



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

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

Staff present were Chief Administrative Officer R. Holland, Economic Development Officer D. Christie, and Recording Secretary T. Austin.

Guest in attendance was Sandy Lee - Drone Transport Initiative Project.

**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 10-13-334

Carried

Delegations & Guests:

Ms. Sandy Lee, Project Manager for the UBC Drone Project, shared her appreciation of the successful launch and ribbon cutting event that occurred earlier today for the Drone Transport Initiative Project. This is a research project that will study the viability of the use of drone technology in the provision of medical services to remote and northern communities. This study will be conducted between the Village of Fraser Lake and Stellat'en First Nation communities. Ms. Lee reported that the project will run a full 12 months. The drone does have limitations as it can not fly below -15°C. Seven test flights are planned each operational day, Monday to Friday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, when the conditions are right. Over the course of the project, the team will test transport a variety of items. In the later part of the project, testing will involve transporting over-the-counter drugs or lab specimens, and possibly pharmaceutical drugs. Ms. Lee reported that the project is partnered with Life Labs and the Rural Coordination Centre of BC (RCCBC). Conversations with Northern Health have started. The research team would also like to work with the First Nation Health Authority.

Ms. Lee noted that the team is still working on securing funding for the post-project cost-benefit analysis which could help expand this project into other parts of BC.

Upon completion of the project, the transportation base sites will be returned to their original states.

Mayor Storey inquired if the drone could fly in snow.

Ms. Lee noted that it will depend on how heavily the snow is falling. Visual line of sight is needed from point A to B. It will not be able to fly in heavy fog or snow.

Ms. Lee reviewed the financial costs to the project and the additional funds they are still trying secure. She commented on the work that has gone into applying for additional grants and other funding. Ms. Lee reported that Canfor has donated \$25,000 and they were excited to be a partner in this project.

Mayor Storey shared some other streams of funding that could be available for the project. Mayor Storey also noted that, if needed, Council could provide a letter of support for additional funding.

Councillor LePoidevin inquired about the maximum distance the drones can fly.

Ms. Lee noted that this drone can fly a maximum of 28 kms, but there are other drones on the market that can fly farther. With line-of sight as a regulatory constraint, this drone is the only one that is Ministry of Transportation compliant.

Ms. Lee thanked EDO Christie for all his assistance to get the project started and thanked the Village for allowing the project to occur in Fraser Lake.

Mayor Storey thanked Ms. Lee for her presentation and is excited that this project is here in Fraser Lake and what it could bring to other communities in the future from what is learned here, noting it was a great day to start the project.

Ms. Sandy Lee left the meeting at this time.

Regular Council Minutes,
September 22, 2021

MOVED/SECONDED that the Regular Council Minutes of September 22, 2021, be adopted as presented 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 10-13-335

Carried

Business arising from
the Minutes:

Mayor Storey noted that she spoke to Director of Public Works V. Hilman and reported due to reduced need for wastewater service, the wastewater project can be put on hold until future business warrants another look at the project.

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

Resolution 10-13-336

Carried

Reports on Council

Activities:

Councillor LePoidevin

None

Councillor Watt-Senner

None

Councillor Fennema

On September 30, 2021, she attended the Autumn Services Annual General Meeting. A new Board was elected. She reported that on October 6, 2021, they held their first Board meeting and new officers were elected.

On October 6, 2021, Councillor Fennema, along with Fire Chief Joe Pacheco, Intern Kristin Levy and EDO Christie, attended an orientation meeting for the *Regional Hazard, Risk & Vulnerability Review* that is being organized by the Regional District of the Bulkley Nechako (RDBN). She noted that they discussed possible hazardous events that could happen. She noted that risk will vary by community, but the Fraser Lake group felt forest fires or fires started by trains travelling through were the biggest risk for Fraser Lake. She noted that this is one of 6 meetings.

Mayor Storey

Attended a Regional District of the Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) meeting on September 23, 2021. There was a presentation by the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) on fibre. She mentioned that fiber has been a topic of discussion in a few different calls and meetings in the last few weeks. She noted that there are different viewpoints of how best to deal with low-grade fibre. Some think it best to burn it, while others think using it in pulp or pellet plants is best.

Mayor Storey gave an update on FESBC funding. She noted that she has already had a discussion with the Minister of Forest regarding funding, but a letter of support may be needed in the future.

Mayor Storey reported that she attended a Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO) Conference. She noted that funding was discussed, but nothing new to share regarding funding. Elder abuse training was also discussed.

On September 30, 2021, Mayor Storey attended the Truth & Reconciliation Day at the site of the former Lejac residential school. She noted that the weather was good and there were speeches and stories shared of healing. She felt it was great day for building relationships.

Mayor Storey noted that there was a Northern Health meeting on October

1, 2021, where it was reported that the number of covid cases continues to rise in the north. Everyone has been asked to keep encouraging vaccinations. Some patients have been moved to other areas of the province.

Mayor Storey shared information from the Omineca Response Team on social media as requested. It has been difficult to navigate the two different viewpoints regarding vaccinations. The pandemic has been difficult for everyone. There have been discussions around mandatory vaccinations in the community, but nothing has been decided yet. She also noted that the Vanderhoof Hospital has announced that it may have to close their ER to all but life and limb due to the situation in the north.

Mayor Storey met with Brian Bettis, Telus' General Manager for Northern BC, on October 5, 2021. He reviewed what Telus is doing in the area and she was able to share with him that the Village has entered into a partnership with City West. Mr. Bettis commented that Telus will be offering some different services in Fraser Lake soon. Mayor Storey reported that it was a good positive conversation.

Mayor Storey attended the Collingwood Global Summit on October 7-8, 2021. She made a presentation on what we have learned about the wildfires here in BC. She noted that it went well and a few other mayors from BC also attended.

Mayor Storey reported that she attended the Forest Coalition Meeting on October 12, 2021. She reported that they reviewed what was forwarded to the province.

Mayor Storey reported that today she attended the Drone Canada Launch event. Mayor Storey thanked EDO Christie for all his work for this event.

EDO Christie also thanked the Village Public Works crew for their contributions to the event as well.

Mayor Storey noted that it was a great day. She noted that different news teams were here. She felt it was nice to have the media exposure for our community. She also noted that the logos were revealed and the students who designed them were recognized. It was a good event.

Councillor Jenkinson

None

MOVED/SECONDED to receive Councillor Reports.

Resolution 10-13-337

Carried

Accounts payable:

The accounting reports were presented.

Councillor Fennema inquired if the amount on cheque #29965 was the shared portion.

CAO Holland noted the Village has paid for the entire project up front. School District 91 will be invoiced for their half.

Councillor Fennema also inquired about Cheque # 29988 to Westend Logging.

CAO Holland advised this expenditure was to clean-up the dead popular trees in the park area adjacent to Lot 14.

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt Accounts Payable and payroll in the amount of 547,143.50.

Resolution 10-13-338

Carried

Correspondence List:

None

Business from the CAO:

Covid-19 Workplace Implications

CAO Holland commented on the recent announcements of the Federal and Provincial governments, each of whom have mandated vaccinations for a broad spectrum of their employees. Local government and private businesses have been left to make their own decisions around the requirement for employee vaccinations. CAO Holland noted that many local governments are discussing this issue. This is new territory for employers. There is no labour law that addresses our current circumstances. It is not clear what the legal liabilities will be if vaccinations are mandated for employees. As a local government, we have a responsibility to ensure we maintain operational viability. The second significant consideration is our requirement to provide Village employees a safe environment in which to work.

The general discussion that followed covered the services that are provided by the Village, the legal obligations from all scenarios, the importance of protecting the community, protecting employees, and protecting the Village from possible legal claims.

CAO Holland commented there is not obvious solution to this issue. Although most of our Village employees are vaccinated, not all employees are vaccinated.

It was agreed the Village will address this concern through a progressive process for encouraging vaccination of all Village employees.

Development Variance Request

Mayor Storey noted that requests like these are always difficult when they are people we personally know. She noted the Official Community Plan (OCP) was developed with the participation of Community members to develop rules for development. The OCP provides clear guidance on development going forward.

Councillor Watt-Senner noted that there are some properties that are an issue in the community. She feels we must follow the OCP to avoid potential problems in the future.

Mayor Storey received a comment from a community member about sea-cans being placed on a particular property. She responded to the question that the zoning of that area allows the use of sea cans. Mayor Storey commented that if we don't follow the OCP, it is possible other people might apply for similar exemptions and we don't want to set a precedence.

CAO Holland agreed that such decisions have years and years of impact, so to prevent any issues arising in the future, he also would recommend following the OCP. He noted some other options for the applicant.

MOVED/SECONDED that the Village does not support the application for Development Variance to construct a storage shed at 270 McMillian Avenue.

Resolution 10-13-339

Carried

Fraser Lake Historical Society

CAO Holland presented the Fraser Lake Historical Society's report. All donations received through the RV Sani-dump and water usage go to the historical society. CAO Holland noted that the donations at the RV Sani-dump have decreased in recent years.

Mayor Storey highlighted a few events that happened at the museum this past summer, as mentioned in the report.

CAO Holland noted that they use the donations for maintenance of museum displays and supplies. An example of maintaining a museum display is re-chinking the Duke House.

Broadband Connectivity Speed Test Results

CAO Holland shared the report created by Intern K. Levy on Broadband Connectivity Speed Test Results. The report was prepared to dispute the speeds listed on the Federal Broadband map. A copy of the report was also forwarded to Minister Beare, Citizen Services, Deputy Minister Susan Stanford, Catherine Boomer, and Joel McKay of NDIT.

CAO Holland is hopeful this report will support opportunities for funding for broadband for our community.

Celebrate Canada Grant 2022

The Celebrate Canada Grant 2021 is available for applications. The Village has applied for this funding in the past and typically uses this funding in support of our Canada Day Fireworks display.

MOVED/SECONDED to support an application to the Canadian Heritage Celebrate Canada Grant for \$5,000.

Resolution 10-13-341

Carried

NDIT Business Façade Program 2022

The NDIT Business Façade Fund is receiving applications for 2022. Our application can be for as much as \$15,000.00.

MOVED/SECONDED to support an application to the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) Business Façade Funding Stream for \$15,000.

Resolution 10-13-342

Carried

Broadband Project Update

CAO Holland provided an update on the broadband construction project that is underway in the community. Mayor Storey thanked the staff for their work on the project and noted how exciting this is for our community.

The WCI crews are guessing that they will only be able to get three quarters of the community done before freeze-up. If that occurs, they will complete the rest of the project next May/June. City West has purchased the property at the corner of Chowsunket Street and Endako Avenue. This property will be the site of the City West office and electronics works yard. Some of the community may receive service earlier than next spring.

EDO Christie noted that City West is providing updates to the Village office on a regular basis.

Fraser Lake Visitor Information Centre Stats

CAO Holland presented a report on the activities at the Visitor Centre this past summer. In 2021, during the summer months, our visitor centre experienced close to 1100 visitors.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the CAO Report.

Resolution 10-13-340

Carried

Reading List:

Halloween Fireworks

Information on the Halloween Fireworks show being planned for Sunday, October 31st was presented.

Credit Union Day

MOVED/SECONDED that the Village of Fraser Lake proclaim October 21st as International Credit Union Day.

Resolution 10-13-343

Carried

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the Reading List.

Resolution 10-13-344

Carried

New Business:

Sea-Cans

Councillor LePoidevin inquired about sea-cans on a residential property. It was noted that everyone thought it was a temporary situation.

Staff will follow up.

Remembrance Day

Mayor Storey commented that some other communities are planning an on-line presentation followed by a safe outdoor event at the cenotaph.

EDO Christie noted this is a Legion led event. Village staff have not yet had a conversation with the Legion organizers.

It was agreed to meet with the Legion to see what could be planned this year.

Santa Clause Parade

EDO Christie noted that he would check with Fire Chief Pacheco. Typically, this event has been held on the first Friday of December. EDO Christie noted he would confirm the day with Fire Chief Pacheco and communicate back to Council.

Craft Fairs

Councillor Watt-Senner inquired on what was happening this year for local craft fairs.

EDO Christie commented from the School District's perspective, they are reviewing each request on a case-by-case basis. The current Provincial Health Order has a significant bearing on what can occur.

Councillor LePoidevin noted that the FLESS craft fair was advertised as cancelled on social media last week.

Councillor Away

Councillor Fennema reported that she will be away for the next council meeting on October 27th. She noted that, if possible, she will join virtually.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive New Business.

Resolution 10-13-345

Carried

Bylaws:

Village of Fraser Lake Permissive Tax Exemptions Bylaw No.825,2021

MOVED/SECONDED to conduct the fourth and final reading of the Village of Fraser Lake Permissive Tax Exemptions Bylaw No.825, 2021.

Resolution 10-13-346

Carried

Village of Fraser Lake 2022 Borrowing in Anticipation of Revenue Bylaw No.826, 2021.

MOVED/SECONDED to conduct the fourth and final reading of the Village of Fraser Lake 2022 Borrowing in Anticipation of Revenue Bylaw No.826, 2021.

Resolution 10-13-347

Carried

Next Regular Meeting of Council: October 27, 2021, at 5:30 pm

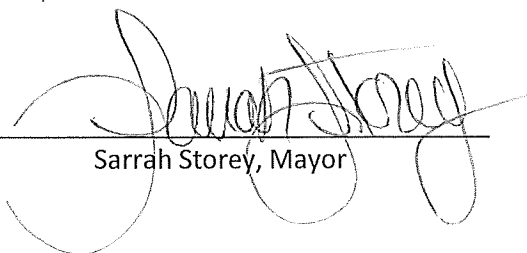
Adjournment:


MOVED/SECONDED that the October 13, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council be now adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Resolution 10-13-348

Carried

Certified Correct:


Sarrah Storey, Mayor


Rodney J. Holland, Chief Administrative Officer