



## Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held March 14, 2018 In the Municipal Hall in Open Forum

Those in Attendance: Mayor Lindstrom  
Councillor Reyden  
Councillor Ray

Staff: Rodney J. Holland, Chief Administrative Officer  
Joe Pacheco, Fire Chief  
Dave Christie, Economic Development Officer

Public: None

Mayor Lindstrom called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and welcomed those in attendance.

### Agenda:

Resolution 03-14-77 M/S Councillor Ray/ Councillor Reyden  
"Motion to adopt the agenda"

Carried

### Delegation:

None

### Minutes:

Resolution 03-14-78 M/S Councillor Reyden/Councillor Ray  
"Motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 28, 2018"

Carried

### Business from Previous Meeting:

None

### Councillor Reports:

Councillor Reyden attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting on March 7, 2018. Kyle Giddens of TransCanada Pipelines presented on proposed LNG projects. The presentation was very informative. It provided information to merchants about how to participate in economy of

these projects. There will be opportunities for local merchants to provide goods and services to the proposed camp at Lejac.

On March 12<sup>th</sup> Councillor Reyden attended the Budget Meeting.

Last night Councillor Reyden attended the Library Annual General Meeting (AGM). The new Library Board consists of the following board members: Chairperson: Ann Marie Laponde, Vice Chair: Dave Van Werkhoven, Treasurer: Dave Christie and Secretary: Eileen Hutson. The library has an annual budget of \$121,000.00 for 2018. The Village of Fraser Lake contributes \$61,000.00 of that. The remainder of their annual revenues come from the Regional District, an assortment of grants and other funding sources.

The Library is working on a Code of Conduct for the library. Councillor Reyden would like to see mention of the new policy in the Village Newsletter so people know there is a Code of Conduct there.

Councillor Ray attended the Budget Meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Lindstrom attended the NDIT RAC meeting this past Friday. There was a funding application from the Fraser Lake Fire Rescue Training society. Mayor Lindstrom thought this initiative should have gone through Council for Council's support.

A discussion followed. EDO Christie advised the Training Society had discussed the proposal with NDIT prior to submission. NDIT was not sure whether the proposal would be accepted, however, they encouraged the submission of an *"Expression of Interest"*.

EDO Christie has spoken with NDIT since their assessment of the *"Expression of Interest"*; looking for feedback. NDIT was concerned that this would create a precedence for other Training Groups. Brenda Gendron has stated, NDIT cannot say yes to the Fraser Lake Fire Training Society for an emergency service initiative and then say "no" to other First Responder groups.

EDO Christie provided further information about the initiative. The Fire Suppression trailer is \$187,000.00. The Training Society has successfully raised 65 percent of that funding. This is a significant venture. The Fire Training Society will continue to look for funding opportunities to make this initiative possible. Both Stellat'en and Nadleh Whut'en are supportive of this proposal. At one point, the idea was for each community to purchase a Fire Suppression Trailer. Maybe the better alternative is to purchase one trailer by pooling resources and to share it amongst our three communities. The Fire Training Society will work with Stellat'en, Nadleh and other potential funding partners to raise the remaining dollars.

Fire Chief Pacheco stated the Fire Suppression Trailer will provide an increased level of protection for Fraser Lake, Stellat'en, Nadleh Whut'en and other surrounding communities. This past summer there was a lack of trained/certified persons who were familiar with the set up and operation of these Fire Suppression systems. Obtaining this trailer will enable our local fire fighters to train on this system and potentially set themselves up for employment opportunities in the coming years.

Mayor Lindstrom stated he would like to be better informed about these initiatives. The Mayor if often asked to speak to these proposals at the NDIT RAC meetings. He would like to be able to support and promote these applications.

It was agreed that communication is important. Council acknowledges the Society is an independent entity, however, Council would like to support their efforts where possible.

Mayor Lindstrom stated that Council appreciates the efforts of the Society. These pursuits are good for Fraser Lake and the surrounding area.

Resolution 03-14-79 M/S Councillor Ray/Councillor Reyden  
"Motion to receive Council Reports"

Carried

**Accounts Payable:**

Resolution 03-14-80 M/S Councillor Reyden/Councillor Ray  
"Motion to receive accounts payable and payroll in the amount of \$80,056.75"

Carried

**Correspondence List:**

Resolution 03-14-81 M/S Councillor Ray/Councillor Reyden  
"Motion to receive the Correspondence List"

Carried

**CAO Reports:**

Senior Boys Basketball Team Grant in Aid application:  
A grant in aid application has been received. The FLESS Senior Boys Basketball team made it to Provincial Playdowns. The Village budgets \$4,000.00 annually for Grant in Aid. The remaining balance is \$3,000.00. In 2017 the Senior Boys Basketball Team received \$350.00 from the Village.

Councillor Reyden noted the School District provided the Senior Boys Basketball Team with \$350.00. He would like to match that number.

Resolution 03-14-82 M/S Councillor Reyden/Councillor Ray  
"Motion to provide the Senior Boys Basketball Team a grant in aid of \$350.00 to help with travel costs associated with attending the Provincial Tournament"

Carried

Nechako Valley Search & Rescue – Grant in Aid:

CAO Holland referred to the presentation of NVSAR manager Chris Mushumanski who requested Community Support for NVSAR. This request was discussed at the Tri Council Meeting on February 20, 2018. During that discussion, each community agreed to contribute \$500.00 toward the operational costs of NVSAR. This request has not been formally addressed by our Council.

There is a balance of \$2650.00 remaining in the Village Grant in Aid fund.

Resolution 03-14-83 M/S Councillor Reyden/Councillor Ray

“Motion to provide Nechako Valley Search & Rescue with a grant in aid in the amount of \$500.00 in support of their operational costs”

Carried

Nechako Watershed Roundtable (NWR) – Grant in Aid:

CAO Holland referred to Theresa Fresco’s presentation on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The Nechako Watershed Roundtable is hoping to raise \$110,000.00 to cover projected operational expenses over the next year. They have requested \$1,700.00 from the 12 municipalities that are located within the Nechako Watershed. CAO Holland noted these requests do not recognize a community’s size or population, so, the request of Fraser Lake is the same as the request of Vanderhoof or Prince George. The NWR has also requested an indication around continued community support in 2019.

With consideration of earlier decisions made so far tonight, the Village of Fraser Lake Grant in Aid account holds a balance of \$2150.00.

Mayor Lindstrom spoke about NWR’s request. The NWR request was discussed at the last Regional District meeting. Except for Fraser Lake, the other 11 municipalities have met the \$1,700.00 request for Community Support. In Mayor Lindstrom’s Regional District Director’s report, he explained our discussion at our last Tri Council meeting. The Village of Fraser Lake invited Stellat’en and Nadleh to share in the \$1,700.00 Community Support request. The NWR has not approached either First Nation Community about NWR activities or about Community Support. Mayor Lindstrom acknowledged that previous discussions involved providing NWR with a \$500.00 grant in aid. He would like Council to consider meeting the \$1,700.00 NWR request.

A discussion followed. Councillor Reyden asked what the Village is getting from the activities of the NWR. Is the Village benefiting from a service or valuable data? Are we getting a bang for our buck?

Mayor Lindstrom agreed. He is unsure what we're getting from the NWR. Mayor Lindstrom added, the other municipalities have stated this is a one time shot. They will not be committing to ongoing annual financial support for the NWR.

Councillor Reyden stated that after Theresa Fresco's presentation in October, it wasn't overly clear that the Village of Fraser Lake was going to get anything out of their activities.

Councillor Ray commented that he wasn't present when Theresa Fresco made her presentation. He has requested an overview.

Mayor Lindstrom advised the study of the Nechako Watershed has been going on for some time. Interest in the Nechako Watershed began after the construction of the Kenny Dam and the development of water controls on the Nechako River. The NWR is simply the current group of people who are looking at the watershed. The NWR does not have any regulatory power. Its not really clear what they've accomplished. They say they are consolidating information and evaluating flood control, water quality and industrial activities in the watershed.

Regional District Director Tom Greenaway has offered to top up our funding to provide the remainder of the \$1,700.00. He stated he'd chip in the money if the Village of Fraser Lake just can't do the \$1,700.00.

Councillor Reyden noted the Village has limited Grant in Aid funds. He would prefer to keep the additional \$1,200.00 for local sports teams.

Mayor Lindstrom will inform the Regional District of Council's decision. Mayor Lindstrom would like to send Director Greenaway a thank you letter for his contribution.

Resolution 03-14-84 M/S Councillor Reyden/Councillor Ray

"Motion to provide the Nechako Watershed Roundtable with a grant in aid in the amount of \$500.00 as a form of Community Support and to advise this funding is a one time occurrence"

Carried

Payphone removal:  
Notification was received from Telus that two pay phones will be removed in the community. One is located at the Visitor Centre. CAO Holland didn't know the location of the second phone. Over the past year, there has not been any use of either pay phone. This has included

no Operator Assisted Calls, No 911 calls and No paid phone calls. Telus is inviting the community to comment on this plan to remove these payphones. CAO Holland suggested that with the prevalence of cell phones, pay phones have fallen out of favour.

Council had no comment on this notification.

Long Term Disability policy:

CAO Holland presented a proposed update to our LTD Recipient/Continuation of Employee Benefits policy, 2005. Our current LTD Recipient/Continuation of Employee Benefits policy does not address alternative outcomes other than an employee becomes ill or injured, convalesces over the 120-day wait period and then is accepted to LTD. This policy is being reviewed to address other possibilities or outcomes? How long should the Village address circumstances where the employee is no longer able to return to work, but they are not eligible for LTD? What happens if an appeal period is involved? A policy is required.

A brief discussion followed. The discussion included a review of the current allowances.

Mayor Lindstrom felt this was a discussion that should involve all of Council.

Resolution 03-14-85 M/S Councillor Reyden/Councillor Ray

“Motion to table the discussion of the proposed LTD Recipient/Continuation of Employee Benefits policy”

Carried

CRA Account – Authorized persons:

During a recent interaction with CRA, it was learned their list of authorized persons who can speak with the CRA for the Village of Fraser Lake is out of date. To correct this issue, CRA requires a resolution that lists authorized persons who can represent the Village in discussions with the CRA to resolve issues relating to our account.

Resolution 03-14-86 M/S Councillor Ray/Councillor Reyden

“Motion to authorize Mayor Dwayne Lindstrom, Councillor Don Reyden, Councillor Craig Lepoidevin, Councillor Sarrah Storey, Councillor Tyrel Ray, Chief Administrative Officer Rodney Holland and Finance Clerk Laura McMaster to speak on behalf of the Village of Fraser Lake to resolve issues relating to the Village of Fraser Lake CRA account”

Carried

Road Rescue/Medical Call Response program:

Administration has conducted a review of our Road Rescue and Medical Call Response programs. This has included collecting information on the use of the Rescue Truck. Information was collected on whether the truck was responding to a location within Village boundaries or the Regional District and whether the response was related to Road Rescue or assistance to EMS.

Recent changes to EMBC funding practices precipitated this review. Up until the past November, Emergency Management BC funded Road Rescue Response outside of our municipal boundary. When First Responders were dispatched to a Highway Emergency, EMBC paid \$330.00 per hour for our Rescue Truck, plus the cost of wages based on minimum wage for each of the First Responders on the truck. EMBC provided WCB coverage and indemnification for each of our volunteers. EMBC funding provided coverage for lost, damaged or consumed equipment or materials. In 2017 EMBC paid our Village \$6,800.00 for Road Rescue Response.

At the same time, since 2009 the RDBN has been providing the Village with a \$5,000.00 annual grant as compensation for extrication services provided by our Fire Department. RDBN Extrication Service Bylaw 1516, 2009 refers. In 2017, these two funding sources totalled \$11,800.00.

Regarding Medical Call Response, our Village has an agreement with the Province that relates to our support of Emergency Health Services (EHS). Aside from providing volunteers with indemnification in the event of an accident or mishap, there is no compensation for our volunteers or the use of our vehicle. There are no provisions for lost, consumed or damaged equipment.

This past November, our eligibility for EMBC "Road Rescue" funding was impacted when EMBC deemed the RDBN funding as redundant compensation. The loss of revenue from EMBC has caused significant concern about our ability to recover an acceptable portion of the operational cost of services to Area D, RDBN.

From the information gathered, 69.6 percent of our use of the rescue truck is for medical call response in Area D, RDBN. This service receives no funding or compensation from the Province or the RDBN. To develop a better understanding of our actual operating costs of our Rescue Truck, our review compiled and considered all operational costs from 2015 to 2017. The costs of fuels, maintenance, insurance and annual payment for the truck were tabulated and considered.

The annual cost associated with operating our Rescue truck, with no consideration for wages or related staffing costs, is \$25,341.47.

Assigning 69.6 percent of the annual operational and ownership costs to medical calls in the Regional District translates to a figure of \$17,637.66. It was noted this is only an approximate amount, as most of wear and tear to our Rescue Truck occurs during the response to calls in the Regional District. Calls within the Village of Fraser Lake contribute only slightly to the mileage on the Rescue truck.

Another consideration around Medical Call response relates to the lack of compensation for First Responders. If Medical Call Responses were structured under the same model as the EMBC Road Rescue funding, First Responders would receive an hourly wage during the response. That hourly wage is based on the minimum wage of \$11.87/hr. Based on the call volume experienced in 2017 plus assuming four First Responders on each call for two hours per callout, that would increase that annual cost by \$18,250.80 for a total of \$35,888.46.

Fire Chief Pacheco advised that in most of their responses, the Fire Department is first to arrive on scene. The availability of ambulance staff can be complicated by patient transfers to hospitals and providing cross coverage for other communities. The Ambulance Unit Chief, Thomas Schultz supports the First Responder service. When local ambulances are out of town it can be a long time before ambulance personnel are able to arrive on scene. When medical calls are for issues such as cardiac problems, delay in first aid treatment can have significant consequences.

The Fraser Lake Fire Department has 8 First Responders. First Responders are re certified every three years. The First Responders responding to medical calls currently receive no compensation. The added benefit to the Medical Call Response program is that it keeps First Responders busy and engaged in their work.

CAO Holland referred to the data sheet provided in the Council package. CAO Holland noted the \$5,000.00 received from the RDBN falls short of the actual costs incurred by the Village to provide this service. Our Rescue Truck is a \$350,000.00 unit. It is equipped with approximately \$100,000.00 in equipment. Is it time to arrange a discussion with the Area D Director of the RDBN to discuss re negotiating their contribution to this activity.

Councillor Ray asked how many of those medical calls are to the First Nations Communities?

EDO Dave Christie stated the number of calls to the First Nations communities are minimal.



Mayor Lindstrom advised he would like to take these figures to the Regional District for discussion. The contributions of other Regional District Directors for such services is not a standard amount. One of the RD Directors contributes \$18,000.00 per year for these types of initiatives.

Some discussion followed. Mayor Lindstrom would like to arrange a meeting with Area Director Mark Parker, RD CAO Melany DeWeerd, Mayor Lindstrom, CAO Holland, Fire Chief Pacheco and Unit Chief Thomas Schultz.

BC Community Forest AGM – Burns Lake, B.C. – May 24-26, 2018:

The annual BC Community Forest Conference will be held in Burns Lake this year. This year's conference is being hosted by the Chinook CF, Burns Lake CF and the Cheslatta CF. CAO Holland is simply bringing this to Council's attention. Councillor Ray and CAO Holland attended the 2017 Community Forest Conference in Tumbler Ridge and found the event to be very informative.

NDIT Strategic Initiatives Fund:

NDIT has created a new funding opportunity called the Strategic Initiatives Fund. The fund is intended for projects that are larger in scale, regional in impact, that enhance communities or multiple communities to overcome economic challenges. This funding is 80 percent of the project proposal. Administration is proposing an application to this fund to conduct a feasibility study to re develop the Fraser Lake Villa Trailer Park. This proposal intends to assist seniors and rural residents who would like to move into Fraser Lake to access Village amenities. The concept is to create fenced 50'X85' mobile home lots equipped with concrete pads, a gravel driveway and underground utilities to the concrete pad. Providing opportunities to area residents to establish a modular home in a well constructed subdivision would provide the opportunity for low cost, one level housing.

This development would provide an affordable alternative to persons on a limited budget and would like to establish themselves in a clean, level and well serviced area. The other trailer park in town is near capacity, so, there is very little room for persons wishing to move into Fraser Lake with their modular home.

The feasibility study would assess existing infrastructure and provide cost estimates for a 4-foot chain link fence around each lot and a concrete pad with all services. This is a phased project. Initially we would develop 6 lots. Other lots would be developed as demand was identified. This is an economic development initiative. It also densifies our population and provides an alternative area for new affordable housing. The cost of the feasibility study is estimated at \$9,500.00. The intention is to create a shelf ready project for 2019.

Mayor Lindstrom voiced his support of this initiative.

A discussion followed. Council does not want to take business away for the other business in town.

Resolution 03-14-87 M/S Councillor Reyden/Councillor Ray

“Motion to apply to NDIIT under the Strategic Initiative fund for up to \$9,500.00 to conduct a feasibility study to develop the Fraser Lake Villa Trailer Park as an option for single level house for seniors and rural residents”

Carried

Healthy Living Conference Call:

CAO Holland presented material that was submitted by Councillor Storey. Better at Home Program is gathering Elected Officials and Senior Staff to begin discussions around Healthy Aging and Provincial support of that process.

The request is to have a member of Council participate in this conference call. The information was initially sent to Councillor Storey due to her ties with Better at Home, however, she is away and won't be able to participate in this conversation.

The members of Council reviewed their commitments.

EDO Dave Christie was asked to participate in this initial discussion on Monday March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Resolution 03-14-88 M/S Councillor Ray/Councillor Reyden

“Motion to receive the CAO Reports”

Carried

#### **Staff Report:**

Fire Chief Pacheco provided a brief overview of the Youth Fire Fighter initiative involving Stelat'en and Nadleh students. The March 5th day at the firehall was a success. Since then, several young fire fighters from Stelat'en continue to attend Monday evening fire practices.

Mayor Lindstrom thanked Fire Chief Pacheco for his support of this initiative. He also thanked Councillor Ray for his part in arranging this initiative.

Resolution 03-14-89 M/S Councillor Ray/Councillor Reyden

“Motion to receive the staff report”

Carried

**Reading List:**

Resolution 03-14-90 M/S Councillor Ray/Councillor Reyden  
"Motion to receive the Reading List"

Carried

**New Business:**

Councillor Reyden asked about the new Payroll Tax and its impact of the Village budget.

CAO Holland advised the announcement is relatively new. It is his understanding the tax will not come into effect until 2019. Employee MSP premiums have been reduced. Much of the new tax will shift the larger cost of the MSP premium onto the employer. Since the Village already pays employee MSP premiums, it is thought the tax will have limited impact on our 2019 budget.

Councillor Reyden asked when the Rescue Truck will be back in town.

Fire Chief Pacheco has been told the truck will be ready for pick up mid April. The truck was transported to Red Deer. ICBC is deciding how will return the truck to Fraser Lake. If they won't cover the cost, the plan is to fly to Red Deer and drive the vehicle back.

Mayor Lindstrom noted the Parking Lot meeting scheduled for Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. He will be attending the meeting.

Resolution 03-14-91 M/S Councillor Reyden/Councillor Ray

"Motion to Receive New Business"

Carried

**Bylaws:**

None

**Next Regular Meeting:**

Mayor Lindstrom, and Councillor Lepoidevin reported they will not be available for the Regular Meeting of Council scheduled for March 28, 2018 at 5:30 pm. Whether a quorum would be available for the next meeting of Council was discussed.

Looking further ahead, CAO Holland noted he and Finance Clerk Laura McMaster will be attending NCLGMA in Prince George, B.C. from April 11 to April 13<sup>th</sup>. An Elections Workshop is scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup>. With municipal elections this Fall, this will be an important workshop

to attend. There is a good possibility neither the CAO or Finance Clerk will be able to make it back in time for the April 11<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

Fire Chief Pacheco has volunteered to assist with the April 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of Council.

**Adjourn:**

Resolution 03-14-92 M Councillor Ray

“Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm”

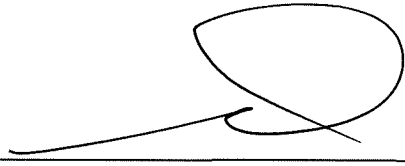
Carried

Certified Correct



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**Dwayne Lindstrom**  
Mayor



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**Rodney J Holland**  
Chief Administrative Officer