



Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held in the Municipal Chambers on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 5:30 pm

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

Staff present were CAO R. J. Holland, Director of Public Works V. Hilman 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 asked for the declaration of new business.

Mayor Storey declared she was adding an in-camera meeting to the meeting agenda.

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt the agenda with the addition of an in-camera meeting.

Resolution 01-13-001

Carried

Delegations & Guests:

No delegations
No guests

Minutes:

**Regular Council Minutes,
December 9, 2020**

MOVED/SECONDED that the Regular Council Minutes of December 9, 2020 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 01-13-002

Carried

**Business arising from
the Minutes:**

None

**Reports on Council
Activities:**

Councillor Fennema

On Friday December 18, 2020, Councillor Fennema and her husband judged the floats in the Santa Claus parade. She reported on the floats that won the various ribbons. She was impressed with the decoration of the Fire Trucks and the quality

of the floats in the parade. Councillor Fennema commented on her appreciation of the show of community spirit and feels this was an important event for the community.

Councillor Jenkinson

Attended the Artemis Gold Community Liaison Committee (CLC) meeting earlier today.

Mayor Storey

In the past two days, Mayor Storey attended two meetings. On January 12th, she attended a Cariboo Recovery meeting. Earlier today, she attended the Lakes District Timber Allocation meeting. Mayor Storey feels there is going to be a lot of change in the next while. In the Lakes District there will be a cut to the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC). As to how this will be accomplished, several options have been proposed for the reallocation of the available AAC in the Lakes District. The Village can provide input as to our preferred option or we can propose a new option. West Fraser has indicated they intend to propose their own option to what is already on the table.

Mayor Storey stated this process does not prevent our ability to work with our local First Nations on the development of an area-based tenure. Something like a community forest.

Mayor Storey commented on the number of calls with Northern Health she has been attending.

Mayor Storey spoke with Mayor Lee Brain of the City of Prince Rupert to discuss connectivity.

Mayor Storey also spoke with Minister Jody Osborne from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Although her Ministry is not directly involved in the issue, Minister Osbourne has been willing to discuss the issue and our concerns. She indicated a willingness to work on the issue and support our efforts to improve our connectivity.

Mayor Storey will be moderating a webinar on rural connectivity next Monday, January 18th. She feels the webinar will be worthwhile. UBCM president Brian Frenkel, FCM president Garth Frizzell and someone from NDIIT will participate in the presentation. Aside from discussing connectivity, the presentation will educate the audience on the grants that are available.

Mayor Storey attended the Santa Claus parade. She agreed with Councillor Fennema's comments about the parade.

Mayor Storey has been invited to participate on a Wilderness Committee by a Peter McCartney. This is a 10 hour commitment. The goal of the project is to advocate to the government for funding for various community projects in support of the government's 2050 Zero Emission commitments.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive Councillor Reports.

Resolution 01-13-003

Carried

Accounts payable:

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt Accounts Payable and payroll in the amount of \$2,363,548.90.

Resolution 01/13/004

Carried

Councillor LePoidevin asked for more information about cheque number 29343 which was labeled as Southside Burn, Excavator Rental in the amount of \$235,000.00.

CAO Holland explained this payment involved several expenses. The rental of the excavator was \$3500.00. Most of this expense is \$200,000.00 for silviculture costs in the Community Forest. Several other smaller purchases are included in this total.

Councillor Jenkinson asked about the expense associated with a piece of equipment glass. He asked if the front door of the new bobcat needed to be replaced.

CAO Holland advised this expense was to replace a window on the excavator that was damaged while clearing and re piling the debris on the southside properties following pile burning.

Councillor Jenkinson asked about the cost of natural gas for the library. Why was that payment so much higher than the arena?

CAO Holland noted the Library is a very expensive building to heat. This is the reason the Village has applied for funding to complete an energy upgrade on the building.

Relative to the natural gas costs at the arena, the arena has seen limited use due to Covid-19 restrictions. Normally, the Village would spend more on natural gas at the arena.

Mayor Storey asked for more information on a Visa payment, cheque 9000-0001. The payment was \$2470.00.

CAO Holland noted this was payment for 6 different purchases. The purchases included postage, council dinners, lightbulbs for the water plant, burn stickers.

Mayor Storey asked if it would be better to separate out each purchase so Council can see each purchase.

CAO Holland explained the purchases are lumped together because they were purchased with the same credit card and the balance on the card was paid off with one cheque. All of these purchases are within the current budget. Presenting these expenditures to Council gives them the opportunity to ask questions where more specifics are requested of our various expenditures.

Mayor Storey asked about cheques 28913 and 29373. Both cheques are labeled "Vern Hilman, Office Chair".

CAO Holland advised the first cheque was lost so a second cheque was issued. The second cheque was a replacement. There has only been one payment to Mr. Hilman.

Mayor Storey asked for more information about installation of security cameras; cheque 29299 in the amount of \$2666.27.

CAO Holland advised this payment is for the installation of the cameras that were purchased this past summer. The payment also included repairs to the Christmas lights on Mouse Mountain. Someone had climbed up the pole and cut the wires. It also included repair to a fuse box on a power pole at the Fraser Lake Villa Trailer Park.

Mayor Storey asked about the payment of \$2,000.00 to the Vanderhoof Air Cadets, cheque 29367 refers.

CAO Holland advised the Vanderhoof Air Cadets used the Village as a flow through for a \$2,000.00 grant that was received from the Prince George Community Foundation. Otherwise, the Vanderhoof Air Cadets were not eligible for grant.

Correspondence List:

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the correspondence list.

Resolution 01/13/005

Carried

Business from the CAO:

Purchase of 290 & 298 McMillan Avenue:

CAO Holland presented an updated version of the Sales and Purchase Agreement for 298 and 290 McMillan Avenue. CAO Holland noted the initial purchase agreement identified the property as 298 McMillan Avenue. The title search determined the building and parking lot are two separate properties: Lots 1 and 9 respectively. The agreement ensures we are purchasing the land the building sits on, the building and the parking lot. Otherwise, the other aspects of the purchase agreement are the same.

Councillor Jenkinson asked if the Village would amalgamate these two properties following purchase?

CAO Holland agreed amalgamating the two properties is a good idea. That can be addressed after the properties are purchased. It is a relatively simple and inexpensive process.

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt the Purchase and Sale Agreement to purchase Lot 1, District Lot 617, Range 5, Coast District Plan EPP104223 and Lot 9, District Lot 617, Range 5 Coast District Plan 8247 (290 & 298 McMillan Avenue, Fraser Lake, B.C.) from The Board of Education of School District 91 (Nechako Lakes) for the sum of \$98,000.00.”

Resolution 01-13-006

Carried

School District 91 – Offer to meeting:

Mayor and Council would like to meet the Superintendent of Schools on January 27 between 3:30 and 4:30 pm to discuss the School District plans for capital investments at Fraser Lake school properties.

Mayor Storey noted Dave Christie is a school board trustee. She asked if an hour meeting would be adequate.

Dave Christie advised the hour time slot is good. The purpose of these meetings is to engage with municipalities to build relationships. These meetings are intended to provide Council the opportunity to voice concerns and to provide both negative and positive feedback.

Councillor Fennema asked if there was any preparation required of Council?

Mayor Storey responded, bring your thoughts and any concerns. She noted several concerns were presented to the Minister of

Education at UBCM in 2019. Mayor Storey does not feel we need to add more to that list, but she feels there are a few things she would like to see completed. She noted the School District has done some good work since 2019. She is happy the basketball court at FLESS was paved. The students have really appreciated that improvement. Mayor Storey would also like to see the track fixed and the doors at the back of the school painted.

EDO Christie noted this will be a great opportunity for Chairperson Nadine Frenkel to update Council on the approved expenditures for the coming year. It will provide a clear understanding of what has been done and what will be done.

2021 Canada Summer Works program:

This is a wage subsidy program. The Village has received funds from this program in the past. Administration is proposing an application to the program for \$60,000.00 to support the summer employment of 5 University Students and 4 High School Students.

MOVED/SECONDED to apply to the Canada Summer Works program for up to \$60,000.00 in support of our 2021 Summer employment program.

Resolution 01-13-007

Carried

Policy Update Proposals:

- Hourly Employee Vacation/Sick Leave/Parental Leave**
- Exempt Staff Vacation/Sick Leave/Parental Leave**
- Hourly Employee Overtime**
- Hourly Employee Pay Premium**

Mayor Storey asked to postpone the discussion of these policy proposals until next meeting. She does not want the discussion tabled. She noted there is a lot of information in these policies and she feels more time is required to review these policy proposals before they are discussed.

Mayor Storey stated she wanted the discussion postponed and not necessarily until the next meeting of Council. She encouraged Council to go through each of these policies. She feels it is a lot of information. She would like to see the topics split up a bit because there is so much information. Mayor Storey feels she should have verified the agenda before it went out.

Councillor Jenkinson noted he had received a copy of 2005 and 2011 policies. He asked if the Village had other policies relating to Severance Pay and Bridging?

CAO Holland replied, Council had been presented with the policies that previously existed.

Councillor Jenkinson commented there really is not much dealing with these issues currently.

Mayor Storey stated she did not understand why there were two different policies for Vacation/Sick Leave and Parental Leave.

CAO Holland noted, one policy is for hourly staff and one is for exempt staff. CAO Holland suggested it is appropriate to have a different policy for the two types of employees. Although both policies have a lot of similar content, they address some aspects of Hourly Staff and Exempt staff differently.

MOVED/SECONDED to postpone discussion of the Overtime, Pay Premium and Sick Leave Policy proposals.

Resolution 01-13-008

Carried

TC Energy application for Water Licence.
CAO Holland noted this water licence application is to draw water from Fraser Lake. The process is open to public comment.

Local Government Leadership Academy:
Registration is open. The registration forms have been placed on each member of Council's blotter. This conference will be presented in a virtual format.

Mayor Storey commented the theme is "Moving to Recovery". She feels it is a good opportunity to learn.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive CAO Reports.

Resolution 01-13-009

Carried

Staff Reports:

None

Reading List:

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the Reading List.

Mayor Storey commented on the Regional District's Community profile. She noted the statistics in the profile are out of date. She is looking forward to the new statistics.

EDO Christie stated he assisted the Regional District in the creation of this profile. When the 2021 census details are out, the profile will be updated.

New Business:

Councillor LePoidevin stated he would like a breakdown of expenditures and revenues from the Community Forest. He would like to know about payments to contractors, silviculture costs, payments to Fraser Lake Forest Consultants. He would like to know everything that has been done, the expenses.

Mayor Storey explained this has been asked for already. As the audit occurs at year end, Council will be able to see everything.

Councillor Fennema stated today was the first time she had heard about the revenues of the Community Forest. She felt those people reading the minutes see our expenditures, but they do not see our revenues. When do we let our citizens that we made money?

Mayor Storey noted the Village has never had this type of revenue before. She agrees there should be a report to the community to ensure there is a level of transparency.

CAO Holland commented that Council needs to make some decisions about these revenues before public reporting occurs. In our application to the Province to obtain our Community Forest Agreement a very clearly stated that revenues from the Community Forest were not intended to reduce property taxes. The revenue from the Community Forest is intended to enhance community capacity.

A discussion is required to determine what that means. These discussions will result in the development of a bylaw that will place these revenues into reserve. The bylaw will state what the money can be used for and that it can be expended by way of a resolution of Council. CAO Holland feels that discussion and the relevant bylaw should be in place before this matter goes to the public.

Mayor Storey agreed.

Councillor Fennema commented about being at the Men's Shed on Cougar Avenue and watching the speed of vehicles on the Highway. She is concerned for the seniors who cross the highway in that area. She asked if a second flashing lights could be placed at that cross walk.

Mayor Storey stated she has spoken with the Ministry of Transportation several times. She would also like to see a cross walk at Carrier Crescent and Highway 16 for persons crossing to the Fields Store. She commented on the speed board signs in Fort Fraser. She noted the highway is getting busier. She feels Council needs to continue pushing the Ministry of Transportation for more improvements.

CAO Holland noted these issues have been brought to the attention of the Ministry of Transportation several times. They have very specific criteria for the placement of pedestrian cross walks. The cross walk at Carrier Crescent and Highway 16 and the second cross walk at Nulki Street and Highway 16 are too close to the existing lite crosswalk at Chowsunket Street and Highway 16.

In response to our last conversation with the Ministry about the crosswalk on Highway 16 at Nulki Street, they did erect a sign for the pedestrian crossing. As an alternative to additional lighted cross walks, at an expense of \$250,000.00 to \$400,000.00 the Village could move the existing lighted crosswalk to one of the other locations. Of course, this would eliminate the lighted crosswalk at Chowsunket Street. The Ministry has stated they will not install multiple lighted cross walks in such a short distance.

CAO Holland added, inquiries were made for the cost of the speed boards; like those in Fort Fraser. Two signs are \$10,400.00. This does not include installation. CAO does not have an estimate to install these sign boards.

Councillor Jenkinson asked Councillor Fennema if these concerns have been brought to the attention of the local RCMP? He would like to know if they have a plan for speed enforcement.

A discussion followed.

Mayor Storey advised she has spoken with Sgt Rumming about speeding vehicles.

Councillor Jenkinson asked if a sign campaign would be possible for the crosswalks.

Councillor Fennema asked about Childcare. She asked if this issue had simply fallen by the wayside. Councillor Fennema has heard rumours about the longevity of daycare in the community due to the possibility of a retirement.

Mayor Storey feels the Village may have negatively impacted its ability to address this by not applying for the funding last spring.

She suggested it may be beneficial to hire another employee to just do grants and to manage shovel ready projects. This person would help staff with capacity. In Fort St. James, they have 13 employees. Having that number of employees really improves Village capacity to get more done. She would like a coordinator for childcare or an assistant for the CAO. She does not feel staff have the capacity or expertise or knowledge to hire some of the contractors. She used the example of John Stafford coming to the Village about Senior's Housing at Silver Birch. She recognizes the Village staff do not have the time to take on the expansion of Silver Birch Lodge. Mayor Storey feels it is Council's responsibility to ensure staff have the tools or to hire the right people who have the capacity to do that work. She feels that would relieve pressure on the staff. These additional employees would be responsible to find the money, go after the money and project manage. She feels if Council wants to move the community forward, this is what Council needs to do.

Councillor Fennema commented on the Mine Apartments. Is the Village in discussion with the Mine to see if they are doing anything with the Mine Apartments?

Councillor Jenkinson responded not at this time.

Mayor Storey asked for an update on the Community Endowment Fund.

EDO Christie noted the Fraser Lake Endowment Society recently received their financial statement for 2020. The Endowment Fund lost money this past year due to negative returns on investments. The money is invested by the Prince George Community Foundation.

This spring the Endowment society hopes to have an intake and to award up to \$5,000.00.

Mayor Storey asked if any money from the Community Forest would be added to the Endowment Fund? She suggested that discussion could happen later.

EDO Christie noted employees of School District 91 are now able to donate to the endowment fund through a payroll deduction plan. He also noted Rio Tinto is working with the Prince George Community Foundation with the intention of making a donation. EDO Christie anticipates a donation to the Vanderhoof, Fort St. James and Fraser Lake Community Endowment Foundations from Rio Tinto.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive new business.

Resolution 01-13-11

Carried

Bylaws:

None

In Camera:

MOVED/SECONDED to move the Regular Meeting of Council in Camera 6:24 pm under Section 90(1)(c) of the Community Charter which states a part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to labour relations or other employee relations.

Return to the Regular Meeting at 8:01 pm.

Next Regular Meeting of Council:

January 27,2021 at 5:30 pm

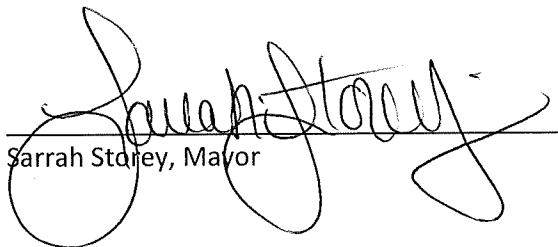
Adjournment:

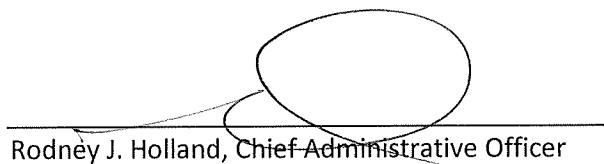
MOVED/SECONDED that the January 13, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council be now adjourned. 8:02 PM

Resolution 01-13-12

Carried

Certified Correct:


Sarah Storey, Mayor


Rodney J. Holland, Chief Administrative Officer