

**Village of Haines Junction
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2026**

Present:

Mayor Strand (via Zoom)
Councillor Busche
Councillor Mackinnon
Councillor Sundbo

Absent:

CAO Fairbank, Recorder L. Sylvain, Sylvain Human Resource Services

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Traditional Territory

Councillor Sundbo acknowledged that we are on the traditional territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

3. Adoption of Agenda

#29-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the agenda be adopted.

Motion #29-26 was **CARRIED**.

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

5. Adoption of Minutes of Regular and Special Council Meetings

a. Draft Minutes of January 28, 2026 Regular Council Meeting

#30-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the minutes of the regular Council meeting of January 28, 2026 be adopted as amended with the following changes:

- Amend all references to 'Council of the Whole Meeting' to 'Committee of the Whole Meeting' and;
- Under section 11.f., add a reference to emails exchanged between Mr. Haehnsen and the Village of Haines Junction's Policy and Communication Manager.

Motion #30-26 was **CARRIED**.

6. Proclamations

There were no proclamations.

7. Delegations

a. Debrief on power outage - Shane Skarnulis, Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) and Kyle Rolling, ATCO

Kyle Rolling's Presentation (ATCO Electric Representative):

Overview of the Yukon's Electrical System

- Yukon Energy generates most electricity for the territory, including hydro facilities at Aishihik, Whitehorse, and Mayo. Power moves through the Yukon Integrated System via high-voltage transmission.
- ATCO distributes electricity in most communities. In Haines Junction, supply enters the ATCO substation, is stepped down, and flows through two automated feeders plus additional manual switching points. The community can be isolated from the grid and supplied by a local diesel unit if required.

Outage Summary and Restoration

- An extended cold snap beginning around December 9, 2025 pushed grid demand close to available capacity. At Yukon Energy's request, ATCO operated the Haines Junction standby genset to add supply.
- On the morning of December 22, 2025, with temperatures near -45°C to -47°C, ATCO was asked to increase output. During the attempt, the unit dropped off, and black smoke was reported at around 11:00 a.m. The unit was shut down, local fire services were contacted, and technicians were dispatched from Whitehorse.
- A breaker at Aishihik tripped offline, which opened ATCO's breaker and isolated the community. The genset attempted an automatic restart but immediately tripped on overload due to high demand.
- Yukon Energy restored the transmission line around 12:15 p.m. ATCO's breaker would not close, and the genset also failed to stop as expected. Crews from Whitehorse carried out manual by-pass procedures under required safety protocols while Yukon Energy adjusted protection settings at Aishihik.
- In coordination with EMO, priority restoration was directed to the St. Elias Convention Centre. Once supply was available, that feeder was restored remotely. Higher-than-expected cold load pickup required crews to continue restoring service in stages by manually adding load.
- An exhaust leak was repaired, air filters were replaced, and portions of the genset control system were temporarily jumpered. The unit returned to service at approximately 5:30 p.m. About 80% of customers had power by 6:00 p.m., with full restoration achieved by approximately 8:00 p.m. on December 22, 2025.

Lessons Learned and Planned Improvements

- Operating the local genset for peak shaving reduced demand seen at the Aishihik transformer. When the unit shut down, load increased suddenly by approximately 600–700 kW. Yukon Energy did not have sufficient real-time visibility of loading or protection settings. Additional metering, sensors, and more automated setting adjustments are being pursued.
- The breaker involved had been set for summer ambient conditions rather than extreme winter temperatures. Sustained temperatures below -40°C affect electrical equipment reliability. ATCO's automatic breaker experienced a mechanical failure at approximately

-47°C. ATCO is working with the supplier and has identified a capital project to install heat tracing to improve winter reliability.

- Phase imbalance within Haines Junction has developed over time, with more demand on one phase than the others. ATCO has projects in its capital plan to rebalance loads, which will provide greater operating flexibility and buffer.
- Limited monitoring made it difficult during restoration to predict the size of load being added in each area. ATCO plans to install additional aggregate metering for better visibility.
- ATCO is also considering more remotely operated sectionalizing devices. This would allow faster restoration, improved management of cold load pickup, and the ability to implement rolling blackouts if required in an islanded scenario.
- Identification of warming centre locations in advance would help ATCO plan protection settings and restoration priorities more effectively.

Discussion:

- Council thanked Kyle Rolling and ATCO staff for their work during the December 22 outage. Council noted its interest in understanding the event to identify actions the Village could take to improve future emergency responses.
- Does Haines Junction have more than one genset?
 - There is currently one generator.
- Can that generator normally handle the electrical load for a community of this size, including anticipated growth?
 - When the unit was installed, it could carry the load year-round. With growth over the past several years in Haines Junction, it generally cannot supply the community during winter peak demand if the town is islanded. In milder seasons, it can and does operate the community when required.
- With new subdivision development coming, will future customers be able to connect?
 - Under normal circumstances, yes. As Yukon Energy adds capacity to the integrated grid, new demand can be served. However, the local standby unit would still be unable to cover winter peaks if the transmission line were down and the community had to run independently.
- Council mentioned the importance of incorporating these realities into emergency planning. Potential warming centre locations discussed included the Da Kų Cultural Centre and the St. Elias Convention Centre.
- Council thanked ATCO Electric Yukon crews for their work in extreme cold conditions and recognized the effort required to restore power.
- Given how technical the information is, can Council receive additional explanation in more plain language to better understand what occurred?
 - ATCO indicated that further briefing support and simplified explanations could be provided.
- If a similar outage happens again, how prepared are EMO and the community, particularly knowing the local system cannot supply winter peak demand while islanded?
 - ATCO is focusing on lessons learned from this event. Planned efforts include making better use of existing equipment, reducing sectional load where possible, and increasing remote switching capability. These measures are

expected to improve response times and shorten outage durations in future incidents.

- Was Rory, the ATCO employee in the community, when the outage occurred?
 - No. He was in Whitehorse at the time.
- Is there still a full-time ATCO staff member based in Haines Junction?
 - A lineman position exists for the community; however, it is currently vacant.
- Would it have made a difference if ATCO had a staff member in Haines Junction at the time of the outage?
 - It probably would have helped slightly, potentially shortening the overall restoration. However, some specialized work—such as addressing failing breakers—still required dispatching power system electricians and millwrights from outside, so having someone local would not have fully resolved all issues.
- In the after-action meeting, the transformer at the Aishihik Dam was initially identified as the issue. Was it an issue with the breaker instead?
 - Yes. The breaker is the device that opens and closes; its settings protect itself and the transformer. The initial wording may have caused some confusion.
- In the presentation, ATCO mentioned considering load segregation, load monitoring, remote access to switching, and upgrades. Does “considering” mean this work is forthcoming?
 - ATCO is developing a solution and assessing what it will look like. There is no definitive timeline yet, so it is not guaranteed to happen within a specific period.
- Regarding the backup generator, is there any plan to upgrade or replace it to provide capacity for the entire community?
 - ATCO has completed a study assessing upgrades for communities with backup generation, including Haines Junction, Carmacks, and Teslin. Some communities experience peak overload. Currently, there is no funded solution to increase backup capacity, so the backup generator cannot serve the entire community at this time.

Shane Skarnulis's Presentation (Yukon Government's Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) Representative):

Overview

- EMO coordinates Yukon Government's responses to emergencies but does not directly respond or provide supplies. Instead, it operates a 24/7/365 Duty Officer system. EMO can activate the Emergency Coordination Center to support local or regional authorities and also assist with emergency planning and training outside of active incidents.
- EMO operates within a standard emergency management cycle of mitigation, response, and recovery, providing support at multiple levels: on-the-ground incident response, incident support via municipal or First Nation Emergency Operations Centers, territorial coordination, and national coordination if federal assistance is required. Priorities are set according to response goals, from health and safety of responders and saving lives to protecting property, infrastructure, and reducing social and economic loss.

Power Outage Event on December 22, 2025

- During the December outage, extreme cold in Whitehorse (3 standard deviations below normal) increased grid demand and led to early engagement of EMO, ATCO Electric Yukon, Yukon Energy, and the City of Whitehorse. Early contact allowed EMO to

coordinate potential extended outage support and initiate a joint communications group to share information between agencies. Emergency Support Services were prepared to provide warming centers if needed.

Lessons Learned

- Local authorities and First Nations were not included in the joint communications initially, which caused confusion about the warming center location. The Cultural Center could not be used due to lack of backup power, so the convention center was prioritized.
- Haines Junction lacks a formal incident command structure; a unified command approach is recommended for overlapping jurisdictions.
- Public messaging was limited due to local radio transmitters without backup power and the Alert system's dependence on cell coverage.
- Identifying critical facilities and their redundancy is essential. Isolating non-critical loads can help stabilize the grid and speed restoration.

Future Actions/Recommendations

- Revitalize joint emergency planning sessions with the Village of Haines Junction and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.
- Conduct training exercises focused on power and communication interruptions, including tabletop exercises and inclusion in Operation Nanook.
- Improve public alert systems and redundancy for radio, cell, and Alert platforms.
- Educate residents on personal preparedness for at least 72 hours without power, including plans for pets and livestock, as the Red Cross only allows designated service animals in their shelters.
- Survey the residents post-incident to gather feedback on information sources, preparedness, and how they coped, to inform future emergency planning.

Discussion:

- What are Yukon EMO's thoughts on getting back capacity and to do the emergency preparation exercises?
 - We have two vacant planner positions, and those staff will start on February 23, 2026, at which point we will do onboarding. That will give us three planners to cover the entire territory.
 - Planners will be assigned by region: one covering the Alaska Highway Corridor including Watson Lake, Teslin, Haines Junction, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Beaver Creek, and Kluane and White River First Nations; another covering Dawson, Mayo, Faro, and the Robert Campbell area. There is a significant amount of work to organize these regions and ensure proper coverage.
 - Haines Junction does not currently have a finalized emergency plan. Having a completed plan is essential so that EMO can work through exercises and test the plan effectively. EMO can assist with planning, including remote support or short meetings, but the municipality needs to identify personnel to fill key roles such as Information Officer, Incident Commander, and other operational positions.
 - Once these roles are identified, EMO can integrate them into the system and conduct exercises, including components like the Joint Information Management System.

- CAO Fairbank reported that the Village has been working with Chris Reynolds, a contractor, to develop both a Municipal Emergency Plan and a set of Emergency Response Guidelines. These documents are in final draft form but have not yet been presented to or approved by Council. Once reviewed and approved, the Village will be ready to participate in a tabletop exercise with EMO.
- The CAO suggested setting up EMO's duty desk as an administrator on the Village's side. This would allow messaging to come directly from Whitehorse through the Voyent system in the event of an emergency, even if it falls below the threshold of a Yukon-wide emergency. The CAO noted that remote access to Voyent is currently limited if a hardened computer terminal cannot be reached. EMO assistance would help facilitate messaging in such scenarios.

8. Public Hearings and Public Input Sessions

None.

9. Old Business

- a. RTC – Housing Accelerator Fund Dwelling Construction Grant
 - i. Report to Council
 - ii. New Dwelling Construction Grant Policy (for information)
 - iii. Amended New Dwelling Construction Grant for Young Residents Policy
 - iv. Amended Affordable Housing Construction Grant Policy

Project and Asset Manager's Presentation:

- Provided a follow-up to the June 2025 discussion on Housing Accelerator Fund initiatives, presenting recommendations based on roughly a year of experience delivering the existing programs and focusing specifically on the future of dwelling construction supports.
- Requested Council approval to formally sunset the Affordable Housing Construction Grant and the New Dwelling Construction Grant for Young Residents, as the youth-specific commitments under the funding agreement have now been fulfilled. Instead, is requesting to replace them with a single, streamlined Dwelling Construction Grant that simplifies administration, removes age restrictions, and opens eligibility more broadly to community members.
- The new grant is proposed to include **three streams**:
 1. A **Homeowner Stream** for residents building their primary homes with no age limit;
 2. An **Affordable Rental Stream** for homeowners, builders, or developers creating long-term rental supply, including constructing new secondary suites (such as basement or garden suites) or upgrading existing unpermitted/in-law suites to legal dwellings; and
 3. A **Developer Stream** to support affordable homes for sale, using straightforward design limits like maximum size and bedroom count rather than the previous CMHC income-based affordability formula, in alignment with the 2024 Housing Needs Assessment that identified a strong need for smaller units.

- Recommended keeping the grant amount at \$25,000 per unit, noting this remains modest compared to other jurisdictions and maintains fairness with earlier approvals. At this amount, the available budget would support up to 14 grants.
- To ensure the program can launch quickly, Council is asked to approve the closure of the legacy programs and proceed with first and second readings of the new bylaw now, so that once CMHC confirms or releases the next installment, only third reading and policy adoption would be required.
- Advancing the bylaw at this time will help align the grant rollout with the upcoming construction season, anticipated lot sales in the Mountain Ridge subdivision, and opportunities for applicants to combine funding with other programs, including the Housing Initiatives Fund delivered by the Yukon Housing Corporation.

Discussion:

- Does maintaining the grant at \$25,000 reflect fairness given rising construction costs, inflation, and tariff pressures, and does leaving the amount unchanged reduce the program's effectiveness?
 - The fairness referenced in the report was relative to Council's June discussion, when the amount had been reduced to \$20,000. The Project and Asset Manager acknowledged increasing costs and noted that if Council wished to raise the grant further, the program budget would need revision, and the total number of grants would likely decrease.
- Is it realistic to budget for up to 14 grants given that the program was undersubscribed previously?
 - 14 is an optimistic estimate tied to meeting housing supply growth commitments under the Housing Accelerator Fund agreement with CMHC. The Project and Asset Manager noted a proposed administrative change to open intake and allocate funding on a first-come, first-served basis, and added that Council could opt to fund fewer grants at a higher amount, such as 10, which would remain workable within the budget.
- If the program is undersubscribed at \$25,000 per grant, would it be possible to revise the budget and increase the amount for approved applicants retroactively?
 - Yes, that could be possible.
 - Councillor Busche expressed concern that some residents might argue they would have applied had they known a higher amount would be available.
- Regarding section 4.9 of the policy and 5.9 of the bylaw, which state that a funded dwelling may not be used as a short-term rental (STR) for at least two years, how does this interact with our current uncertainty about STR regulations?
 - The wording was intentionally drafted generally, not tied to a specific bylaw number, so that units funded through the program cannot operate as STRs for two years, and the clause does not override stricter bylaws if they exist.
- If a future bylaw permanently prohibits STRs, how would that affect the grant program?
 - A permanent moratorium would not affect the program, since STR use is already restricted for the first two years. The Project and Asset Manager noted that legal review could be conducted to ensure the wording is precise and not open to misinterpretation.
- How can we ensure applicants, especially developers, clearly understand that future STR permissions may never materialize?

- Acknowledged the concern and agreed that additional discussion and possible legal clarification of the language may be needed to avoid ambiguity.
- Confusion was noted due to references in the documents to the old grants being phased out, while some sections still reference the updated Affordable Housing Construction Grant. Further discussion may be needed before fully proceeding.
- Concern was expressed about budget references unrelated to grants, such as the Recreation and Community Services review, and suggested further consultation to ensure accurate communication to the public.
- Why does the document show revised amounts but not spent-to-date figures?
 - No money has been spent yet on some initiatives. Remaining allocations (e.g., \$25,000 for recreation-related initiatives) are tied to ongoing or incomplete projects from the Housing Accelerator Fund agreement with CMHC.
- How confident are we that the Village of Haines Junction will receive the next CMHC funding installment?
 - Third installment is likely, as nearly all initiatives have been completed, but the fourth installment is uncertain because it depends on meeting housing supply growth targets, which were ambitious. The Project and Asset Manager maintains regular contact with CMHC municipal liaisons but expects official confirmation within weeks of submitting the annual report.
- What does it mean for applicants to be “in good standing” with Haines Junction?
 - This means applicants must not have outstanding amounts owed, including property taxes, and suggested language may need to be tightened for clarity in the new overall housing grant policy.
- What happens if a grant recipient sells the property shortly after receiving the grant? Are there mechanisms to recover the funds?
 - The mechanisms exist to recover funds if residency requirements are not met, such as liens or tax-based methods, although details are handled outside the policy in agreements attached to grants.
- Council suggested further discussion to fully understand the mechanisms and wording related to clawback provisions.
- It was noted that, given rising construction costs, Council may want to consider increasing the grant and reducing the number of grants to make it meaningful for developers.

#31-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT Council defer approval of the recommendations outlined in the Report to Council to a further date.

Motion #31-26 was **CARRIED**.

#32-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT Policy 40-24, New Dwelling Construction Grant for Young Residents and 41-24 Affordable Housing Construction Grant are amended as presented.

Motion #32-26 was **CARRIED**.

b. RTC – Shakwak Hall Committee Appointments

CAO's Presentation:

- A recommendation has been issued for the appointments of Jennifer Bakke, Wade Istchenko, Rose Kushniruk, and Bruce Tomlin to the Shakwak Hall Committee. While the by-law notes that there are five members, only four applied. There will also be one Council member appointed to the committee.

Discussion:

- Councillor Busche recused herself from being considered as a committee member, noting that she hasn't been a long-term resident and believed others would have more insight.
- Council opted to defer the Council member committee appointment, to be discussed and decided via email with a deadline of the following Council meeting.
- Council noted that Rose Kushniruk does not currently live within the municipality of Haines Junction, but that she was formerly a long-term resident.
- Of note, Mayor Strand acknowledged a conflict of interest for herself, as she is related to Rose Kushniruk. As a result, she removed herself from the Council meeting discussion to mitigate potential conflict.

#33-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT Council appoint Jennifer Bakke, Wade Istchenko, Rose Kushniruk, and Bruce Tomlin to the Shakwak Hall Committee, along with a Council member, to be decided in the next couple of weeks.

Motion #33-26 was **CARRIED**.

c. Verbal update on TRC Policy and Community Identity RFPs

CAO's Presentation:

- Upon return from holidays last Friday, no submissions had been received for either RFP. On Monday morning, after the Council package had been posted, a couple of envelopes containing tender submissions were in the office.
- One single applicant submitted proposals for both policies. Village staff is currently reviewing the submissions to ensure compliance with RFP requirements. A further update will be provided to Council following completion of the tender review process.

Discussion:

- No discussion.

34-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT Council accept the verbal update on the TRC Policy and Community Identity RFPs.

Motion #34-26 was **CARRIED**.

10. New Business

a. Accounts Payable to February 11, 2026

Discussion:

- No discussion.

#35-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT Council receive and file the Accounts Payable to February 11th, 2026.

Motion #35-26 was **CARRIED**.

b. Zoning Bylaw Public Education Campaign

Project and Asset Manager's Presentation:

- Zoning By-law adopted September 2024 as part of modernization efforts. It was designed to reduce red tape and administrative barriers to development. Despite improvements, the by-law remains complex and difficult for non-developers to interpret.
- The St. Elias Chamber of Commerce's Stimulating Community Investment report recommended increased public education and communication regarding zoning changes.
- Approximately 18 months since adoption; administration has monitored trends and consulted with the original zoning consultant. Four key topics identified for plain-language public communication:
 - Secondary suites – what they are and how they can be developed.
 - Multiple unit housing – permitted forms, locations, and development potential (up to 12 units).
 - Reduction of minimum dwelling size requirements.
 - Removal of the mobile home residential zone and increased flexibility in construction methods and dwelling types.
- The intent is to frame changes positively as opportunities for residential development in Haines Junction. The overall objective is to reduce perceived barriers, increase understanding, and support residential development within the community. Proposed communication tools are:
 - Plain-language print brochure outlining opportunities and basic development steps (zoning overview, development permit process, next steps).
 - Social media outreach.
 - Direct engagement with local builders and developers to answer questions and provide guidance.
 - Public drop-in/open house event with informational materials and opportunity for idea-sharing.
- There have been no direct costs to this initiative, as it has been taken on internally by Village of Haines Junction staff. In the future, there will be minor costs requested for light refreshments at public open houses.
- The zoning bylaw re-write was partially funded through the Housing Accelerator Fund. The current public education initiative is adjacent to, but not formally tied to, specific commitments under the Housing Accelerator Fund agreement. It is suggested that the staff positions that support this work be funded through the Housing Accelerator Fund.

Discussion:

- CAO noted that the Housing Accelerator Fund includes housing development targets, and that the zoning by-law rewrite was intended to reduce barriers, lower development costs, and streamline processes. Village administration reported limited uptake of new zoning mechanisms to date, with few new builds or legalization of existing secondary suites observed. The proposed education initiative is intended to encourage development activity, which would also support achievement of Housing Accelerator Fund targets.
- Council noted that a small budget allocation (approximately \$1,000) could support minor initiative costs such as brochure printing and refreshments for a potential open house.
- Council expressed support for the educational campaign, particularly in light of recent feedback regarding municipal communications. Village staff emphasized relationship-building, proactive support for residents navigating zoning and development permits, and the potential to reduce future by-law enforcement issues through early engagement.
- Council raised additional considerations, including exploring co-operative housing models and ensuring alignment with short-term rental by-law discussions.
- Questions were raised regarding whether current zoning permits are allowed for temporary accommodation (e.g., RV use) or construction of accessory buildings prior to putting in a principal dwelling. Village administration clarified that the new zoning by-law allows certain temporary uses, including limited-term RV occupancy during construction, and permits garage suites if they meet dwelling and building code standards. Standalone accessory structures without habitable standards are not permitted, consistent with best practices to ensure principal dwellings are completed.

#36-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT staff continue to develop and execute a public education campaign on Zoning Bylaw.

Motion #36-26 was **CARRIED**.

11. Bylaws – Reports, Readings and Adoption

a. Bylaw #438-26 Dwelling Construction Grant

#37-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw #438-26 be read this first time on February 11th, 2026.

Motion #37-26 was **CARRIED**.

12. Correspondence

a. Letter from Heiko Haehnsen

Discussion:

- Council received an email from the Policy and Communication Manager sharing a note from Heiko expressing appreciation for the personal letter sent by the Mayor. It was

noted that Heiko's follow-up correspondence was undated, creating uncertainty about whether he had received the Policy and Communication Manager's previous response before sending the second letter. Council members observed that the second letter was similar in content to the first, potentially indicating overlap in timing.

- For members who were not present at the earlier discussion, it was clarified that Council had previously determined resident Haehnsen's requested changes would increase staff service levels, and that current service levels were considered adequate. Noted that prior correspondence thanked Heiko for bringing the matter forward.
- Council noted that it would be beneficial to touch base with Mr. Haehnsen to confirm that he received the follow-up letter and to conclude the discussion.

#38-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT Village of Haines Junction staff follow up on the letter from citizen Haehnsen.

Motion #38-26 was **CARRIED**.

b. News Release – YG Housing Initiatives Fund

CAO Presentation:

- The Housing Initiatives Fund intake is open again, with no significant changes from previous years, and the application deadline of March 16, 2026.

#39-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the YG Housing Initiative Fund be received and filed.

Motion #39-26 was **CARRIED**.

c. Proclamation request

CAO Presentation:

- Council received a request from the Environmental Sensitivity and Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Group seeking a formal proclamation.
- The Village's proclamation policy (adopted circa 2000) states Council will not consider requests at a regular meeting if they do not address local or municipal issues. It is unclear whether this request meets the criteria under the existing policy.
- Administration had not yet had an opportunity to confirm interpretation of the policy with staff prior to the meeting.

Discussion:

- Council expressed appreciation to staff for identifying the Village's 2000 proclamation policy, noting it had not previously come to her attention.
- Based on the policy and review of the request, it was indicated the proclamation did not appear to relate directly to local or municipal matters and therefore should not proceed. Council members agreed that while they acknowledge the importance of environmental and chemical sensitivities, not every request requires a municipal proclamation. General consensus was to receive the request for information only and take no further action.

- It was suggested that the proclamation policy be included with future proclamation requests to ensure Council is reminded of the existing policy and to prompt periodic review by current and future Councils if warranted.

#40-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT staff include the Village of Haines Junction's Proclamation Policy for all proclamations that are presented to Council for the future.

Motion #40-26 was **CARRIED**.

d. ISED Consultation – Rural Development Action Plan (carry forward from last meeting)

Discussion:

- The submission date of February 6, 2026 has passed.
- Council discussed having completed the questionnaire individually, after the stated deadline, on February 8, 2026. Consequently, it was assumed that the late submission was accepted. It appeared that the questionnaire lacked sufficient detail and was overly general, limiting its usefulness, particularly in assessing impacts on northern rural communities.
- Uncertainty was expressed regarding the relevance or potential impact of the matter locally, and whether further consideration is warranted.

#41-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the ISED Consultation – Rural Development Action Plan report be received and filed.

Motion #41-26 was **CARRIED**.

13. Council Reports and Notice of Motions

#42-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT Council continue its meeting past 9:00 p.m.

Motion #42-26 was **CARRIED**.

Councillor Busche

- Reported that she and the Solid Waste group will be touring Raven Re-Center to observe what happens to local resale materials.

Councillor Mackinnon

- Mentioned that she will be attending the Arctic Summit Security Conference in Whitehorse on February 23–25, 2026 on behalf of Council.

#43-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT Councillor Mackinnon attend the Arctic Summit Security Conference during their next upcoming meetings.

Motion #43-26 was **CARRIED**.

Councillor Sundbo

- Acknowledged the current hardships in Tumbler Ridge, extended thoughts and condolences to community members, particularly those who have lost loved ones.

Motion #44-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT staff be directed to write a letter with Deputy Mayor Sundbo's signature, to Tumbler Ridge's Mayor and Council with the Village of Haines Junction's Council's heartfelt condolences.

Motion #44-26 was **CARRIED**.

Mayor Strand

- Advised that she participated in two media interviews: one with Leonard Linklater (CBC) regarding the RFPs, community identity, and truth and reconciliation; and a second interview with a CBC reporter newly based in Haines Junction regarding short-term rentals.
- Mayor Strand reported that she will be absent from the next Council meeting but will review the agenda package and provide input in advance.

14. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

15. Motion to Close Meeting to the Public

#45-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be closed to the public at 9:28 p.m.

Motion #45-26 was **CARRIED**.

16. Motion to Reopen Meeting to the Public

#46-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be reopened to the public at 10:45 p.m.

Motion #46-26 was **CARRIED**.

a. RCMP Haines Junction Mayors-Chiefs Report January 2026

#47-26 It was moved and seconded

THAT RCMP Haines Junction Mayors-Chiefs Report January 2026 be received and filed.

Motion #47-26 was **CARRIED**.

17. Adjournment

#48-26 It was moved and seconded
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

Motion #48-26 was **CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 10:46 p.m.



Mayor Diane Strand



CAO David Fairbank

