

**Village of Haines Junction  
Regular Council Meeting March 22, 2023**

**Present:** Mayor Tomlin  
Councillor Charlebois  
Councillor Nassiopoulos

Recorder Istchenko

**Absent:** Councillor Strand (with notice)  
Councillor Maynes (with notice)

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Acknowledgement of CAFN Traditional Territory**

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

**Adoption of Agenda**

#82-23           It was moved and seconded  
                  **THAT** the agenda be adopted as amended under Correspondence to include an item from MLA Istchenko re: ice levels at the Dezadeash River bridge and an In Camera item request from Mayor Tomlin.

Motion #82-23 was **CARRIED**.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Regular Council Meeting Minutes March 8, 2023

#83-23           It was moved and seconded  
                  **THAT** the minutes of the regular Council meeting of March 8, 2023 be adopted as presented.

Motion #83-23 was **CARRIED**.

**Delegations**

Zoe Westerby, Fuels Management Forester, Wildland Fire Management re: YESA Project Application Fuel Abatement and Road Development – Haines Junction Phase 1  
Ms. Westerby attended the meeting at Council's request to provide clarification on the fuel abatement project. At the March 8, 2023 regular meeting Council noted 3 questions regarding the project. In response to the question regarding the length of time the proposed roads 1 and 2 would be in place and the reclamation process, Ms Westerby explained that Road 1, located behind Bear Berry Subdivision, would potentially be in place for 3 - 5 years during the abatement work, would be a low stump road that will easily grow back over and would be reclaimed by placing a berm, rocks and replanting. There is an historic community fire guard behind the existing Willow Acres which is a 15 metre wide buffer meant to prevent the spread of wildfire, However these buffers have been determined to not be very effective and are used more for access by fire

fighters when fighting fire to move in equipment, etc. Road 2 is a proposed new fire guard which would extend to surround the proposed new Country Residential area lots. This road is not planned for the near future and would need a separate assessment and consultation process.

The second question raised by Council is in regards to the fire break with landing zones within the proposed new Country Residential subdivision area. Ms. Westerby clarified that this would be used for maintenance work on the existing fire guard and provide access to the abatement work areas. They have been working with Land Development Branch to avoid any overlap with planned new subdivisions.

The third question is what 24% retention of timber harvesting would look like. Ms. Westerby explained that this would entail keeping patches of intact forest buffers around trails and properties, heritage potential, rocky terrain and thinning of the forest – removing spruce and retaining mainly fire resilient aspen.

A question was raised on the impact on moose habitat when so much is done to change the natural forest.

A concern was noted regarding the danger of fire coming from the Gun Range due to prevailing wind directions and fuel load on the hill. Wildland Fire Management is working with Parks to do a fuel break past the gun range.

## **New Business**

### Accounts Payable to March 8, 2023

#84-23      It was moved and seconded  
              **THAT** the municipal accounts payable to March 8, 2023 be accepted as presented.

Motion #84-23 was **CARRIED**.

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

### RTC re Annual Operating and Capital /Projects Budget Update

At the March 8, 2023 regular meeting, following first reading of Bylaw 401-23, 2023 Taxation Levy Bylaw, Council made a motion to lower the Residential and Non-Residential mil rates from 1.20% to 1.15%. The taxation levy bylaw has been revised to reflect this change and the annual budget bylaw has been revised to include the resulting reduction in property tax revenue in the amount of \$37,423.74.

In response to increasing use of web conferencing for meetings and events, the 2023 Capital Budget includes a line item for web conferencing upgrades. An increase of \$15,000 to this line item is recommended, to further upgrade the system in Council Chambers and to install fibre internet to municipal facilities.

### Bylaw 401-23, 2023 Property Taxation Levy Bylaw 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

#85-23      It was moved and seconded  
              **THAT** Bylaw 401-23, 2023 Property Taxation Levy Bylaw be accepted as having been read for the second time.

*Discussion: A concern was noted regarding the decrease of taxation revenue in the face of potential future budget obligations for items such as a new pool facility. It was noted that the Village has consistently put money into reserves for several years due to budget surpluses, and that tax rates can be increased in future years if necessary.*

Motion #85-23 was **CARRIED**.

*Councillor Nassiopoulos - in favor.*

*Mayor Tomlin - in favour.*

*Councillor Charlebois - opposed.*

Bylaw 401-23, 2023 Property Taxation Levy Bylaw 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading

#86-23 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** Bylaw 401-23, 2023 Property Taxation Levy Bylaw be accepted as having been read for the third and final time.

Motion #86-23 was **CARRIED**.

*Councillor Nassiopoulos - in favor.*

*Mayor Tomlin - in favour.*

*Councillor Charlebois - opposed.*

Bylaw 400-23, 2023 Annual Operating and Capital / Projects Budget Bylaw 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

#87-23 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** Bylaw 400-23, 2023 Annual Operating and Capital / Projects Budget Bylaw be accepted as having been read for the second time, with the addition of \$15,000 to the web conferencing line item in the Capital budget.

Motion #87-23 was **CARRIED**.

Bylaw 400-23, 2023 Annual Operating and Capital / Projects Budget Bylaw 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading

#88-23 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** Bylaw 400-23, 2023 Annual Operating and Capital / Projects Budget Bylaw be accepted as having been read for the third and final time.

Motion #88-23 was **CARRIED**.

**Correspondence**

Junction Arts and Music re Notification of FireSmart Work

JAM is administering a FireSmart project of a 2.4 hectare block on the West side of the Alaska Highway, behind Logan Street. It was noted that YG allows non-profit groups to administer FireSmart projects as fundraisers.

#89-23 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** Council receive and file the correspondence from Junction Arts and Music re Notification of FireSmart Work.

Motion #89-23 was **CARRIED**.

MLA Istchenko Correspondence re Ice Levels at Dezadeash River Bridge

There are above average ice levels under the bridge and concerns about potential washout of the Haines road during spring break up. The Minister's office has responded that ice levels have remained stable since December and are being monitored.

#90-23 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** Council receive the correspondence and file the correspondence from MLA Istchenko and respond with a thank you letter for bringing this issue to the Minister's attention.

Motion #90-23 was **CARRIED**.

**Council Reports and Notice of Motions**

#91-23 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** a letter be written to the Minister of Community Services requesting confirmation of funding for the remainder of Phase 3 and Phase 4 water and sewer infrastructure replacement.

Motion #91-23 was **CARRIED**.

**Motion to Close Meeting to the Public**

#92-23 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the meeting move In Camera.

Motion #92-23 was **CARRIED**.

#93-23 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** the meeting come out of In Camera.

Motion #93-23 was **CARRIED**.

The meeting was In Camera from 8:08 p.m. to 8:40 p.m.

**Adjournment**

#94-23 It was moved and seconded

**THAT** there being no further business, this meeting is adjourned.

Motion #94-23 was **CARRIED**.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



Mayor Bruce Tomlin



Deputy CAO Donna Istchenko