driving down to the park, but pedestrians can walk down Park Drive to as far as the railway tracks. That will provide these folks with a wonderful view of the fireworks.

Mayor Storey commented on the Connected Coast project. Mayor Lee Brain of the City of Prince Rupert has asked to meet with Mayor and Council to discuss rural broadband. City West is hoping to provide fiber optic internet to communities from Prince Rupert to Vanderhoof, B.C. Mayor Brain would like to meet with the Mayor and Council to discuss this initiative on November 3rd between 4:30 and 5:30 pm.

Mayor Storey is receiving complaints about cats. She would like to see a reminder to cat owners to spay or neuter their cats.

Mayor Storey would like a reminder in the Spring Newsletter that children should be wearing a bike helmet when riding a bike.

Mayor Storey would also like to see a reminder that firewood should not be cut in active logging blocks.

Mayor Storey advised Council the CGL pipeline is not hiring primary care workers or nurse practitioners. They are hiring paramedics. These folks cannot write prescriptions. This will impact our Medical Clinic.

Councillor Jenkinson noted there are a few options such as Tela-Health. You can speak to a physician online.

Mayor Storey commented on Cemetery Maintenance. She received a complaint from the Schulz family. Mayor Storey thanked Director of Public Works Vern Hilman for his letter. She has received complaints from three different families about

cemetery maintenance. She feels it is important to ensure Public Works have the time to make the necessary improvements to the cemetery.

Councillor Jenkinson asked if there was a lack of communication or breakdown in communication. If so, is there something in place to correct it?

CAO Holland advised he has spoken with staff about this event. The understanding is the family told others they were having the funeral and burial on Saturday. There was no discussion with the Village. When they came to the Village, the Schulz family was told we would need to check with Public Works.

Director of Public Works Vern Hilman advised the decision was hard to make. Most times when the Village does not have the resources for a specific date, the details can be negotiated amicably.

Councillor Jenkinson asked if there is something that can be done differently, could we improve on our processes?

Director of Public Works Vern Hilman stated Sylvia called and did everything right. Vern stated the lack of inquiry created a different scenario. Vern was empathetic to the family's grief but stated if he had the decision to make again, it would be the same decision.

Mayor Storey advises she has received more complaints about senior's snow plowing. She would like Council to think about, if there are no other options in town and if they cannot afford it, that something be provided for those over 75. Mayor Storey feels that could be provided on a sliding scale based on ability to pay. Mayor Storey asked for comments.

Councillor LePoidevin noted he has been bringing this forward for the past 5 years. He has received very few complaints about his position.

A brief discussion followed.

Councillor Watt-Senner remains firm on her position. The Better at Home program only has 15 clients in town. These are seniors who need assistance with yard care, their housekeeping. Other seniors can take care of their home and yards spring, summer and fall. They have had seniors snowplowing for years and they are upset they have lost the service.

Councillor Watt-Senner has contacted the snow removal companies in town. Bob Hurry charges \$20.00 per driveway. Ray from Wekare charges \$25.00 per drive and Lester LePoidevin charges around the same.

Mayor Storey asked to discuss the information received from the Autumn Services delegates. She declared a conflict of interest and left the room.

A/Mayor Councillor Jenkinson chaired the discussion.

EDO Christie provided an update. He has been in contact with the Festival of the Arts Council president, Cathy Harder. She has stated the festival did not happen this past summer due to Covid. The group seems to be developing momentum. There is a chance the Arts Council may be coming back but there is a 50 percent chance they will not come back.

CAO Holland commented, the signs in question are not on Village property. They are on the Highway right of way. The posts and any infrastructure on the posts belongs to the Festival of the Arts.

CAO Holland suggested an alternative of authorizing a new billboard sign.

Councillor Fennema feels this sign space might better be used to advertise the many services that are available in Fraser Lake.

Councillor LePoidevin noted, since the sign and posts don't belong to the Village, the Village should not be deciding on whether the Autumn Services sign should replace the Festival of the Arts sign.

Councillor Jenkinson asked if our Official Community Plan has any direction on signage.

EDO Christie stated the village has a sign bylaw. It doesn't provide direction relating to billboards.

CAO Holland advised, the Arts Council obtained funding from NKDF to purchase the building materials and sign. They also had to apply to the Ministry of Transportation for a permit. Autumn Services needs to follow the same route. Unless the Arts Council offers the site to Autumn Services, they need to find another site.

A/Mayor Councillor Jenkinson noted no motion was require and staff will write a letter to Autumn Services.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive New Business.

Resolution 10-28-320

Carried

Bylaws:

None

Next Regular Meeting of Council:

November 25, 2020

Adjournment:

MOVED/SECONDED that the October 28, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council be now adjourned. 8:56 PM

Resolution 10-28-321

Carried

Certified Correct:

Sarrah Storey, Mayor

Rodney J. Holland, Chief Administrative Officer

Resolution 10-28-320

Carried

Bylaws:

None

Next Regular Meeting of Council:

November 25, 2020

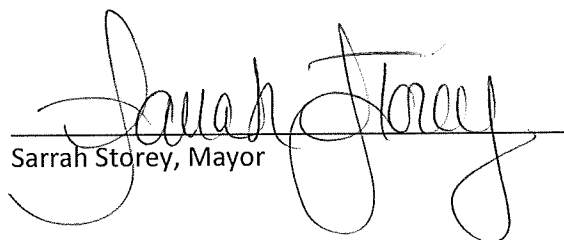
Adjournment:

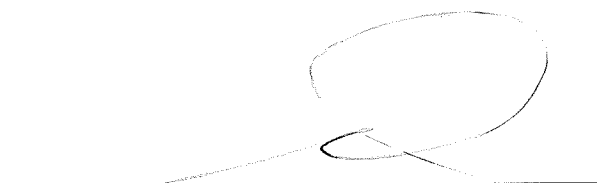
MOVED/SECONDED that the October 28, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council be now adjourned. 8:56 PM

Resolution 10-28-321

Carried

Certified Correct:


Sarah Storey, Mayor


Rodney J. Holland, Chief Administrative Officer