



MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, May 18, 2023

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

MAYOR	Genevieve McLeod
DEPUTY MAYOR	Eva Hope
COUNCILORS	Julia Capot Blanc
	Greg Wilson
	Hillary Deneron
	Barbara McLeod

ABSENT

COUNCILORS	Derwin Kotchea [Without Notice]
STAFF Senior Administrative Officer	John W. McKee
RCMP Corporal James Charles	

The Chairperson (Mayor) took the chair and called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Council approved the meeting agenda without changes.

MOTION 2023-29

That the agenda for the meeting of May 18, 2023, be approved as presented.

Moved: Hillary Deneron
Seconded: Greg Wilson
Carried.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interests were declared.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting, and no changes were made.

MOTION 2023-30

That the meeting minutes of April 29, 2023, be approved as presented.

Moved: Greg Wilson
Seconded: Eva Hope
Carried.

INTRODUCTION

The new Fort Liard RCMP Detachment commander, Corporal James Charles, introduced himself. He expects to be in Fort Liard for three years and possibly four. He reviewed the April 2023 Policing Report, which indicated that bootlegging and substance abuse are the main concerns in the community. The local detachment will be focused on this issue. Fort Liard has experienced a high turnover of officers, and Corporal Charles will be attending community meetings and events and getting to know the community. The April report highlighted events attended by the RCMP.

FINANCIAL

OPERATIONAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The SAO reviewed Operational Financial Statements for the council. The Hamlet had a surplus as of March 31, 2023. This surplus is primarily attributed to staff vacancies and lack of maintenance. Providing staff housing cost the hamlet \$60,730. Some of this deficit can be attributed to vacant units to staff shortages. The deficit for refuse disposal was \$178,186. The deficit for the provision of Water and Sewage services was \$551,848. This was a planned deficit because of the sizeable prior year program surplus.

MOTION 2023-31

That the Operational Financial Statements for the period ending March 31, 2023, be accepted as presented.

Moved: Greg Wilson
Seconded: Barb McLeod
Carried.

DRAFT AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The DRAFT Audited Financial Statements for the period ending March 31, 2023, for a preliminary review by council members. Improvements have been made to inventory control, but this but still a way to go to meet audit standards. Fluid Mater data has been cleaned, more reconciliation has been implemented, and operational staff are receiving ongoing training. These statements have been presented to MACA for review before the final statements are issued.

During 2023 remote accounting will be implemented as the Hamlet has been unable to employ adequately trained financial staff.

OPERATIONAL BUDGET 2023-2024

The SAO reviewed the budget for council, highlighting the following.

- Funding for 2023/34 is a 3% increase over the prior year.
- Rent for GNWT office space is increased by 17.5%.
- The Hamlet is unable to recruit qualified finance staff. As a result, accounting functions will have to be done remotely. It will be necessary to determine what functions can be done remotely, what local staff will be required, recruit and train staff, implement systems, and enter a service contract. In addition, further development of budgets will be necessary.
- A new auditor will need to be appointed for the 2023-2024 audit.
- Insurance rates have remained the same, but costs have increased due to the increased value of insured items.
- Loss Control Consultants have provided funding reports for each building, including the amount budgeted for maintenance to achieve the expected lifecycle.
- Replacing fire gear and equipment that does not meet standards or is damaged is \$40,000. Gear has not been regularly replaced for the last five years.
- The safety program is 100% funded.
- New clerk position for Works and Services department.
- Road drainage works will be completed yearly to eliminate issues during high spring water.
- Cost of the 100% subsidy for Municipal Services to Seniors increases as the population ages.
- Cost of Car Wash operations is entirely funded by wash revenue.

MOTION 2023-32

That the Operational Budget for 2023/24 is accepted as presented.

Moved: Greg Wilson
Seconded: Hillary Deneron
Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

WILDFIRE SITUATION

The SAO reviewed the elevated risk for wildfires and that staff will monitor for potential dangers during the long holiday weekend.

GRAD GIFTS

Council discussed the purchase of a gift for this year's grads. The Administration was directed to research the purchase of tablets.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS REFILL COMPRESSOR

Council reviewed a Briefing Note for purchasing and installing a refill compressor to refill the self-contained briefing apparatus. The project was approved with a budget of \$42,000.

MOTION 2023-33

That Project 830502 - SCBA Refill Compressor purchase and installation be approved with a budget of \$42,000.

Moved: Eva Hope
Seconded: Barbara McLeod
Carried.

ENGINEERING SERVICES

Council reviewed a briefing note to provide engineering services to plan and design a landfill cell expansion. The project was approved with a budget of \$55,000.

MOTION 2023-34

That Project 850101 – Engineering Services to plan a landfill cell education be approved with a budget of \$55,000.

Moved: Barbara McLeod
Seconded: Greg Wilson
Carried.

RECREATION COMPLEX RETROFIT

Council reviewed a Briefing Note to provide engineering and planning services to deliver a professional review for a retrofit of the Recreation Complex. Council agreed to proceed with his project.

MOTION 2023-35

That the Hamlet proceeds with a professional review of the retrofit of the Fort Liard Recreation Center.

Moved: Eva Hope
Seconded: Barb McLeod
Carried.

DONATION REQUEST

Council deferred the request for a donation request by the Fort Liard Hand Games Society.

BYLAWS

ASSET DISPOSAL

Council reviewed a bylaw approving the disposal of fire equipment that cannot be certified or is damaged. The bylaw received the first reading.

MOTION 2023-36

That Bylaw 328, "Asset Disposal – Fire Equipment," receive its first reading.

Moved: Hillary Deneron
Seconded: Greg Wilson
Carried.

Council gave second reading to a bylaw authorizing the disposal of uncertified and damaged fire equipment.

MOTION 2023-37

That Bylaw 328, "Asset Disposal – Fire Equipment," receive its second reading.

Moved: Hillary Deneron
Seconded: Barbara McLeod
Carried.

TABLED DOCUMENTS

RCMP Monthly Report
Safety Monthly Report
Fire Department Monthly Report
Aurora College Transformation

CORRESPONDENCE

Council reviewed the correspondence.

NWT Statistician – Tobacco, Alcohol & Drug Survey
ECC – Existing Licences
Liard Basin Groundwater Monitoring

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

Engagement – Forest Act – *The community meeting planned for May 17 was cancelled and will be rescheduled.*

Engagement – Legal Professions Act
Engagement – Dental Hygienists Profession Statutes
Research Application 5608
Notification – Research Licence 17252
ECC – New Department

NEXT MEETING

The next regular council meeting for June 15, 2023, will be rescheduled due to the Graduation Ceremonies.

The Premier's visit that was planned for May 15 will be rescheduled.

The meeting to review the Forest Act is being rescheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2023-38

That the meeting of May 18, 2023, be adjourned.

Moved: Hillary Deneron
Seconded: Barbara McLeod
Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.


Genevieve McLeod
Mayor


John W. McKee
Senior Administrative Officer