

**Village of Haines Junction  
Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
May 28, 2026**

Present:

Mayor Strand

Councillor Busche

Councillor Mackinnon

Deputy Mayor / Councillor McPhie

Councillor Sundbo

Absent:

CAO Fairbank, Recorder Ogden

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

**Acknowledgement of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Traditional Territory**

Deputy Mayor McPhie acknowledged that we are on the traditional territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

**Adoption of Agenda**

#180-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the agenda be adopted as amended.

- Add 15a) in-camera HR discussion

Motion #180-25 was **CARRIED**.

**Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

**Adoption of Minutes of Regular and Special Council Meetings**

Council Meeting Minutes May 14, 2025

#180-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the minutes of the regular Council meeting of May 14, 2025 be adopted as presented.

Motion #180-25 was **CARRIED**.

**Proclamations**

**Delegations**

Delegation: Composting

*Presentation: Julie Bauer*

- Would like to see Council make decision about composting this year
- There have been many reports to Council over the years that demonstrate community support for this initiative, including report in package from 2014
- This was a key issue raised in the public engagement in January, 2025
- Understand that Staff are talking to YG about the purchase of a unit, but no timeline has been set
- FoodCycler was a great initiative but does not address composting needs of large producers (e.g. school, parks, restaurants events)
- Could an advisory group be tasked with exploring this further?
- Suggest potlatch bags for all community events, starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, at least until we get composting going otherwise compostable plates etc. will just go into the landfill.
- Would also like to see some attention put to addressing invasive species. Last year the Yukon Invasive Species Council organized a weed pull on Willow Acres Road and educational evening. Staff from Public Works, as well as CAFN and a youth crew from Parks, helped with pulling weeds. A second weed pull took place that was organized by a group of residents in Willow Acres.

*Discussion:*

- What is a potlatch bag?
  - Rather than event hosts providing disposable plates and cutlery, individuals bring their own dishes and cutlery. This is common practice for First Nation community events, and this is why this is referred to as bringing a potlatch bag.

#181-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the information from Julie Bauer on composting be received and filed.

Motion #181-25 was **CARRIED**.

#182-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** staff prepare a RTC with an update on composting.

Motion #182-25 was **CARRIED**.

#183-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** staff prepare public communications asking the public to bring potlatch bags to the Canada Day festivities

Motion #183-25 was **CARRIED**.

-- Mayor Strand arrived at 7:15pm and began presiding over the meeting --

## Public Hearings and Public Input Sessions

### Old Business

#### Review of RCMP Performance Plan

##### *CAO Presentation:*

- This report was on the agenda on April 9, 2025
- Council had requested additional time to review the report and solicit feedback from the public

##### *Discussion:*

- Note: RCMP Corporal Shannon Stelter, Haines Junction Detachment Commander, was present for the discussion
- Support was expressed for the work the RCMP is doing to build relationships, particularly with youth in the community. It was recognized that this work takes time, and patience is required while relationships and opportunities for interaction grow and develop.
  - Priorities in the new Community Tripartite Agreement (CTA) with Kluane First Nation (KFN) are reflected in the annual performance plan and include partner agency meetings, attending community events, engaging with youth and improving road safety.
  - Both CAFN and KFN support more cultural training for members.
  - In the next month two new members are transferring into the Haines Junction detachment and one member is transferring out. Housing is a challenge to increasing staffing in the detachment.
- Organized crime, gang-related crime and opioids were discussed at the Chief and Mayors forum that was organized by the Association of Yukon Communities and the Council for Yukon First Nations.
  - Will review minutes to see what action items arose from discussion.
  - Some communities are having more issues than others in Yukon; not seeing as many overdose deaths here, only 2 in the past 5 years.
- One Yukon began testing wastewater in Haines Junction for presence of COVID several years ago. More recently they began testing for substances. This testing showed a spike in cocaine use in the community. Is RCMP aware of these reports? Would like to see CAFN, Village and RCMP to work together on this type of monitoring.
  - CAO has not seen reports in the past 6 months.
  - CAFN brought these findings to the RCMP's attention, but RCMP has been provided with a copy of the report.
  - These results give a general sense of the presence of substances within the community; they do not provide any specifics on where the substances originate within the community.

#### 2025 Interim Regional Waste Management Agreement

##### *CAO Presentation:*

- Prior Council passed motion asking staff to sign agreement in April 2024
- Prerequisites to signing full agreement:
  - YG needs to provide Village with a lease for the solid waste facility site (this has not been completed)
  - YG needs to transfer land to Village, which requires the lease agreement to be in place (this has not been completed)
  - Village needs a permit to operate the facility (this is in place)
- 2025 Interim agreement the same as the 2024 Interim agreement – it just extends the time frame.
- Math of the interim agreement appears to be incorrect. Formula in S3.1 should amount to \$139,920, and agreement provides \$111,800.

*Discussion:*

- YG has not followed through on some commitments. Need to remind YG about this and not sign agreement until these have been followed through on.
  - Staff could follow up with YG to see what time Council can have to deliberate the agreement.
- Do we have a list of promises that were not kept?
  - There was talk of bringing Phase 3 power into the facility so the Village could operate heavier compressors. YG had also promised a composting unit?
  - May have to go back 17 years into minutes to develop list.
- A select group of Mayors and CAO's worked through the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) to negotiate with YG about 7-8 years ago, anything discussions that took place before this would no longer be relevant.
- YG provided \$650,000 to each community and left it up to community to decide how this would be allocated (equivalent to the cost of a weigh scale). We prioritized front of house renovations. Staff have checked in with other communities and every community got this same amount.
- We need to be aware of liabilities associated with the lease.
- Can Council change tipping fees under the agreement?
  - This is under the purview of Council to change. Will come back to Council at the end of the calendar year for review.
- Will YG pay for well monitoring testing after agreement is signed?
  - YG is currently paying for testing of monitoring wells installed in and around the landfill site. Whether this will be ongoing will be negotiated in the new agreement.
  - Additional testing requirements – YG is committed to splitting costs.
- Council would like the amount of the agreement to be corrected before agreement will be signed.
- YG will continue to pick up and transport designated materials and non-commercial special waste?
  - Most all recycling and some special waste will be covered by EPR, this will include power/labour costs as well

#184-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** signing of the Interim Regional Waste Management Facility Agreement be deferred to a future meeting

Motion #184-25 was **CARRIED**.

## **New Business**

### Accounts Payable to May 28, 2025

Materials provided: Municipal Accounts Payable to May 28, 2025

#185-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the Municipal Accounts Payable to May 28, 2025 be received and filed.

Motion #185-25 was **CARRIED**.

### RTC – Banners for Orange Shirt Day

*Policy/Communications Manager Presentation:*

#### *Discussion:*

- This report has already been actioned.
- Staff found banners in the office that were printed last year. We have 12. They were printed and arrived after last year's TRC day and have not yet been hung up. The banners have CAFN artwork and are beautiful.
- The 12 banners will be hung at the beginning of September and will be left up for the month of September.

#186-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** this report be received and filed

Motion #186-25 was **CARRIED**.

### RTC – Options for Sustaining Free Store Volunteers and Amended Donated Refundables Policy

*Policy/Communications Manager Presentation:*

- At the last Council meeting the Free Store and Landfill Community Concerns Advisory Group recommended that we reprofile the donated refundables fund to volunteer honoraria.
- This report provides a policy analysis of this request so Council is aware of some of the considerations around reprofiling those funds.
- Staff recommend going forward with the recommendation from the Advisory Group, recognizing that it is not completely consistent with best practices elsewhere. We

suggest monitoring how it goes, and if it looks like volunteerism wanes, or if it looks like honoraria isn't the best payment mechanism, to revisit the considerations put forward in this report as/when needed.

- Council is also exploring a new funding program for recreation, arts, culture and environmental organizations in the community which is likely to address groups displaced by reprofiling of the Donated Refundables fund, minimizing the impact on other community groups.
- A draft amended Donated Refundables Fund policy was drafted that is much shorter than it used to be. The process for how we account for donated refundables is unchanged in this amended policy.

*Discussion:*

- Why don't we leave the Donated Refundables policy as is? As noted in the report, the amount of donations varies from year to year. It seems more problematic to amend the policy only to have to potentially amend it again in the future.
  - Council should expect to have to top up funds to cover honoraria payments; however, one of the reasons the Advisory Group recommended reprofiling these funds was that we may see donations increase if people see their donations going to support the volunteers.
  - Suggest staff provide Council with a report at the end of the calendar year on how many donations were received compared to the honoraria paid out.
- The Advisory Group met earlier this week and reported that all the volunteers are bored and don't have much to do, not many people have been dropping things off. We don't need to be paying people to sit out there for two hours with nothing to do.
  - It may be that with the new cameras, we don't need to staff the free store as people will be less likely to put things there that don't need to be there, or do unsafe things?
  - Bodine is also helping to screen things at the gatehouse for their suitability to be dropped off at the free store.
  - There are signs with instructions telling people what to do when they drop things off.
- Has the advisory group changed their mind? Do they still recommend staffing the free store as recommended at the last council meeting? Are they reassessing whether this may be required?
- It may be too soon to amend the Donated Refundables policy. Suggest putting this on hold until we see where this is going because it could potentially impact other groups that get funding from the Donated Refundables fund.
  - The next allocation of this funding, should the policy be unchanged, is January 2026
- Staff could approach the advisory committee to see if, rather than having someone there for 2 hours every day that the free store is open, to instead have volunteers do sporadic spot checks. This could relieve a lot of the boredom and minimize some of the honoraria that we would otherwise be spending.

- Suggest circling back to this in two weeks time to see how the next two weekends go. Would like to hear from the Advisory Group on if they would like to change their recommendations.
  - The meeting earlier this week was the last of the five Advisory Group meetings. At this meeting they shortlisted 5 areas of concern. They indicated they wanted to keep the Free Store within their terms of reference so they can continue to provide Council with recommendations.
- Council is aware that this is a dynamic situation, and that we are going to need to be adaptable. It is possible that the closure, the gatehouse, the cameras are all contributing to behavioural change that was needed for the space to be tidier and safer.

#187-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the Report to Council on Options for Sustaining Free Store Volunteers, and the amended Donated Refundables policy, be received and filed and deferred for discussion at a later date

Motion #187-25 was **CARRIED**.

#### RTC – Skate Park Attendant

##### *CAO Presentation:*

- Council requested this report at the last Council meeting.
- In 2023, the summer seasonal labourer position incorporated these duties.
- When this posting was advertised it was uncertain whether the BGC Yukon summer program was going ahead.
- BGC Yukon and the Youth Centre are major users of the facility – these groups have supervisors with first aid.
- Now that it is confirmed that the summer camp is going ahead, staff recommend providing access to the facility to these community groups, on request, and not proceed with staffing this position.

##### *Discussion:*

- Support was expressed for providing access to qualified group.
- If there isn't a lot of use, consider ending the program and surplus the equipment.
- The equipment could be donated to CAFN – they have an outdoor arena.
  - Would CAFN want this equipment?
  - Is the equipment suitable for outdoor use?

#188-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** staff are directed to allow free use of the skate park facility over the summer season to user groups with the assurance that safety and security will be maintained by a first aid attendant and that the user groups must always provide a first aid attendant when the facility is in use.

Motion #188-25 was **CARRIED**.

#### Landfill Access

##### *Policy/Communications Manager Presentation:*

- This report originated from requests from certain user groups who, for various reasons, are finding it to be inconvenient to not have access to the landfill on Mondays and Tuesdays.
- This policy provides a mechanism for high volume users of the landfill to apply for access to the facility on Mondays and Tuesdays. Should their application be approved, the policy includes an agreement that outlines the terms and conditions of access that would need to be signed by the user and the Village.
- One editorial change we would like to suggest is to amend the language of After Hours to reflect our intention of allowing access during regular business hours on Monday/Tuesday (the intention is not to allow access in the middle of the night, for example).

##### *Discussion:*

- Would like to see applicants have to post a bond in case of any issues or damage. If there are no issues, they would get this bond back. This would provide more incentive to educate their staff and take care with the facility.
- Surprised to learn that some municipal landfills in the territory are only open 3 days a week. The Village already provides a high level of service.
- The genesis of this policy was for local businesses who do grubbing and clearing, and for whom it is difficult to not have access to the landfill during the week. When clearing small lots there is often not space to store these materials for several days. The Monday/Tuesday closure effectively shortens their work week.

#189-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the draft After Hours Landfill Access Agreement for High Volume Users policy be amended to include the posting of a bond and brought back to Council for additional review.

Motion #189-25 was **CARRIED**.

#### **Bylaws – Reports, Readings and Adoption**

#### **Correspondence**

##### Letter request to fly Progress Pride flag

##### *Discussion:*



- This request is being made per the Village Flag Protocol Policy #30-20.
- Council would like to ensure the appropriate flag is provided by those making requests to fly a flag on the courtesy flagpole (as required in the policy).
- The flag has been provided in this case.

#190-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the Progress Pride flag be flown for the month of June, barring any competing requests.

Motion #190-25 was **CARRIED**.

#### Letter request to recognize Indigenous Survivors / National Blanket Ceremony Day

##### *Discussion:*

- Not aware of this day?
- The Village doesn't have the mandate to proclaim a national day, but the Village can recognize a national day.
- Would like to discuss this with CAFN at the next Joint Council meeting as it would be good to this type of acknowledgement together.

#191-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** staff discuss adding this letter to the June 5<sup>th</sup> agenda with Linaya or Jennifer at CAFN

Motion #191-25 was **CARRIED**.

#### Letter – Installation of pedestrian crossing at Da Ku

##### *Discussion:*

#192-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the letter regarding the potential installation of crosswalks near the Da Ku Culture centre be received and filed.

Motion #192-25 was **CARRIED**.

### **Council Reports and Notice of Motions**

#### Councillor McPhie

- Condolences were expressed to the Istchenko family on Eddie's passing.

#### Councillor Busche

- The Free Store and Landfill Community Concerns Advisory Group met on Monday. The group is going to continue working on issues.

#### Councillor Mackinnon

- Nothing to report

#### Councillor Sundbo

- Will be out of territory June 3 to 18 so will be unable to attend lagoon tour on June 5 but hoping to be able to attend June 11 council meeting (remotely).
- Status of pricing propane tank tipping fees? Status of waste antifreeze collection at landfill?
  - Some work has been done, staff can write this up into a report.
- Castle Rock is currently finishing up Phase 4 of the water and sewer upgrades. Are there any other YG funded projects in the works that will be offered to smaller, local companies? How are these awarded by YG – are they sole sourced or tendered?
  - Recent discussion with YG about amending contract with Castle Rock for additional \$15k-\$20k of work. It is much easier for YG to do this than to initiate a tendering process. There is a threshold that below which it is not worth YG's effort to do a tendering process. There is another threshold for which the work is too great for local companies to bid on. Between these two thresholds the Village will advocate for local opportunities.
  - Don't want to find ourselves with no local companies because they are not able to get any work.

#193-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT Staff provide a report at the next Council meeting on including various sized propane tanks in tipping fees and that provides an update on the status of waste antifreeze collection at the landfill

Motion #193-25 was **CARRIED**.

#### Mayor Strand

- Met, along with CAO, with group of ~20 students from the Trudeau Foundation on May 21.
- Member of Health Transformation Advisory Committee that just met in Dawson. While there met with Dawson Mayor Stephen Johnson.
- Staff will be getting a call from YG Health and Social Services to set up a meeting with the Health Transformation Advisory Committee who will provide information about the Health Authority and Community Health and Wellness plans.

#194-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT Staff provide a report within the next six months on the Yukon government First Nations procurement policy

Motion #194-25 was **CARRIED**

#195-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the be extended past 9:00 pm.

Motion #195-25 was **CARRIED**

#### **Questions from the Public**

#### **Motion to Close Meeting to the Public**

# 196-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the meeting be closed to the public at 9:03 pm.

Motion #196-25 was **CARRIED**.

#### **Motion to Reopen Meeting to the Public**

#197-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the meeting be reopened to the public at 9:30 pm.

Motion #197-25 was **CARRIED**.

#### **Adjournment**

#198-25 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned.

Motion #198-25 was **CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

  
Mayor Diane Strand

  
CAO David Fairbank

