

MINUTES of a **STATUTORY MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Bear Pit, Town/Regional Office, Town Square, Fort Nelson, BC, on Monday, December 2nd, 2002 at 6:30 p.m.

THOSE PRESENT

Mayor Clarke	
Councillor Morey	- Mayor/Chair Elect
Councillor Unruh	- Councillor Elect
Ted Craddock	- Councillor Elect
Bill Streeper	- Councillor Elect
Keith Lutsiak	- Councillor Elect
Councillor Allen	- Absent Member
Councillor Bumstead	- Absent Member

STAFF

Pat Bailey	- CAO
Randy McLean	- Treasurer/Deputy CAO
Debbie Walker	- Corporate Administrator
Heather Brown	- Deputy Corporate Administrator
Linda Wallace	- DRDS
Bruce Hupman	- DOP
Walter Lutsiak	- Fire Chief
Tom Sprado	- DRS
Maria Badall	- RPM
Bob Pattison	- DCM
Barclay Pitkethly	- Project Coordinator
Stacey Loe	- Purchasing Clerk
Noelle Sutherland	- Recreation Facility Maintenance
Annette Boomer	- Recreation Facility Maintenance
Trevor Somers	- Firefighter
Al Bone	- Lieutenant, Fire Dept

MEDIA/PUBLIC

Shelley Middleton	- Director Elect
Alt Director Barr	- NRRD/Director Elect
Dan Gray	- Director Elect
Father Mickey Anderson	- FN Ministerial Association
Dr Anthony Kenyon	
Judith Kenyon	
Ken Unruh	
Sandra Sutherland	

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3. PRESENTATIONS
20 Years of Service

Mayor Clarke congratulated Lt Al Bone on having completed the milestone of 20 years of service with the Northern Rockies Regional District. He spoke fondly of Lt Bone's achievements and on behalf of the Town Council and Regional Board, presented him with a cheque for \$1000 as a token of their appreciation for his dedication to the organization.

Thereafter proceeded a photo opportunity.

20 Years of Loyal
& Meritorious Service,
Governor-General of
Canada's Exemplary
Service Medal

Mayor Clarke began his speech as follows:

"Mayor-elect Morey, Town Council and Regional Board members, Father Anderson, ladies and gentlemen - tonight, I have the great privilege of presenting two deserving individuals with honourable awards.

The first award recipient has established his career in the field of protective services and has demonstrated exemplary service to the community since 1981. This individual's commitment & dedication to the organization and the community for the past twenty years, have been and continue to be commendable.

For those of you who aren't aware - this man's childhood dream was to become a firefighter. Through his hard work, that dream was not only nurtured and fulfilled, but surpassed. Only some of us are fortunate enough to fulfill our childhood dreams.

Fire Chief, Walt Lutsiak came to Fort Nelson in 1981 and immediately joined the fire department as a paid on call fire fighter. He trained hard and took courses to better himself and the profession he loved and quickly earned himself a position as full-time firefighter.

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PRESENTATIONS

3. 20 Years of Loyal
& Meritorious Service
(Cont.)

Mr Lutsiak believes in the power of education. During his early days of night shift duties, he seized that opportunity to continue his studies and over the years he took every possible training course he could. When Walt was promoted to the position of Fire Chief he was recognized as one of the most qualified small town Fire Chiefs in the province.

Walt Lutsiak is deeply dedicated to his profession and gets others involved - motivating them to be pro-active members of fire and emergency services. He actively promotes emergency awareness and training, he is Fort Nelson's Emergency Program Coordinator, and is Chair of the Emergency Operations Committee.

Fort Nelson was the proud winner of the Neighbourhood Spirit Award in November 2000 for the work of our Emergency Operations Committee - under the leadership of Walt Lutsiak.

Additionally, Fire Chief Lutsiak was provincially recognized as having the required expertise to provide the appropriate level of leadership & instruction for other members of the BC Fire Services. He was chosen to act as Incident Commander at the Kemano sessions in 2001.

The endeavours of his work are demonstrated through the daily efforts of his topnotch firefighting staff - who show a great sense of public duty, which is a direct reflection of the quality of leadership and training his firefighters have received.

While his accomplishments are great, many of his tasks are above and beyond the call of duty - and he wears many hats. I recognize this has been a difficult year for Fire Chief Walt Lutsiak and for all emergency services personnel. Through incredible spirit and dedication, they continue on..... prepared to handle whatever challenge is placed in their path.

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3. PRESENTATIONS
20 Years of Loyal
& Meritorious Service
(Cont.)

Fire Chief Lutsiak, on behalf of the Town Council and Regional Board, I would like you to come forward at this time and accept the "Canadian Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal Award."

Fire Chief Lutsiak came forward to receive the Governor General of Canada's Exemplary Service Medal.

Thereafter proceeded a photo opportunity.

Governor-General
of Canada's
Commemorative Medal,
Queen's Golden Jubilee

Mayor Clarke advised those present of the following:

"I'm pleased to advise that our next award recipient is not only a respected citizen of the Town of Fort Nelson, but an accredited doctor of the medical profession.

Dr Anthony Kenyon has been providing outstanding service to the north and our region for over 35 years. We are privileged and fortunate to have this renowned doctor within our community, and appreciate that this individual has dedicated his career to the people of Fort Nelson and surrounding area in Northeastern British Columbia - including the Fort Liard and Fort Simpson areas of the Northwest Territories.

A superb citizen and distinguished community leader, Dr. Anthony Kenyon has demonstrated his commitment to our northern community over the course of four decades.

He and his family have sustained their status as involved members of the community in a variety of ways.

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PRESENTATIONS

3. Governor-General
of Canada's
Commemorative Medal,
Queen's Golden Jubilee
(Cont.)

A selfless individual, Dr Kenyon has been the driving force in stabilizing excellent medical care for our area. His commitment and accomplishments are many and although I cannot recite them all, I would like to mention some of the following professional and personal achievements:

- ~ Dr Kenyon has been instrumental in establishing academic scholarships and providing residency training and internships, in Fort Nelson, for numerous medical students
- ~ He assisted the Province in creating the first Emergency Medical Response Team; knowing that remote, rural areas required more from rescuers than simply having the ability to put on bandages.
- ~ He worked hard to recruit doctors to Fort Nelson to provide a full medical and surgical team at all times
- ~ Dr Kenyon joined with 35 other surgeons across Canada to found the Trauma Association of Canada. From this initiative, trauma surgery has become a specialist discipline in Canada
- ~ He established a pilot scheme for Advanced Life Support training to ambulance personnel in rural hospitals, which was subsequently taken over by the Justice Institute of BC
- ~ Dr Kenyon was a key player in the development of the Golf Course; and
- ~ Through his actions and perseverance, he brought in numerous grant monies for various projects in the community of Fort Nelson

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PRESENTATIONS

3. Governor-General
of Canada's
Commemorative Medal,
Queen's Golden Jubilee
(Cont.)

These are just a handful of accomplishments that Dr Kenyon has achieved for the community and region.

Jay Hill, our member of Parliament wanted to be here tonight to present this distinguished award in person, but was unable. He asked me to read the following:

"Although it was my sincere wish to be able to be here in person to have the honour and privilege to make this presentation, I would like to thank Mayor Harry Clarke for graciously taking my place.

I would also like to thank you for not only allowing time for this program during your event tonight, but for your heartfelt persuasion that this would be the most appropriate setting to award tonight's recipient with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee medal.

This medal commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of Her Majesty's reign as Queen. It is being awarded to Canadians who have made a significant achievement or have provided distinguished service to their fellow citizens, their community or to Canada.

Approximately 46,000 Canadians are expected to receive the medal through 200 organizations such as the Royal Canadian Legion, Scouts Canada, Girl Guides of Canada, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Canadian Red Cross, the RCMP and the Canadian Forces.

As a Member of Parliament, I was given the daunting task of paring down all the worthwhile candidates in my riding to a list of 20 recipients.

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PRESENTATIONS

3. Governor-General
of Canada's
Commemorative Medal,
Queen's Golden Jubilee
(Cont.)

Given the vast area and immense amount of volunteers we are blessed with in our communities, this job was made even more difficult by the exceptional individuals nominated for consideration.

In order to respect the geography of our constituency and the number of communities, the medals were awarded roughly based upon percentage of constituency population, while taking into account the comparative achievements of individual nominees.

To accommodate our task, each community's Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, and local political representatives along with a number of service organizations, were asked to submit nominees from their surrounding areas.

To say that one nominee was chosen over another is unfair to all concerned as the submission may have only revealed one perspective of the nominee's service to his or her community, and may represent only one part of a much larger picture. Our decision, however, was made on the information provided by the nominee.

Granting honours such as the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal is a tangible and lasting way for us to pay tribute to people whose achievements have benefited their fellow citizens.

We are gathered here today, with local dignitaries, with family and friends, to award this honour to Dr. Anthony Kenyon.

I have left Dr. Kenyon's introduction and the listing of his many contributions in Mayor Clarke's capable hands. I would like, however, to once again thank Mayor Clarke, and those of you here for what I am sure will be a memorable and touching event for Dr. Kenyon.

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PRESENTATIONS

3. Governor-General
of Canada's
Commemorative Medal,
Queen's Golden Jubilee
(Cont.)

To Dr Kenyon, it is my great pleasure, on behalf of the constituents of Prince George - Peace River, to say thank you for the many contributions you have made without thought for or want of recognition, to offer congratulations on receiving this award and to wish you all the very best in your future endeavours."

*Sincerely, Jay Hill, MP
Prince George - Peace River*

Dr Anthony Kenyon, it is my privilege and honour as Mayor and on behalf of the Town Council, the Regional Board and all citizens of Fort Nelson and Northern Rockies, to call you up at this time to receive..... Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee medal."

Dr Kenyon was given a standing ovation as he was presented with his award.

Thereafter, proceeded a photo opportunity.

4. Mayor Harry Clarke
Final Address to the
Community

"Mayor-elect Morey, Town Council and Regional Board members, Father Mickey, ladies and gentlemen ...

I am HONOURED ... to be here this evening to address the community in a final, farewell message.

As Mayor of the Town of Fort Nelson and Chair of the Northern Rockies Regional District, I am thankful for the opportunity to speak about the collective and individual accomplishments achieved over the last four years.

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4. Mayor Harry Clarke
Final Address to the
Community (Cont.)

To the citizens of Fort Nelson, I thank you for placing your trust and support in me and in the Council & Board members - to make decisions on your behalf - to better the town and region.

It has been a great honour to lead the community into the new millennium. This is a milestone that won't be forgotten.

This past term has been very successful and prosperous in respect to the many accomplishments and endeavours undertaken on YOUR behalf ... by elected officials for Fort Nelson and Northern Rockies. I am proud of the many accomplishments we and our staff have made, even during difficult times. Some of these accomplishments include:

- ~ Securing \$27 Million dollars in funding to bring the Liard Highway to a paved standard by 2004. This road has increased the economic activities in Fort Nelson greatly ... I see Charlie Hope in town every day.
- ~ This Board made significant progress on the Clark Lake bypass & SYD road, and expects a positive announcement soon.
- ~ Acquisition & operation of the Fort Nelson Airport and its non- core lands. This will have a huge impact in the coming years.
- ~ We have made great strides towards our goal of an area agricultural policy. All we have to do is look at High Level to see what agriculture does for a community our size.
- ~ We hosted Fort Nelson's first Oil & Gas Conference in 2001 - which continues to be praised as one of the most successful. Fort Nelson be proud that our northern hospitality is second to none!

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4. Mayor Harry Clarke
Final Address to the
Community (Cont.)

- ~ Fort Nelson was one of the few communities to be given status as a “Gateway Community” by the province and received approximately \$200,000 in funding for a variety of improvements. Some of the projects under this program included the new tourism guide book and bringing the ambassador program to the community ... which focussed on customer service and Superhost, amongst other projects. The money has been spent in Fort Nelson and the region.
- ~ Our recreation facilities were renovated ... including new ice slabs in the arena and curling club AND a makeover of the aquatic centre.
- ~ Construction of the Millennium Park at the east end of town.
- ~ Adoption of the Landscape Enhancement Plan from which flowed all street, sidewalk, and landscaping improvements you have seen in the downtown core and in our parks. Don’t forget our “yellow brick roads”, which many people enjoy.
- ~ We lobbied upper levels of government to secure lighting on the Muskwa hill and bridge. This is a great asset to the travelling public and I feel we will soon see the last portion complete.
- ~ We moved one step closer towards a regional municipality concept. This is something that I feel is very important for our region and have supported it since the beginning in 1987.
- ~ We helped create the Economic Task Force ... now working under the umbrella of the Chamber of Commerce. This was one project that I pushed for from the start of my term.
- ~ Our new Town/Northern Rockies website.

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4. Mayor Harry Clarke
Final Address to the
Community (Cont.)

- ~ The Municipal Bulletin; and our radio open-line programs. A lot of people of the community appreciate this and much of the credit should go to Pat Bailey and her staff.
- ~ Adoption of an Economic Diversification Strategy, so important for the long-term future of our region and which furthers our identity as a progressive community through the development of new marketing materials, and a new logo

These are just some of the accomplishments we have made for YOU, Fort Nelson ... over the past term.

Along with all our victories, we were also faced with some devastating events. The event that shook the world on September 11th, 2001 will forever live in our hearts and memories. Our planet was placed on hold during the second week of September and affected every corner of the world. Our Oil & Gas Conference had to be moved that month, but we persevered and went on to hold a successful conference in October.

We also experienced a very sad event this term when we tragically lost one of our firefighters in the line of duty ... Gary Giffin ... while he was serving the community he loved. The pain of this event is still fresh in everyone's hearts and I sympathize with his family, loved ones, and those who worked with Gary. He will not be forgotten.

Finally I want to thank my family for the support I have received in the past four years, and especially my wife Darlene.

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4. Mayor Harry Clarke
Final Address to the
Community (Cont.)

I now want to take this opportunity to thank the individual Council and Board members and our Alternate Directors for their contributions over the past three years.

Alternate Director Blake's background knowledge and feedback have been integral to development and planning processes over the past term. I appreciate Myrna's input during the initial review of the Zoning Bylaw and OCP; and thank her for all her hard work and loyalty. I hope that we have a new chair for her, since she has the same spot picked for every meeting.

Alternate Director Novotny attended many meetings on behalf of Director McCartney, when he was unavailable due to his work. Joe's input and contributions provided balance at our table and I appreciated his commitment.

Alternate Director Barr's contribution to local government decision making was also appreciated. I want to express my gratitude to him, for acting in the absence of Director Hugh Morey, when he was unavailable. I know Ed will continue to work hard over this next term as a Regional Director for Electoral Area "A." Congratulations on your position as Director for the next three years.

Director Jack Sime's support and dedication to the community has been outstanding. He travelled on short notice, put the needs of regional district business ahead of his own, managed a LONG list of portfolios and committee appointments ... and made it all look easy.

He ensured the voice from this part of the Province - echoed loud and clear wherever his travels took him, especially with upper levels of government in Victoria and Vancouver. His service and sense of responsibility is and was commendable. Also, his sense of humour was always welcome at our Council and Board meetings.

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4. Mayor Harry Clarke
Final Address to the
Community (Cont.)

Director Hugh Morey kept the Board informed of issues related to our important natural resource sector ... the oil & gas industry ... and provided invaluable assistance as Co-Chair of the 2001 Oil & Gas Conference Planning Committee.

Director McCartney's interest and knowledge in solid waste, tourism, and marketing - brought a significant perspective to the table and kept those issues in the foreground for us.

Councillor Allen's insight on many issues, especially those relating to social and labour groups, was most appreciated. I personally want to thank her for bringing that perspective to our table and for all of her hard work as Chair of the Zoning & Planning Review Committee for many years. Jackie never backed down from and discussion, and we had many good laughs together.

Councillor Unruh kept us informed of important health issues in and around the region and also worked hard on the many Zoning & Planning issues which came forward this past term. Congratulations on being elected to the table for another term, Karen. I know you will work hard for the community again, as you have in the past.

As a long time resident and community historian, Councillor Bumstead's input on many issues and her long-term commitment to the Town and District was very important. It was greatly appreciated that she always made herself available for last minute meetings, tender openings, and cheque signing duties here at the office. I thank her for chairing the agricultural policy committee, which made great strides over the past three years under her leadership.

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4. Mayor Harry Clarke
Final Address to the
Community (Cont.)

Councillor Morey has always worked hard at her office and especially as Chair of the Economic Diversification Committee. Many good ideas and projects have come to light as a result of this committee's undertakings. Chris, congratulations on your recent win as Chair of the Northern Rockies and Mayor for Fort Nelson. To lead a community, is not an easy task ... but it is a very rewarding one and I am sure you will be up for the challenge. I do have a question for you.

What is the difference between a mayor and an onion?

Nobody cries when you cut up a mayor. At least, that's how I felt sometimes.

Good luck to you Chris, and to the new Council and Board members. I know that you will work hard to reinforce the solid foundation of accomplishments and projects that local government officials have built over the past three years.

My best wishes are with all of you.

I also want to take this time to thank all citizens who contributed personal time and energy, sitting on the various Committees we have had in place over the past four years. Your dedication to the town and region does not go un-noticed and we appreciated your voice and participation in all matters.

I want to mention Staff Sergeant Brian Reid and the RCMP officers who have worked with the Town and District over the past three years on a number of issues and projects. Brian, thank you for your assistance and for keeping us informed at our regular meetings.

Also, thank you to the Fort Nelson News and Energy 102.3 for providing us the mediums to get information out to citizens. We couldn't do it without you! We have tried to be an open government and this has been one way to do just that.

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4. Mayor Harry Clarke
Final Address to the
Community (Cont.)

I also want to let you know that I appreciated the work of those who chose not to run for office again, and to those who were not successful. Thank you all for your past investments and I wish you well in your future endeavours.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the Chief Administrative Officer Pat Bailey, and all regional district staff. I believe your hard work, dedication, and loyalty is integral to the success of this organization. Public recognition of staff and administration is too infrequent - and I want all staff - both management and union, to know how much their work is appreciated.

We couldn't do our jobs as effectively without the knowledge and experience of these "unsung heroes" to support us. Often, staff are targeted with unfair comments and criticism when Council issues are not understood by the public. Sometimes the accuracy of their information has been publicly disputed for no good reason. I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with you all.

I want the new Council and Board and the community to understand that we have a progressive, intelligent, hardworking, and loyal staff - whose primary goal has always been to achieve the adopted goals of the Council and Board - and to ensure the best for Fort Nelson and the region's future.

I say a job well done, and my hat is off to you all.

As I retire as Mayor and Chair, I want to wish Mayor Morey and her Council & Board, much success in their planning for the future and in developing a strong vision for our community.

I know they are more than capable of ensuring that their decisions reflect the wishes of all citizens in a positive way.

Thank you very much, and Merry Christmas & Happy News Year to you and your families!"

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5. Oath of Office and
Assumption of
:Chairperson/Mayor
Elect, Chris Morey

Town Clerk Walker called for Mayor Elect, Chris Morey to come forward.

Mayor Elect Morey came forward to swear her Oath of Office as Appointed Mayor for the Town of Fort Nelson and Elected Chairperson for the Northern Rockies Regional District.

Having so sworn, Mayor Morey assumed her seat. Those present, congratulated Mayor Morey.

6. Oath of Office and
Assumption of Seats
:Councillor Elect Craddock
:Councillor Elect Lutsiak
:Councillor Elect Streeper
:Councillor Elect Unruh

Councillors Elect, Craddock, Lutsiak, Streeper, and Unruh came forward to swear their Oaths of Office as Elected Councillors of the Town of Fort Nelson and Appointed Directors for the Northern Rockies Regional District.

Having so sworn, Councillors Craddock, Lutsiak, Streeper, and Unruh assumed their seats.

7. Oath of Office and
Assumption of Seats
:Director Elect Barr
:Director Elect Gray
:Director Elect Middleton

Directors Elect Barr, Gray, and Middleton came forward to swear and affirm their Oaths of Office as Elected Directors for the Northern Rockies Regional District.

Having so sworn, Directors Barr and Middleton assumed their seats.

Having so affirmed, Director Gray assumed his seat.

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8. Appointment of
Acting Mayors

MOVED by Councillor Craddock, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that the 2003 Acting Mayor appointments be as follows:

January to March	Councillor Karen Unruh
April to June	Councillor Ted Craddock
July to September	Councillor Keith Lutsiak
October to December	Councillor Bill Streeper

CARRIED

9. Appointment of
Standing Committees
by Mayor Morey

Mayor Morey announced the following Committee Appointments:

Emergency Program
Executive Committee

Mayor Chris Morey (Chair), Councillor Ted Craddock (Vice Chair) and Councillor Bill Streeper (Member).

- OTHER APPOINTMENTS
10. Appointment of
Representatives
to Other Bodies
Emergency Operations
Committee

MOVED by Councillor Craddock, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that Councillor Bill Streeper be appointed as the Town Council representative to the Emergency Operations Committee.

CARRIED

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11. Fort Nelson-Liard
Land Resource
Management Plan
Monitoring
Committee

MOVED by Councillor Unruh, **SECONDED** by Councillor Lutsiak that Councillor Ted Craddock be appointed as the Town Council representative to the Fort Nelson-Liard Land Resource Management Plan Committee.

CARRIED

12. Adjournment

MOVED by Councillor Craddock, **SECONDED** by Councillor Streeper that the December 2nd, 2002 Statutory Town Council meeting be declared adjourned at 7:25 pm.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Statutory Town Council meeting held on December 2, 2002.

Debbie Walker, Corporate Administrator

Heather Brown, Deputy Corporate Administrator

Mayor Chris Morey, Chair