



**Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held in the Municipal Chambers
on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 5:30 pm**

Mayor S. Storey presided. Councillors present were C. LePoidevin, A Fennema, and J. Webb. Councillor J. Jenkinson joined the meeting electronically.

Staff present: Chief Administrative Officer R.J. Holland.

**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.

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt the agenda.

Resolution 02-08-33

Carried

Delegations & Guests:

Mike Robertson introduced himself. He lives on the south side of Francois Lake in Area E of the RDBN. Mr. Robertson began with a general report of what he's been up to. He has been working with the Cheslatta Nation on several initiatives. A feasibility study is underway to identify a site for the establishment of sockeye spawning facility. Currently, the most promising location, is in the Cheslatta Falls area. The Cheslatta Nation would like to improve the sockeye run in the Nechako River.

Mr. Robertson talked about the findings of an archeological dig that took place on the shore of Cheslatta Lake in 2021. Human remains were located that date back as many as 5000 years.

Mr. Robertson reports having been involved in Nechako River and Alcan issues for years. He became involving in these issues out of concern about what was happening to the watershed. In Mr. Robertson's opinion, Alcan's industrial activities have ruined Cheslatta Lake. It is no longer considered to be a living body of water, but rather an industrial pond.

In the 1950's the province issued Alcan a water license. That water license was renewed by the province again in 1997. Through the license, Alcan agreed to pay \$0.10 per acre for the land submerged by the Kenney Dam. The company was also charge \$5.00 per year to use the Cheslatta River system.

Since 1997, the fee scheduled Alcan pays for use of the water has increased substantially. Since than, Alcan has paid approximately \$218 Million to the Province. Mr. Robertson commented, that those numbers were gathered from public documents and from information that has been

supplied by Alcan. Inappropriately, all of those revenues have gone to the province and general revenues. There has been no reinvestment in the north, regardless of the impacts to our region.

Mr. Robertson explained that two thirds of the natural flow has been diverted through the two tunnels at the west end of the Nechako reservoir. This water flow is used to produce hydro electricity by Alcan. When the water license was renewed in 1997, a court action was undertaken. Out of the 1997 court settlement, NKDF was formed. Alcan was directed to deposit \$7.5 M and the Province was directed to deposit a corresponding \$7.5 M to offset the impacts of the reservoir on the local economy and quality of life. In 2000, the NKDF fund was established. It provided \$1 M per year. Since then, the productivity of the fund has continually shrunk. In 2022, the fund was able to disburse \$250,000.00.

Mr. Robertson is a director on the NKDF Board. The general feeling of the directors on the board, is that they have become irrelevant. The diminished capital in the account is hampering the activities of the Board.

Mr. Robertson feels a case needs to be presented to the Province to compel them to do what is right. The easiest option would be to enhance the NKDF account. However, Mr. Robertson had other alternatives. Mr. Robertson would like to see the formation of a group or committee to explore how this can be addressed. Everyone in the north is struggling. How do we move forward? Council Cheslatta Falls be used to generate electricity? Should a Nechako River Trust be established by the Province and Alcan? Mr. Robertson would like to see a Southside Trust established. Following the forest fires in 2018, the residents on the southside are struggling. Ultimately, he would like to see the money go back into the communities to address the things that have been impacted by the Nechako Reservoir. Examples include schools, libraries and recreation.

Mr. Robertson advises that two years ago, the Cheslatta Nation prepared a background submission to the Province, requesting the return of 50 percent of the annual water license revenues. He said that went over like a lead balloon. The province simply buried the submission, and nothing came of it.

Mayor Storey agreed with Mr. Robertson proposal. It is upsetting that none of the revenues generated in the north, stay in the north. She would like to see NKDF back in a position where they can award \$1M each year.

Mr. Robertson feels the committee or group should be a gathering of the communities impacted by the Nechako Reservoir. Upstream, there are the Cheslatta and Skin Tyee. Downstream there are the Nadleh, Stellat'en and Saikuz.

Mayor Storey agreed a meeting between the communities impacted by the Nechako Reservoir would be a good first step. When a meeting date is

set, Mayor Storey would be interested in attending. Mayor Storey thanked Mike Robertson for his presentation.

Delegation #2:

Stefan Woloczyn and Lee Brain from CityWest provided the second presentation. CEO Woloczyn introduced Lee Brain as the new Community Liaison. Mr. Brain hosted a community forum on February 7th. During that forum he was able to answer questions about the partnership agreement and CityWest.

CityWest is a community owned corporation. It is one of the oldest municipality owned corporations in Canada. The VFL Communications partnership was the first such partnering agreement with CityWest.

CityWest functions as a social enterprise. It not focused on profit. The purpose of the partnering agreements is to support community development and to create a new revenue stream for communities.

CEO Woloczyn noted CAO Holland and EDO Christie have been working with CityWest to identify issues with the service. Technicians are working on solutions. Most residents are aware of these same problems and are happy to hear that CityWest is working on resolving them.

CEO Woloczyn reports there are 218 internet subscribers in Fraser Lake. This is out of 530 possible subscribers. The next focus is to install fiber optic into multi unit properties. CEO Woloczyn added that the construction crews will be back in the spring to finish off installation activities and to fix a couple of problems, such as twisted conduit. He would like to ensure everything is completed together.

Mr. Woloczyn acknowledged problems with the television service. The television product is new. The world of television is transitioning to streaming services. CityWest believes the various problems related to the television service have to do with the location of the Cache Server. This hardware device is in Saskatchewan. CityWest will be installing a cache server in Fraser Lake, B.C. This will resolve at least 50 % of the problems that are being experienced. The remaining 50% are software related and the CityWest technicians are working on solutions for those issues.

Mr. Woloczyn feels there is good opportunity for growth. CityWest Fibre Optic is better and cheaper than the competitor's product.

Mayor Storey commented how she loves that the system is not all about shareholders. She feels people are willing to wait while the bugs are worked out of the system.

Councillor LePoidevin asked if there were opportunities to expand the service into the rural area?

CEO Woloczyn stated CityWest is looking at the north shore of Fraser Lake. They are also looking at Chowsunket Road South and possibility to the west.

Councillor Jenkinson asked if the fiber optic will be installed under the railway tracks?

CEO Woloczyn stated about 5 months ago an application was submitted to CN Rail. CityWest is expecting to provide service to the residents of Park Drive this summer.

Director of Finance L. McMaster asked about revenue sharing.

CEO Woloczyn advised, when the service was turned on in 2022, customers were provided between two and four months of free internet. He anticipates revenue reconciliation will be calculated beginning October 2022. Reconciliation requires a full 12 months of revenue before revenue sharing occurs. This means, there will be no revenue sharing until October 2023.

Director of Finance L. McMaster asked for a letter from CityWest that sets out when reconciliation will occur. This is required for audit purposes.

Mayor Storey thanked CEO Stefan Woloczyn and Lee Brain for their presentation.

**Regular Council Meeting Minutes,
January 25, 2023**

MOVED/SECONDED that the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2023, 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 02-08-034

Carried

**Business arising from
the Minutes:**

None

**Reports on Council
Activities:**

Councillor LePoidevin

Councillor LePoidevin attended the Strategic Planning session on February 3, 2023.

Councillor Webb

Councillor Webb attended the Strategic Planning session on February 3, 2023.

Councillor Jenkinson

Councillor Jenkinson attended the Strategic Planning session on February 3, 2023.

Councillor Fennema

Councillor Fennema participated as a Judge at the FLESS Grade 4,5,6 science fair. She was impressed with the talent of the students. Councillor Fennema also attended the Strategic Planning Session.

Mayor Storey

Mayor Storey attended the CityWest community forum at Autumn Services on the evening of Tuesday February 7th. She felt the forum was a success. She appreciated the nice comments from several of the attendees. Lisa Barnes thanked the Village and CityWest for doing this for the community.

Mayor Storey attended the Strategic Planning session.

She also attended the board meeting at the RDBN. Mayor Storey shared an Emergency Response Quick Reference Guide for Elected Officials. The quick reference guide was handed out at the RDBN by Deborah Middleton-Jones. Mayor Storey felt all members of Council should have a copy of the guide at hand's reach in the event of an emergency.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive Councillor Reports.

Resolution 02-08-035

Carried

Accounts payable:

The accounting reports were presented.

MOVED/SECONDED to adopt Accounts Payable and payroll in the amount of \$122,416.13

Resolution 02-08-036

Carried

Correspondence List:

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the correspondence list.

Resolution 02-08-37

Business from the CAO:

Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Report:

CAO Holland presented the draft of this report. This report was developed in collaboration with the RDBN, Vanderhoof and Burns Lake. This report forms the foundation of our Emergency Planning. It was completed in collaboration with the RDBN and neighboring communities because what happens in the rural area surrounding the Village of Fraser Lake or the neighboring communities, impacts the Village. This report will be used to inform other emergency planning activities in the future. CAO Holland advised the draft report was being provided to Council for review and comments should they have any.

Budget discussions:

A staff recommended Capital Expenditures and Capital purchases report was presented.

A discussion followed.

Councillor LePoidevin asked for staff to provide more details. He would like to know the available balances in Village Reserve Accounts. He would also like to know how the various projects would be paid for.

MOVED/SECONDED to receive the business from the CAO.

Resolution 02-08-38

Carried

Staff Reports:

None

Reading List:

None

New Business:

Mayor Storey:

Mayor Storey commented about a new doctor who is interested in working in Fraser Lake but is having difficulty finding accommodation.

Mayor Storey asked about the expected delivery date of the new fire truck.

EDO Christie advised the manufacturer has estimated delivery at the end of April 2023.

Mayor Storey commented on Staff Appreciation. After the budget has been established, she would like Council to host a staff appreciation luncheon.

Mayor Storey stated she will be away at UBCM Meetings. On February 23rd, 2023 Councillor Fennema will attend the Board Meeting at the RDBN. On that same date, all municipal Alternate Directors will be sworn in at The RDBN.

Mayor Storey talked about her travel obligations to attend the UBCM Meetings. She asked to change the time of the Regular Meeting scheduled for February 22, 2023. Rather than starting at 5:30 pm, Mayor Storey asked that the meeting begin at 1:00 pm.

MOVED/SECONDED to change the time of the February 22nd Regular Meeting of Council from 5:30 pm to 1:00 pm.

Resolution 02-08-39

Carried

Mayor Storey brought Mike Robertson's request back to the table. Council agreed this is an important initiative as it involves all communities impacted by the Nechako Reservoir; indigenous and nonindigenous. Terms of reference would need to be one of the first tasks to establish so that all participants understand how the group would move forward. Providing support for NKDF is important.

MOVED/SECONDED to write a letter to Mike Robertson in support of his initiative.

Resolution 02-08-40

Carried

MOVED/SECONDED to receive New Business.

Resolution 02-08-41

Carried

Bylaws:

None

In Camera:

None

Next Regular Meeting of Council:

February 22, 2023, at 5:30 pm

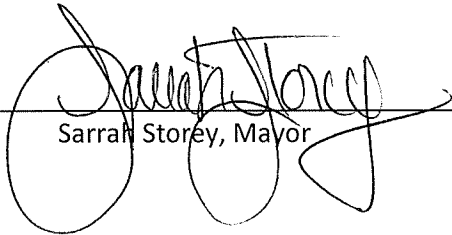
Adjournment:

MOVED/SECONDED that the February 8, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at 8:25 pm.

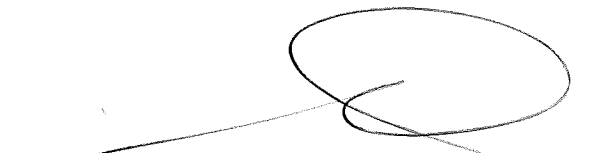
Resolution 02-08-42

Carried

Certified Correct:



Sarah Storey, Mayor



Rodney J. Holland, Chief Administrative Officer