

**Village of Haines Junction
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2025**

Present:

Mayor Strand
Councillor Busche
Councillor Mackinnon
Councillor McPhie

Absent:

CAO Fairbank, Recorder Ogden

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

Acknowledgement of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Traditional Territory

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

Adoption of Agenda

#93-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Motion #93-25 was **CARRIED**.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Adoption of Minutes of Regular and Special Council Meetings

Council Meeting Minutes February 26, 2025

#94-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the minutes of the regular Council meeting of February 26, 2025 be adopted as amended

- Page 1 – amend to “Council asked staff”

Motion #94-25 was **CARRIED**.

Proclamations

Delegations

Public Hearings and Public Input Sessions

Old Business

New Business

Accounts Payable to March 11, 2025

Materials provided: Municipal Accounts Payable to March 11, 2025

Discussion:

- An updated accounts payable was circulated this evening showing one addition - \$150 in petty cash for an expense related to the fire department

#95-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the Municipal Accounts Payable to March 11, 2025 be approved as presented.

Motion #95-25 was **CARRIED**.

RTC Border Mayors Alliance

Policy/Communications Manager Presentation:

- Staff contacted the Toronto-based, public relations firm Crestview Strategy that has been hired by the Border Mayors Alliance to support this group with its advocacy and planning efforts.
- Currently there are 40 mayors, all Canadian, that are members of this alliance. The alliance is co-chaired by a mayor from Eastern Canada and a mayor from Western Canada
- Crestview Strategy also has offices in Washington DC. They provide members of the Alliance with the latest intelligence on tariffs at weekly briefings – written reports are provided to members following each briefing.
- Crestview Strategy is also working with members of the alliance to develop a strategy to safeguard the long-term interests of border communities across the country. There is going to be a series of roundtable discussion forums convened within the next few weeks.
- Crestview Strategy is also supporting the Border Mayors Alliance by developing and implementing its communications strategy, providing media relations support, and circulating news clippings every morning and analysis at the end of every day, via email, to members.
- Membership fees are prorated to the size of the community. We learned this morning that there would be no fee for the Village of Haines Junction to join -- all the briefing material would be available to us at no charged as it would be paid for by the larger member communities.
- Should Council decide to join, Mayor Strand will receive a short survey that is designed to collect basic information about the community as well as the Mayor's availability for participating in meetings.

Discussion:

- How long are meetings? Can the Deputy Mayor also join?

- Meetings aren't mandatory to attend, and are about a hour. The Alliance is looking into scheduling two briefings a week to make attendance a little easier.
- It shouldn't be an issue to delegate participation to another Council member or staff.

#96-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT staff reach out to Crestview Strategy to confirm Mayor Diane Strand's interest in joining the Border Mayors Alliance.

Motion #96-25 was **CARRIED**.

Notice of Pre-Approval from the Community Tourism Development Fund for Dezadeash Trail Improvements

Policy/Communications Manager Presentation:

- A copy of the proposal we submitted to the Community Tourism Development Fund to carry out initial work to revitalize the Dezadeash Trail.
- Parks Canada is providing in-kind support to the project. Letters of support were also received from Ducks Unlimited (one of the original partners in the trail when it was initially built), the St. Elias Chamber of Commerce and Champagne Aishihik First Nations.
- The proposal was a resubmission/reworking of a proposal that was submitted last year that sought funds for a much larger project. The amount of funds available this year was significantly less, so we divided the project up into three phases and applied for funds for the first phase.
- We costed the first phase of the budget at \$100,000. We applied for \$75,000 from the CTFD (the max we could apply for), with the rest being provided as cash/in-kind by the Village and project partners. We were awarded \$50,000, pending the submission of additional budgetary information and also information on how risks to the project will be managed.
- We need to assess how we can either reduce this phase of the project by \$25,000 and/or raise these funds from elsewhere. Work that cannot be funded in this phase will be pushed back to the next phase, which will be initiated when additional funding is secured.

Discussion:

- How will this work be awarded? Will it be put out to tender?
 - A request for proposals will be issued for this work
 - The work is scalable – we will need to finish up what we can and then wait for additional funding. From a safety perspective, we will only remove boardwalk that we can replace within available funds.
 - Parks Canada will be removing the bird viewing platform as their in-kind contribution to the project.
- How will the tipping fees associated with the removal of the old boardwalk and bird viewing platform be paid for?

- Tipping fees, which we estimate to be \$2,500, will be paid for by the Village and reflects a cash contribution to the project.

Zoning Amendment

CAO Presentation:

- A request for zoning amendment was received from Kim Henkel who owns three adjoining lots on Auriol Street. The application is requesting Block 7 Lots 14 and 17 be rezoned from Tourist Commercial (TC) to CMx (Commercial Mixed with special modification).
- Lots 14 and 17 are the only remaining, developable, lots on the block not designated as CM or CMx.
- This application makes the case that it doesn't make sense to have tourist commercial businesses within commercial mixed.
- There are three options for how Council can respond to this application
 - Option – remain TC
 - Option change zoning to CM – must build commercial enterprise before being allowed to build a house
 - Change zoning to CMx – gives owners more flexibility and is in keeping with the other lots on the block.

Discussion:

- The intent of the new zoning bylaw was not to cause any financial harm. Not allowing this zoning change would create restrictions on use of these lots that neighbours do not have.
- There are no immediate plans to sell or develop these lots. The concern was about future value of lots – CMx has more opportunities for development than TC.
- Commercial Mixed used to be the 'do everything' zone. When the bylaw was revised, Council changed this zone to requiring commercial development prior to housing development.
- This block was originally TC – over time, individual lot owners requested zoning change to CM. Kim Henkel indicated she thought these lots had also changed to CM.
- There is one additional lot on block, lot 20, is also zoned TC. This lot does not meet size requirement to be developable.

#97-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT lots 14 and 17 in Block 7 be rezoned to CMx in keeping with the other lots within the block.

Motion #97-25 was **CARRIED**.

Bylaws – Reports, Readings and Adoption

RTC – Amendment to Consolidated Municipal Fees Bylaw

Policy/Communications Manager Presentation:

- These two bylaw amendments are the outcome of the February 11th Committee of the Whole meeting when council discussed next steps following the public engagement on the landfill. Council directed staff to:
 - reduce the by-volume fee for residual waste from \$60/m³ to \$20/m³
 - repeal the old landfill user fees bylaw, which was Schedule 9 in the Consolidated municipal fees bylaw
- This will be the eighth amendment to the Consolidated Municipal Fees Bylaw #343-19.
- Amending a Bylaw requires Council to pass a bylaw describing the amendment – this is what Bylaw #425-25 is for, to describe the amendment that is required to the Consolidated Municipal Fees Bylaw.
- Council is asked to do first and second readings of the Bylaw #425-25 which describes the amendment that is needed to the Consolidated Municipal Fees Bylaw, and the Consolidated Municipal Fees Bylaw (as amended)

Discussion:

- It is not clear whether Council needs to read the Consolidated Municipal Fees Bylaw (as amended), or if is sufficient to just read the Bylaw that outlines the amendment. (*Note: “Reading a bylaw” refers to the process of a bylaw going through three readings before it is adopted, allowing council to consider, debate, and vote on it at each stage*).
- In short, a lot of paperwork is required to amend one fee and remove the old schedule of fees.

#98-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw #422-25 Consolidated Municipal Fees Bylaw #343-19 Amendment #8 be deemed read for a first time.

Motion #98-25 was **CARRIED**.

#99-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT #422-25 Consolidated Municipal Fees Bylaw #343-19 Amendment #8 be deemed read for a second time.

Motion #99-25 was **CARRIED**.

#100-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw #343-19 Consolidated Municipal Fees Bylaw AS AMENDED be deemed read for a first time.

Motion #100-25 was **CARRIED**.

#101-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT #343-19 Consolidated Municipal Fees Bylaw AS AMENDED be deemed read for a second time.

Motion #100-25 was **CARRIED**.

Correspondence

Letter from Mark Ritchie re: Dezadeash Trail

Discussion:

- Mark Ritchie had reached out over a year ago requesting that we look into revitalizing the Dezadeash trail. At that time we had let Mark know that we had applied for \$350,000 last year and were not successful.
- Staff can follow up with a letter response to Mark to let him know that another application was submitted a few months ago and that we were pre-approved for some initial funding for trail revitalization.

101-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT staff prepare a letter to Mark Ritchie with an update on the funding that has been awarded to initiate the revitalization of the Dezadeash trail.

Motion #101-25 was **CARRIED**.

Council Reports and Notice of Motions

Councillor McPhie

- Met with MP Handley, along with Mayor and Council

Councillor Busche

- Met with MP Handley as noted by Councillor McPhie.
- Also met with Mayor Tom Morphet from Haines Alaska over the weekend at the Glacier Nights Snow Festival.
- Attended the school science fair – met with all the kids and had a great time.

Councillor Mackinnon

- Attended the Glacier Nights festival - amazing turnout, lots of volunteers involved with clean-up on Sunday and a great breakfast was provided by the grads.
- Also attended the school science fair and the meeting with MP Handley.

Deputy Mayor Strand

- Met with MP Handley last Friday; expect he will come back to meet with Council when in election mode
- Attended AYC board meeting with Councillor Busche on Saturday
- Also attended Glacier Nights festival where spent time with Haines Alaska Mayor Morphet
 - Mayor Strand expressed thanks for gifts Mayor Morphet brought from businesses in Haines that were donated to the silent auction.
 - Elder Councillor Carol Buzzell, Mayor Strand and Mayor Morphet judged the snow sculptures.
 - Mayor Morphet shared two documents: 1) the response to our request to recognize Canada's sovereignty – a shared resolution he is going to bring to his Council that recognizes the partnerships, family, friends and strong connections between our communities and 2) the State of Alaska Legislature's draft resolution recognizing vibrancy and importance of relationship between Alaska and Canada and desire to maintain this relationship.
 - The Haines Chamber of Commerce is planning for an at par or discounted Yukoner day, possibly in the summer around an event.
- Would like to make a Notice of Motion for staff to purchase SWAG to include in the AYC package at the upcoming 50th AGM which will be here in Haines Junction at the end of April as a thank you for coming here.
 - Estimated attendance 300 people
 - Suggest budgeting \$20/person
 - Staff will report back to Council on options for purchasing before purchases are made via email.

102-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT a budget for gifts for delegates attending the AYC 50th anniversary be set at \$6000.

Motion #102-25 was **CARRIED**.

Questions from the Public

Question: The tipping fee schedule lists 1lb propane bottles but not 20 lb and 100 lb propane bottles, are these considered uncontaminated scrap metal? These are common items that people bring to the landfill that should be added to tipping fee schedule.

- Staff will need to look into this.

Question: Last summer there was a yellow bin at the landfill for waste antifreeze. There isn't currently any place to dump it. There is no mention of antifreeze in the tipping fees. This is a common item that could be added to the tipping fee schedule.

- Will bring this up with Public Works Manager to ensure there is a bin for antifreeze within the hazardous waste collection with no tipping fee (same as for waste oil)

Comment: The bird viewing platform on Dezadeash trail is within municipal boundary, it is not within the park.

Motion to Close Meeting to the Public

#102-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be closed to the public at 8:00 pm.

Motion #102-25 was **CARRIED**.

Motion to Reopen Meeting to the Public

#103-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be re-opened to the public at 9:30 pm.

Motion #103-25 was **CARRIED**.

#104-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be extended past 9:00 pm.

Motion #104-25 was **CARRIED**.

#105-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT staff issue an invitational tender for the hazard assessment for the demolition of the old pool /recreation centre and the development of tender documentation for hazardous material removal contract.

Motion #105-25 was **CARRIED**

#106-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the following individuals Darlene Sillery, Erin Jaimeson, Cindi O'Rourke, Thomas Eckervogt, Catherine MacKinnon and Mike Crawshay, be appointed to the Free Store and Landfill Community Concerns Advisory Group effective the first date of their meeting as per the terms of reference.

Motion #106-25 was **CARRIED**

#107-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT Council direct staff to draft up a short policy for a community appreciation initiative for Council's approval.

Motion #107-25 was **CARRIED**

#108-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT Staff get quotes on support for development of policies, procedures and administrative support for the HJVFD.

Adjournment

#109-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Motion #109-25 was **CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 9:38.



Mayor Diane Strand



CAO David Fairbank