

**Village of Haines Junction
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2025**

Present:

Mayor Strand
Councillor Busche
Councillor Mackinnon
Councillor Sundbo

Absent:

Councillor McPhie

CAO Fairbank, Recorder Ogden

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05am

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

#254-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended with the following additions:

- Add in-camera lands discussion

Motion #254-25 was **CARRIED**.

Old Business

Strategic Planning

- Christina Benty, who led Council through its Strategic Planning meetings in the Spring, prepared draft documents for Council's review and approval, based on the discussions that took place at those earlier meetings.
- Three versions of the Strategic Plan were drafted – a long version (6 pages), short version (2 pages), and public version (1 page)
 - Refer to 1 page version as executive summary as all versions are public (1 page).
 - Decision to only use only two versions – 6-page and 2-page version, both for public use.
 - Include executive summary within 6-page version, can be a different format.
 - Prepare 2-page summary (council version)
- P2 - Land Acknowledgement edits:
 - Dakwäkadä is spelled incorrectly

- Our community look towards Na Sha Tan, the place where the sun “sits” on the mountain.
 - We respectfully acknowledge that we reside (instead of gather)
 - May we honor their presence, past and present. May we walk forward with mutual respect, gratitude and awareness.
- P3 - Our Vision and Process edits:
 - First sentence - take out now
 - We are committed to sound governance, responsible planning, transparency and delivering services that meet the needs of our residents.
 - Change supporting a skilled workforce to a right-sized workforce
- P4 – Sustainable Levels of Service edits:
 - First sentence - we strive to provide (instead of to ensure), remove planning after emergency response.
 - Develop a Level of Service Policy Framework, and policies, to clarify municipal service commitments
 - Add to next – Develop and implement a communication strategy to educate residents on service levels and fiscal realities
- P5 – Inclusive and Resilient Community Services edits
 - Change to Investing in the Community
 - Ongoing -- First bullet change to maintain and enhance existing recreation, including working with CAFN through the Recreation Charter to explore the development of a new pool and recreation centre
 - Ongoing – Second bullet change to Address barriers to encourage housing development
 - Add – Community Identity Workshop - Work with community to develop a vision of what community we want to be, how we want to present ourselves to visitors, how we want to bring our community together, build community pride, update logo and signage when entering community (e.g. high cache on sign), what to do with the muffin. Participatory workshop with Doug Griffith, hold jointly with CAFN – host at Da Ku, include reconciliation piece/training/CAFN 101 (shorten)
- P6 – Organizational Development & Capacity Building Edits
 - Add NOW: Identify minimum staffing levels to ensure adequate resourcing for service delivery
 - Add to Ongoing: Reconciliation Training
- Add Priority: Sound and open governance
 - Add goal to reflect Council’s desire for transparency in decision making, and open communications with the community
 - Add key initiatives and actions:
 - Post audio recordings of council meeting online
 - Review Council Procedural Bylaw
 - Open communications (e.g. Facebook video messages)
 - Municipal Boundary
 - Reconciliation
 - Reflect Calls to Action identified for municipalities in the TRC
 - Develop TRC policy and statement

- TRC (IRC) training / CAFN 101 training for whole of community -- part of community identity workshop
 - Fiscal responsibility
 - Municipal performance plan
- Bring edits to next Council meeting (August 13) for final review (if possible)

Capital and Projects Budget Review

- Council requested the following reports from staff to support decision-making
 - Compact loader – projected use
 - Front of house wrap-up/summary
 - Compactor for landfill – options for replacement being prepared by Advisory Group (for 2026/27?), add line item with budget TBD
 - Composting at landfill – options being prepared by Advisory Group (for 2026/27?), add line item with budget TBD
 - New items per list below, once budget has been established
- Edits requested:
 - Reflect as completed:
 - Landfill Front Area Modernization
 - Purchase of flail mower
 - Purchase of wet well wizard
 - Add:
 - Community Identity Workshop
 - Reconciliation training
 - Repair of cracks on Pine Lake Trail
 - Move Trail Care event to 2026
 - Dezadeash Trail boardwalk replacement (2026)
 - Repair/replace muffin (budget TBD)
 - Village entrance signage (3) (budget TBD)
 - Logo update (budget TBD)
 - Christmas lights (piggyback with City of Whitehorse, as Watson Lake does)
 - Committee to hire someone to gather photo memorial booklet/create exhibit for old pool (photos, signage) to celebrate those who contributed to its development, so ready for celebration next summer prior to demolition; ceremony/barbeque. See if money could be applied for from Heritage Resources Board, Museums Association, ?? Estimate \$25k
 - Wish list items (for further consideration):
 - Stockpile of aggregate?
 - Stockpile of filter media for water system?
- With additions noted above, a \$350,000 surplus for FY2025 is projected.
- Additional discussion needed, at an upcoming council meeting, to shifting funds from unallocated to allocated reserves, per outcomes from auditor's report

#255-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be closed to the public at 12:50

Motion #255-25 was **CARRIED**.

Adjournment

#256-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Motion #256-25 was **CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm.



Mayor Diane Strand



CAO David Fairbank

