



**Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held in the Municipal Chambers on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 5:30 pm**

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

Staff present were Chief Administrative Officer R. Holland and Economic Development Officer D. Christie

**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 04-14-172

Carried.

**Delegations & Guests:**

Dr. John Pawlovich presented on the Drone Transfer Initiative. This project is being conducted by Dr. Pawlovich, Northern Health and UBC. Funding for this project was obtained through the TD Ready Challenge. This was one of 14 initiatives selected to move forward. Seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars were awarded. Dr. John advised this will help get the project going but more funding will be required in the future.

Dr. Pawlovich describes this project as extraordinary. It is proceeding in partnership with the Stellat'en First Nation. Chief Robert Michell is involved. The project group would also like to partner with the Village of Fraser Lake.

Dr. Pawlovich advises this program is basically a feasibility study to learn how to integrate drone technology into healthcare for rural remote indigenous communities.

He noted there is quite a bit of work being done around the world on this subject. However, there is very limited work being done in British Columbia.

There is an evolving northern research group that is taking shape in Prince George. The hope is for the north to become leaders in understanding how drone technology can integrate thoughtfully and safely to support rural remote indigenous communities. That is what this project is about.

This project will study what drones can do, how far they can go and what they can carry.

Their project is working with a company called Drone Delivery Canada.

The timeline for this project is from this spring to the end of 2022. There are three phases to this project. The project is getting ready to hire a project manager. The project team would like to get moving on community engagement, the orientation piece and project preparation.

Later in the summer, the project hopes to identify local manpower requirements. Over the term of this project, they hope to learn more about the requirements for manpower, infrastructure, other logistical issues, and coordination required for this program. In 2022 there will be project evaluation and feasibility assessment. The project will be wrapped up late fall of 2022.

Dr. John Pawlovich believes future endeavours will build on the information learned from this study.

Dr. Pawlovich stated this is a good news story for the communities involved. He believes if this project is successful, it will lead to the next iteration of this project. The expectation is the lessons learned will be transferrable to other communities across Canada and globally.

Although this project is centered around Fraser Lake and Stellaquo and possibly Nadleh Whut'en, the next challenge will be to scale up the project to provide service to a larger area. He talked of the challenges experienced in places like Takla Landing. Getting medical samples from Takla Landing to Prince George is a daunting task and often does not happen because of the challenges associated with transportation. In places such as Africa, they are moving blood products using drone technology. The capacity for what a drone can carry is quite limited but that is changing. Dr. Pawlovich feels there are many communities that could benefit from this innovation. Learning what contributions drone technology can make in the future to moving medical supplies and equipment to and from remote communities is the challenge this study will explore. Dr. Pawlovich added, this technology will likely have a broader application and may be of use in the event of natural disasters or other emergencies.

Mayor Storey asked about the kinds of medication that would be transported and were there any security risks associated?

Dr. Pawlovich advised for this project there will not be any sensitive cargo transported. Practice will be with ghost cargo. Down the road, when sensitive materials are transported, cargo will need to be tracked, much like a UPS package. There has been a fair amount of work conducted nationally and internationally around the tracking of material being transported.

Mayor Storey asked if there was anything the project requires from Council.

Dr. Pawlovich replied the willingness to participate and to partner with this project is the request. There is no financial request. He would like to make Fraser Lake a real strong contributor to this work so Fraser Lake can help to advance the learnings of how this technology can support northern communities such as Fraser Lake. The long-standing positive relationship between Stellaquo and Fraser Lake have boded well for this project. To be able to work collaboratively with both communities to use the technology, to be able to go back and forth will be important to the success of this project.

Councillor Jenkinson asked about the drones?

Dr. Pawlovich advised the drones will be helicopter like. The drone company will meet with all participants at some time in the future. This will not be a door-to-door service. We will need to find a formalized landing area within the Village of Fraser Lake and Stellaquo that is secure. People will oversee the security of the drones and their cargo. Dr. Pawlovich noted this is where the job capacity will come in. There will need to be boots on the ground to allow this to happen. He added, the flying of the drone will be done by professional people who are verified by a national standard.

Dr. Pawlovich hopes this project will energize community members to learn more about the project and the technology. There may be opportunity for company representatives to go into the schools to talk about the project, job prospects and the type of courses that should be taken in college or university.

Mayor Storey thanked Dr. Pawlovich for the presentation.

**Regular Council Minutes,**  
**March 10, 2021**

MOVED/SECONDED that the Regular Council Minutes of March 24, 2021 be adopted as read on this day and that such Minutes as read set out all the business before Council that day and fully and properly record all the resolutions and bylaws passed and adopted by Council at that meeting.

Resolution 04-14-173

Carried

**Business arising from**  
**the Minutes:**

Mayor Storey asked about the BC Ambulance meeting. Has there been any response about the requested meeting?

EDO Christie has sent two requests to BC Ambulance. A phone call was received from the Regional Manager. He has sent the request to their Communications Department. Once he gets the response from the Communications Department, the Regional Manager will get back to the Village.

Councillor Jenkinson suggested Council should prepare some questions for BC Ambulance before their delegation.

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

Resolution 04-14-174

Carried

**Reports on Council**  
**Activities:**

**Councillor LePoidevin**

None

**Councillor Watt-Senner**

None

**Councillor Jenkinson**

Has been vetting a lot of questions about the work that was being done on the wharf. He appreciated the report from Director of Public Works Hilman.

**Councillor Fennema**

None

**Mayor Storey**

Advised she had prepared a written report that will be forwarded to Administration.

Mayor Storey provided highlights of the most recent Board Meeting at the RDBN on March 25, 2021. Mayor Storey commented on a presentation by the RCMP. She felt that report had a nice layout in comparison to previous RCMP reports. Issues around dog complaints were brought up by Regional District directors. The RCMP have advised these can only be dealt with if there are enforceable bylaws in place to authorize the RCMP to act.

The RCMP Training academy is temporarily closed. This will cause an issue due to the lack of new recruits. How this will impact our community is not clear. Several RCMP members have left or are scheduled to leave our community. Sgt Rumming has commented that he worked hard to find replacements for those members.

A letter was written to Minister Conroy about the Timber Supply Area apportionment decisions. Mayor Storey stated it was not clear where that decision was at this point.

The Board approved a 5-year Agricultural Plastics recycling projects. She felt that was an interesting initiative.

Mayor Storey sat in on a Northern Health Regional Update Conference call on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Storey attended UBCM meetings on March 26, 2021.

Mayor Storey attended a conference call with Minister Katrina Chin. That call was about childcare and a few other things.

Mayor Storey attended the UBCM Convention Committee Meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Storey attended a meeting on the Retention of Women in Local Government on March 31<sup>st</sup>. That was presented by a Councillor from Smithers, B.C. This is a project the Councillor has been working on. She asked Mayor Storey to take part in the meeting.

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, Mayor Storey attended a Facebook Meeting on the 2021 Spring Freshet. Chief Terry Teegee participated.

There was discussion of the low water levels and bringing the water levels up to normal levels. There was also talk of the water temperatures being too high. Rio Tinto has committed to this process. They talked about the food sources for themselves and their connection to the land. They also talked about Kenney Dam and how it has affected the Nadleh River. Mayor Storey stated the Nadleh River used to flow the other way.

Councillor LePoidevin and Councillor Jenkinson commented on this. The Nadleh River would flow back into Fraser Lake from the Nechako River during periods of high water.

Mayor Storey advised there were several professionals on the call. They advised the nutrients in Fraser lake were extremely low but the sockeye that pass through the lake are extremely healthy and fat. They also talked about sturgeon and how they used to be a food source for First Nations. They also talked about farming and its negative impact on water quality.

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, Minister Osbourne phoned Mayor Storey to discuss the Village of Fraser Lake needs. Mayor Storey talked about the doubling of the Fraser Lake Forest and a few other things. They talked about the RBA but due to COVID-19, it was pushed back. The RBA agreement was promised to be signed within 4 to 6 months of re election. Connectivity was another issue of discussion.

The COVID Restart Fund was discussed and the conditions that have been placed on these funds by the Province.

Asset Management was discussed and where the Village is on this process. Mayor Storey talked about how bigger municipalities typically have greater capacity to address this issue.

Mayor Storey sat in on two Coastal Gaslink Technical Briefings; one on April 7<sup>th</sup> and one earlier today. On April 7<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Storey also sat in on a conference call with Artemis Gold. The chairman, Steven Dean, said the Blackwater Project will be the biggest gold mine in British Columbia. 40 percent is fully diluted in ownership. They have good support from the province. Construction will begin in early 2022. They anticipate receipt of their mines permits by the end of April 2021. They have asked for a letter of support from Council.

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Storey met with MLA John Rustad. He mentioned the Electoral Boundary review is coming up. This occurs every five years. The process looks at geographical boundaries versus population. If Council has a preference, Council needs to advocate for their preference.

Mayor Storey added they discussed the Community Forest. She made the request to double to size of the Community Forest. MLA Rustad is supportive of this.

Mayor Storey attended virtual COFI on April 8<sup>th</sup>. At the same time, she was attending the RDBN Committee Meeting on Connectivity. That was an in-camera meeting so, Mayor Storey is unable to relay the details of those discussions. Some of the information from that meeting was sent to Council by CAO Holland in an email earlier this week.

Mayor Storey provided an overview of the Coastal Gaslink Update.

The Mayors had another meeting with Minister Osbourne on COVID-19 concerns. Mayor Storey raised a concern about mail outs to seniors and those persons that not frequenting social media. The Province recognizes that concern.

April 12<sup>th</sup> Mayor Storey attended the Primary Care Meeting. Mayor Thiessen was there. Mayor Funk was unable to make the meeting. Mayor Storey and Mayor Thiessen talked a lot about what is going on in each others' communities, how each community is helping their seniors and whatever else is going on right now. Mayor Storey commented it is not clear where these meetings are going. The organizers of this committee are also looking for people from the community who are not necessarily on Council but would like to provide some insight into their experiences. This meeting was an introductory meeting.

April 12<sup>th</sup> Mayor Storey had a meeting with MLA Nathan Cullen, Minister of State. We discussed what is working, our main challenges and things that could change. Mayor Storey advised she provided a two-page list of issues that were collected through NCLGA and UBCM people. Community Forest was one of the issues Mayor Storey discussed. A general concern is the lack of communication from the Ministry and the length of time it takes to get projects off the ground.

April 14<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Storey attended the most recent technical briefing conference call from Coastal Gaslink. On April 13<sup>th</sup>, the Minister updated the Health Order for industrial camps. This health order imposes one health order for all industrial camps across the Province. Coastal Gaslink will be doing a bunch of advertisement to ensure they are transparent. They will also be holding a virtual open house in the months coming up.

Today was also supposed to be a Pathways Agreement Meeting. That meeting did not occur. It will be rescheduled.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive Councillor Reports.

Resolution 04-14-175

Carried

**Accounts payable:**

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt Accounts Payable and payroll in the amount of \$580, 332.10.

Resolution 04-14-176

Carried

**Correspondence List:**

None

**Business from the CAO:**

Environment and Climate Change Canada – Warning Letter  
CAO Holland noted this letter stems from late reporting on our wastewater discharges. Corrective actions have already been implemented. Year end reporting is written on the calendar in the Director of Public Works Office. Those notes are duplicated on his electronic calendar. These actions are intended to ensure this requirement is not overlooked. With reference to the warning letter, the most likely consequence of the late reporting is more frequent inspections of our wastewater treatment facility and our reporting regimes.

Councillor Jenkinson asked if this was the same warning letter that was received several years ago.

CAO Holland advised it may be. The Village has received letters from both the Federal and Provincial agencies that oversee Municipal Wastewater Treatment operations. This letter relates to reporting to the federal agency. We also report to the Provincial agency, the Ministry of Environment.

Mayor Storey asked if this was the second warning letter from Environment and Climate Change Canada?

CAO Holland advised it is the second warning letter from Environment and Climate Change Canada. The first warning letter was received in 2018 when the Federal Regulation was changed, and this reporting became a requirement. Nothing had been sent to the municipality to alert us to the new reporting requirement. So, at the time the warning letter was used to inform us of this reporting requirement.

Community Forest Agreement – Final payment to West Fraser:

MOVED/SECONDED to make the final payment of \$242,986.24 to West Fraser for their expenditures relating to the Village of Fraser Lake Community Forest application and to expend those funds from the Community Forest Reserve.

Resolution 04-14-177

Carried

Councillor Jenkinson asked if the Village was being charged interest on this debt?



Mayor Storey stated we were not. She proposed the Village get this debt off the books. West Fraser had given the Village to pay off the debt over a three-year timeline because they knew we did not have the money at the time. Because we have the monies from Community Forest revenues, Mayor Storey would like to pay off the debt.

Silviculture reserves:

Mayor Storey presented the CAO report. She felt Council had already technically dealt with this issue. Mayor Storey asked for a motion.

MOVED/SECONDED to place \$314,880.34 into a silviculture reserve and to expend that amount from the Community Forest Reserve to a silviculture account.

Resolution 04-14-178

Carried

Mayor Storey asked CAO Holland if he had anything to add?

CAO Holland noted there was second aspect to this discussion that requires consideration. When the Fraser Lake Community Forest began dealings with our Forest Consultants, they were employed by the company from Burns Lake. The initial agreement followed the practices of that company. A \$4.37 fee was collected for each cubic meter of timber harvested. That fee was a prepayment of future silviculture costs. Because silviculture is a regulatory requirement, the Burns Lake company wanted to ensure the money was set aside to meet that requirement.

Now that Jason and Dave have created their own company, Council may wish to reconsider that practice. The silviculture reserve held by Fraser Lake Forest Consulting is near \$1M. Should those monies be held by the Village of Fraser Lake? It is important to keep these funds in a separate account to ensure they are available for silviculture, but could they be used to generate interest through short term and safe investment? Fraser Lake Forest Consulting is very willing to return these funds to the Village of Fraser Lake

MOVED/SECONDED to move the silviculture reserves held by Fraser Lake Forest Consulting and place those funds in a silviculture account for the purpose of meeting silviculture obligations in the community forest.

Resolution 04-14-179

Carried

Wharf Repairs:

MOVED/SECONDED to complete repairs to the wharf as proposed and to expend \$130,000.00 from the Capital Planning Reserve.

Resolution 04-14-180

Carried

RDBN Bylaw No. 1940, 2021

MOVED/SECONDED to support the adoption of Regional District Bulkley Nechako *Stuart-Nechako Economic Development Service Establishment Repeal Bylaw No. 1940, 2021* and to receive the \$731.00 surplus that was collected by the RDBN through the repealed bylaw.

Resolution 04-14-181

Carried

Public Feedback:

An email that was received from a local resident about the increase in utility rates was presented.

A brief discussion followed.

Mayor Storey suggested some communities have different water rates for seniors, smaller families, etc. She feels there are options that could be considered for future utility rates.

A discussion followed. This is usually accomplished through metering of water consumption.

Mayor Storey wondered if utility bills could be sent out more regularly, monthly, or quarterly.

CAO Holland advised the Village does take payments. There are a few people who come into the Village Office and make monthly payments on their taxes and utility bills.

MOVED/SECONDED to received CAO Reports.

Resolution 04-14-182

Carried

**Staff Reports:**

EDO Christie presented a report on potential Canada Day Activities that are compliant with the current Provincial Health Orders. Those activities include the Canada Day Parade, the parade of lights on Fraser Lake and Canada Day Fireworks. EDO Christie presented a list of potential donors to the fireworks display. EDO Christie would like Council's support to apply to these donors.

MOVED/SECONDED to apply to Centerra Gold for \$2,500.00 in support of the Fraser Lake Canada Day fireworks display.

Resolution 04-14-183

Carried

MOVED/SECONDED to apply to Artemis Gold for \$2,500.00 in support of the Fraser Lake Canada Day fireworks display.

Resolution 04-14-184

Carried

MOVED/SECONDED to apply to West Fraser for \$2,500.00 in support of the Fraser Lake Canada Day fireworks display.

Resolution 04-14-185

Carried

MOVED/SECONDED to apply to PAPC for \$2,500.00 in support of the Fraser Lake Canada Day fireworks display.

Resolution 04-14-186

Carried

Fraser Lake Fire/Ambulance Hall feasibility study:

MOVED/SECONDED to expend \$750.00 from the Village's Professional Services funding to advance our feasibility study.

Resolution 04-14-187

Carried

Councillor LePoidevin asked why the Village was concerned about the Ambulance Service when that is a Provincial Service.

Mayor Storey stated she has discussed this issue with James Simpson of Northern Health. In 3 to 5 years, Northern Health plans to renovate the Fraser Lake Medical Clinic. Mayor Storey asked if there was another home for the Ambulance Service,

would that make a difference for the renovation of the Medical Clinic? There is not enough room in the Medical Clinic.

Mayor Storey would like to amalgamate the Ambulance Service and Fire Department in a new building on a lot in the southside subdivision.

Councillor Jenkinson stated with the new SOC positions, there will always be four people sleeping in the building all the time. The existing ambulance facility lacks adequate storage for supplies. The ambulances are only getting better, so, a larger facility would be great.

Mayor Storey felt James Simpson of Northern Health thought this was a great idea.

MOVED/SECONDED to received staff reports.

Resolution 04-14-188

Carried

**Reading List:**

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the Reading List.

Resolution 04-14-189

Carried

BC Hydro rate increase:

A discussion occurred about this issue. BC Hydro is converting the existing metal halide streetlights to LED. They are charging consumers for the depreciated value of the metal halide bulbs, plus the cost of disposing of the metal halide lamp once taken down. They are also charging for the new LED fixture and the associate electrical consumption. In effect, they are double dipping in their billing.

MOVED/SECONDED to write a letter to the BC Utilities Commission to advocate against the BC Hydro rate increase relative to street light changeover to LED lighting.

Resolution 04-14-190

Carried

Asian clams and zebra mussels:

Mayor Storey asked how we make sure people are checking their boats and trailers before they launch into the lake? She would like signage.

Councillor Fennema asked if the Village could develop a site where people can hose off their boat and trailer.

Councillor Jenkinson stated in some locations boaters are required to take their vehicle and boats through a spray booth before they can launch. He added that when towing a boat into Alberta, drivers are required to pull into inspection stations. If you do not stop, you can be fined.

Mayor Storey would like to speak with the invasive species folks about this issue.

Councillor Jenkinson would like to see some public education. He feels signage is important.

Mayor Storey feels this is an important topic to discuss at our next Tri Council meeting.

Councillor LePoidevin advised there is signage on the Francois Lake ferry south of Burns Lake. Apparently, the signage talks about the importance of cleaning your boat if you come from different lakes.

Mayor Storey would like staff to investigate signage. Council would also like to speak with someone from the Ministry of Environment on this issue.

**New Business:**

Councillor Jenkinson has observed an increase in litter on beaver point. He would like to see beaver point blocked off to prevent vehicular traffic in this site.

Councillor Fennema reports receiving positive feedback about the new street sweeper.

Mayor Storey would like to consider rebranding the Village of Fraser Lake. She feels the current branding is no longer appropriate. She would like to see this as a project for 2022.

Mayor Storey has received complaints about speeding through the Village. Mayor Storey has spoken with Sgt Rummig. People have spoken with Mayor Storey and asked the Village to erect more speed limit signs in the Village.

Mayor Storey commented about the COVID restart Fund. She would like to purchase a smart board for Council Chambers. She believes the system is from Ricoh at a cost of approximately

\$12,000.00. She would also like to see one for the Professional Building.

EDO Christie asked Mayor Storey to forward the details to him so he can conduct some research on this initiative. The School District is getting rid of their Smart Boards and going to something that looks like a smart TV.

Mayor Storey has received a request from Artemis Gold for a Letter of Support. Mayor Storey would like to see that project get off the ground.

MOVED/SECONDED to send a letter of support for the Artemis Gold Blackwater Project.

Resolution 04-14-191

Carried

MOVED/SECONDED to receive New Business.

Resolution 04-14-192

Carried

**Bylaws:**

None

**Next Regular Meeting of Council:**

April 28, 2021 at 5:30 pm

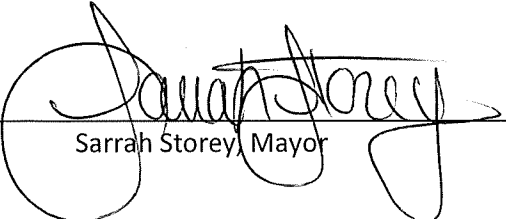
**Adjournment:**

MOVED/SECONDED that the April 14, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council be now adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Resolution 04-14-193

Carried

Certified Correct:

  
Sarah Storey, Mayor

  
Rodney J. Holland, Chief Administrative Officer