

**Village of Haines Junction
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
December 23, 2024**

Present:

Deputy Mayor Strand
Councillor Busche
Councillor Mackinnon
Councillor McPhie

Absent:

CAO Fairbank

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Acknowledgement of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Traditional Territory

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

Adoption of Agenda

#412-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Motion #412-24 was **CARRIED**.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Adoption of Minutes of Regular and Special Council Meetings

Council Meeting Minutes November 27, 2024

#413-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the minutes of the regular Council meeting of November 27, 2024 be adopted as amended:

- Page 5 – where it notes that Chantalle and Leigh-Anne joined by the meeting by zoom, the motion number needs to be updated to #380-24
- Page 10 – change reference to Committee of the Whole meeting as being with Treasurer Istchenko

Motion #413-24 was **CARRIED**.

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes December 4, 2024

#414-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of December 4, 2024 be adopted as presented.

Motion #414-24 was **CARRIED**.

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes December 5, 2024

#415-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of December 5, 2024 be adopted as presented.

Motion #415-24 was **CARRIED**.

Council Meeting Minutes December 11, 2024

#416-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the minutes of the regular Council meeting of December 11, 2024 be adopted as presented.

Motion #416-24 was **CARRIED**.

Proclamations

Delegations

Public Hearings and Public Input Sessions

Old Business

New Business

Accounts Payable to December 23, 2024

Discussion:

- What is Territorial Contracting Ltd. Capital Project lock blocks?
 - The structures that were recently erected in the public works yard have a lock block foundation. Five additional lock blocks were required.
- Has the electrical billing for the arena been resolved?
 - Not yet. Staff have reached out numerous times seeking clarification and we continue to get a runaround. It is very difficult to get a clear answer.
- What is the mosquito control program and why is it \$20,000?
 - This expense is for the pre-purchase of the pellets.

#417-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the Municipal Accounts Payable to December 23, 2024 be approved as presented.

Motion #417-24 was **CARRIED**.

RTC CAFN-VHJ Agreement in Principle -- Intergovernmental Working Group Appointments

CAO Presentation:

- Back in 2018 an AIP between Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (CAFN) and the Village of Haines Junction was reached. Part of this agreement was to form an Intergovernmental Working Group. This working group was established earlier this year and consists of staff and council members from both CAFN and the VHJ.
- This group met several times. With the election, there are now two vacant seats for VHJ Council members

Discussion:

- How big of a commitment is this?
 - This is a fairly high-level committee that allocates work to contractors and other individuals. Meets roughly quarterly.
 - The intention was to help take some of the burden of advancing the more complex issues between Joint Council meetings, which meets very infrequently.
- Would it make sense to wait to make appointments until the terms of reference are developed through Joint Council to help define the work of the group?
 - The work to develop terms of reference could be done by the Intergovernmental Working Group, who could then recommend the draft terms of reference to Joint Council

#418-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT appointments to the Intergovernmental Working Group meeting be deferred to the next Regular Council meeting in January.

Motion #418-24 was **CARRIED**.

RTC Pecuniary Interest

CAO Presentation:

- At the last Council meeting, a question arose from the public regarding pecuniary interest, and staff realized that we had not provided anything in the transition binder around that aspect of the Municipal Act. This RTC is a short primer on pecuniary interest, as defined in the Municipal Act.
- Pecuniary interest is defined as having an interest in a matter which could financially affect:
 - The person directly
 - A partnership or business of which the person is a member;

- A corporation in which the person is a stakeholder, director, or officer; or
- A society, in which the person is a member, director or officer.
- Instances where the potential interest “is so remove or significant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence them are exempted under the Municipal Act
- Council is advised to keep an eye out for any pecuniary interests when reading through a Council agenda. If one is identified, you can prepare a short, written statement and share this with Council and the CAO in advance of the meeting.

#419-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the Report to Council on pecuniary interest be received and filed.

Motion #419-24 was **CARRIED**.

Bylaws – Reports, Readings and Adoption

RTC 2025 By-Election

CAO Presentation:

- This report is a preamble to the draft bylaw that follows.
- Council needs to establish a bylaw for the upcoming by-election.
- Community Services has advised on the critical dates.
- Cathy Mackinnon has been hired as the Returning Officer.
- A web page has been created on the Village website that is dedicated to sharing information on the by-election with the public.
- A series of public notices will be issued, as required in the bylaw or Municipal Act.

#420-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the Report to Council on the 2025 by-law be received and filed.

Motion #420-24 was **CARRIED**.

Bylaw #404-24 2025 Municipal By-Election Bylaw

CAO Presentation:

- While the Municipal Act doesn’t require a mobile poll, this was part of the 2024 Municipal Election bylaw, and we’ve included this in the 2025 by-election bylaw to ensure all have the opportunity to vote.

#421-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw #420-14, the 2025 Municipal By-Election Bylaw, be deemed read for the first time on December 23, 2024

Motion #421-24 was **CARRIED**.

#422-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT Bylaw #420-14, the 2025 Municipal By-Election Bylaw, be deemed read for the second time on December 23, 2024

Motion #422-24 was **CARRIED**.

Correspondence

Letter regarding Donated Refundables Fund

Discussion:

- This letter recommends that the money collected from donated refundables be used to provide an honorarium for the people that volunteer at the Free Store.
- Should volunteers be in the free store, given that we pay staff to clean it, staff are paid to be trained on recycling, and are paid to work in the free store?
- It was noted that honorariums shouldn't be paid for volunteer work.
- It is congested in the free store; would like to discuss at a later date whether it should be moved closer to the gate because the attendant will not have traffic all the time and could also look after the free store.
- The free store needs to be fixed up, it needs heat.
- Would like to see the money collected from donated refundables be used for the recycling program – such as education on recycling for the community, or programs to encourage recycling.
- Don't need volunteers – need the staff to do their job there. It's not being done. It is a disaster. It looks like a bomb went off in there. Let's get rid of the clothes and the shoes and clean it up.
- Would like to sit down with the Public Works Manager to discuss what he thinks would be the best option.
- What would we do with the clothes?
 - We could bag them up and take to town, or re-do it and make proper racks. There will be plenty of time for the person in the gatehouse to do this, with support from the other staff.
- The Public Works Manager has raised the idea of moving the free store and does have some ideas on what could be done.
- Would like staff to provide a report on the refundable funds, what groups are eligible, as well as plans for upgrading and maintaining the free store

#423-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT staff prepare a report to council on all aspects of the donated refundable fund as well as plans for upgrading and maintaining the free store and also to

reach out to Paulette Schatz to let her know what we are doing and to thank her for her letter.

Motion #423-24 was **CARRIED**.

Council Reports and Notice of Motions

Councillor Busche

- Attended Joint Council meeting with CAFN.
- Participated in Christmas Lights contest judging last Friday.
- Also noticed that there are two burnt out Christmas trees down the street, by Frosty's.

Councillor McPhie

- Thanked Councillor Busche for being part of the judging the Christmas Lights. It is a lot of driving around and there are hard decisions to make.

Councillor Mackinnon

- Attended the Village of Haines Junction Open House. It was a great success.
- Also attended the Joint Council meeting with CAFN.

Deputy Mayor Strand

- Also attended the Village of Haines Junction Open House. Some questions were raised about serving free alcohol. Something Council could ponder before next year.
- Also attended the Joint Council meeting with CAFN. There were different times on the agenda and the invite, apologies extended to CAFN that VHJ Council arrived a half-hour late as a result.
- Would like to follow up on the December 11th meeting where a member of the public questioned pecuniary interest and promised to get an independent opinion on whether or not being a member of CAFN creates a pecuniary interest in Castle Rock Enterprises.
 - Reached out to several lawyers, but did not hear back.
 - Followed up with the Director of Community Services, Samantha Crosby, who oversees Municipal affairs. She sent an email, which was forwarded to Council. The email says that when there are no direct monetary benefits, and when one is not a director, shareholder or officer of a corporation, there is no pecuniary interest.
 - Castle Rock Enterprises is a subsidiary of Dakwakada Capital Investments, which has many businesses under it. They report directly to CAFN Trust. The Trust has a binding agreement with CAFN that states that the First Nation cannot be deemed as receiving any economic benefit otherwise they are offside on their land claim agreement.
 - This is similar to how Yukon Liquor Corporation provides funds to Yukon government. As citizens of the Yukon territory, we do not have any pecuniary interest to the Yukon Liquor Corporation.

- The Municipal Act leaves the responsibility of determining pecuniary interest to individual Council members. Letting Council know that being a citizen of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations does not create any pecuniary interest with Castle Rock Enterprises.

Questions from the Public

Question: At the December 11 meeting, when discussing the recent AYC Board meeting and the potential for resolutions from Haines Junction for the next AYC meeting, reference was made to the municipal boundary issue. What is this issue?

- Champagne Aishihik First Nation (CAFN) has settlement land within the Municipal Boundary that is not part of the municipality (Block 30). Residents that live in Block 30 are not able to vote in the municipal election.
- Many CAFN citizens would like to vote and be considered as being part of the municipality and would like the municipal boundary to be more inclusive of the people that live here.
- This same issue exists in other municipalities in the Yukon.
- Land Claim agreements do not allow First Nations to give up their sovereignty.
- If the Municipal Boundary includes Block 30, some sort of negotiated agreement would be required.
- The Association of Yukon Communities is having a legal presentation done for the Mayor and Chiefs Forum.
- Premier Fentie was able to find a way to include residents that just lived over the border in British Columbia from Watson Lake within the community so they could vote in the territorial election. Looking in to how this was done may provide insight into what may be possible.
- CAFN pays property taxes on a number of lots within the Village of Haines Junction municipal boundary to the Village. In addition, the Village gets -- or used to get -- a grant in lieu. The Village also has agreements with CAFN to deliver municipal services on settlement land. But CAFN doesn't have a voice in all instances of municipal affairs.
- Outside of the municipal boundary CAFN pays property taxes to Yukon government. Complexities such as property tax payments going to the Village instead of to Yukon government would need to be sorted out.
- Teslin was a co-sponsor of the AYC resolution to make changes to the Municipal Act that will be required to move forward on this long-standing issue.

Question: Why is the review of the Council meeting minutes of November 13th considered an in-camera discussion when these minutes are from a public meeting?

- Personnel issues are discussed in-camera.

Motion to Close Meeting to the Public

#424-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be closed to the public at 7:44.

Motion #424-24 was **CARRIED**.

Motion to Reopen Meeting to the Public

#425-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be reopened to the public at 8:40pm

Motion # was **CARRIED**.

#426-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the minutes from the November 13, 2024 Council meeting are accepted noting Council does not agree that there was editorial opinion or ridicule inserted into either the October 23, 2024 or October 30, 2024 minutes and we support our staff in the drafting of those minutes.

Motion #426-24 was **CARRIED**.

Adjournment

#426-24 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Motion #426-24 was **CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.


Deputy Mayor Diane Strand


CAO David Fairbank

