

MINUTES of a Town Council meeting held in the Bear Pit, Town/Regional Office, Town Square, Fort Nelson BC on Monday, January 13, 2003 at 6:30 PM.

THOSE PRESENT

Mayor Morey
Councillor Craddock
Councillor Lutsiak
Councillor Streeper
Councillor Unruh

STAFF

Pat Bailey - Administrator
Heather Brown - Acting Corporate Administrator
Bruce Hupman - DOP
Linda Wallace - DRDS
Walt Lutsiak - Fire Chief/BEO
Pat Higgins - Acting Treasurer
Sylvia Hayes - Recording Secretary

PUBLIC/MEDIA

Director Barr - NRRD
Director Gray - NRRD
Director Middleton - NRRD
Alt. Director Novotny - NRRD
Brent Hodson - Fort Nelson News
Janet McNaughton - Fort Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce
Dave Wiens - Guide/Outfitter
Dale Drinkall - Guide/Outfitter
Myrna Blake
Richard Wimmer
Jeanie Arva
Ken Berggren
Corey Berggren
Alvina Berggren - Red Cross/ESS Director
Dan Klassen - Fort Nelson First Nations

1. Call to Order
A quorum being present, Mayor Morey called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and proceeded with the business placed before it.
2. Adoption of Agenda
MOVED by Councillor Craddock, **SECONDED** by Councillor Lutsiak that the agenda for the January 13, 2003 Town Council meeting be adopted for implementation as presented.

CARRIED

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2003
PAGE 2

MINUTES FOR ADOPTION

3. Statutory Meeting of the Town Council, December 2, 2002

MOVED by Councillor Craddock, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that the minutes from the Statutory Meeting of the Town Council, December 2, 2002 be amended to read:

~ Page 18, Item 9, Mayor Morey announced the following Committee Appointments:

~ Page 18, Item 10, **MOVED** by Councillor Craddock, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that Councillor Bill Streeper be appointed as the Town Council representative to the Emergency Operations Committee.

and thereafter, be adopted, there being no further errors or omissions.

CARRIED

4. Special Town Council
December 4, 2002

MOVED by Councillor Craddock, **SECONDED** by Councillor Lutsiak that the minutes of the Special Town Council meeting held December 4, 2002 be adopted as distributed and read, there being no errors or omissions.

CARRIED

5. Town Council
December 9, 2002

MOVED by Councillor Craddock, **SECONDED** by Councillor Lutsiak that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held December 9, 2002 be adopted as distributed and read, there being no errors or omissions.

CARRIED

6. Special Town Council
December 10, 2002

It was noted that as per Page 9, Item 12, the Town of Fort Nelson, Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 633, 2002 does not reflect the amendment made to Section 4.10 (a) and should be updated.

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2003
PAGE 3**

6. Continued **MOVED** by Councillor Craddock, **SECONDED** by Councillor Lutsiak that the minutes of the Special Town Council held December 10, 2002 be adopted as distributed and read, there being no errors or omissions.

CARRIED

7. Special Town Council
December 16, 2002 **MOVED** by Councillor Ted Craddock, **SECONDED** by Councillor Lutsiak that the minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held December 16, 2002 be adopted as distributed and read.

CARRIED

INFORMATION PACKAGES

8. Council/Board Information Package
December 13, 2002 **MOVED** by Councillor Lutsiak, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that the Council/Board Information Package dated December 13, 2002 be received for information.

CARRIED

*Director Gray entered the meeting at 6:35 PM.

9. Council/Board Information Package
December 20, 2002 **MOVED** by Councillor Lutsiak, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that the Council/Board Information Package dated December 20, 2002 be received for information.

CARRIED

10. Council/Board Information Package
December 27, 2002 **MOVED** by Councillor Lutsiak, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that the Council/Board Information Package dated December 27, 2002 be received for information.

CARRIED

11. Council/Board Information Package
January 3, 2003 **MOVED** by Councillor Lutsiak, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that the Council/Board Information Package dated January 3, 2003 be received for information.

CARRIED

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2003
PAGE 4

12. Council/Board Information Package
January 10, 2003 **MOVED** by Councillor Lutsiak, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that
the Council/Board Information Package dated January 10, 2003 be
received for information.

CARRIED

PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS

13. Alvina Berggren
Emergency Social Services/
Red Cross Director/ Presentation
of Queen's Jubilee Award *This item was deferred pending Ms. Alvina Berggren's arrival.
14. Director Middleton & Director Barr
(Portfolio Report)
Dale Drinkall, Folding Mountain Outfitters
Re: Pre-Tenure Planning and DRDS Wallace
memo, Re: Additional Info Re: Tourism Info
Northern Rockies Regional
District Mayor Morey thanked Director Middleton and Director Barr for
attending the meeting and requested they proceed with their
presentation.
- Directors Middleton and Barr presented a summary of the pre-tenure
planning process recently launched, that will set parameters for oil &
gas activity in the Churchill, Sulphur/8 Mile, and Muskwa West regions.
As well, Director Middleton joined with 2 local Guide/Outfitters to
present the issues of concern from a tourism perspective.

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2003
PAGE 5

14. Continued

Director Middleton advised representatives from the tourism industry, guide and outfitters, Ministry of Forests, Energy and Mines, Oil & Gas Commission and up highway residents, participated in a pre-tenure meeting with LRMP representatives; however, no representatives from the Oil & Gas industry were present. She noted the LRMP process did determine there will be resource extraction in these zones, recognizing there will be long term impacts. She further advised the eastern slope is the most logical place for resource extraction and oil & gas exploration is moving toward the Churchill and Sulphur/8 Mile areas. Director Middleton advised the group promoting protection of tourism, wildlife and wilderness values at the recent pre-tenure planning meeting were seeking such restrictions as: allowing winter roads only with no extensive cat activity in the MK area, all muds and fluid utilized in resource extraction must be removed when the activity is complete, and no camps are allowed in the MK area, etc. She further explained, "from a tourism standpoint it is hard to see a wilderness experience when the wilderness is gone."

*Richard Wimmer entered the meeting at 6:40 PM.

Director Barr advised the Muskwa West area of the Muskwa Kechika area has also been designated to allow work. Many of the same concerns were expressed in this session, especially relating to permanent access (also recommending winter roads only and temporary bridges). He noted the area has a large amount of moose, elk and caribou and the land is mostly muskeg and swamp land, creating special circumstances for work done in the area. He noted representatives from the Fort Nelson First Nations had indicated the LRMP was moving much too quickly for proper consideration of the activity allowed in the Muskwa West area.

Dave Wiens presented information about the economic impact of the Guide/Outfitting sector in this region, highlighted the negative impacts of resource extraction activities (especially on the Stone's Sheep populations), and highlighted the geographic areas they believe to be most critical.

He advised in the Churchill and Sulphur 8 Mile area there are 4 Guide/Outfitters - himself, Dale Drinkall, Art Thompson and John Robideau. This area is of special value to the Guide/Outfitters in the area because of its wildlife value. He indicated the Churchill and Sulphur 8 Mile areas contribute 50% of the sheep harvested in British Columbia and is the primary habitat for this species in BC. Mr. Wiens

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2003
PAGE 6

further indicated Stone sheep and the Oil & Gas industry do not co-exist very well. Stone Sheep are very sensitive animals and do not easily handle the stress of habitat disruption. Even the extra noise from such activity as helicopter traffic can stimulate heart rate increases, general health decline, they stop producing and diseases start to spread within the population.

Mr. Wiens noted there are other parts of the MK where Guide/Outfitters do not have objections to oil & gas exploration being conducted - only in the areas where the Stone Sheep are the most prevalent. He advised other wildlife such as moose, caribou and elk can co-exist with the oil & gas industry without as many detrimental effects.

He further advised Guide/Outfitters in the Besa - Prophet River have indicated there have been no successful sheep hunts in the area since oil & gas exploration has been permitted.

*Dave Wiens' presentation is attached to and forms a part of these minutes.

*Richard Wimmer exited the meeting at 7:02 PM.

Mr. Drinkall supported Mr. Wiens' presentation and closed by stating Northern Rockies Regional District has some of the wildest country in the world with the most pristine ecosystems and largest amount of wildlife next to Africa and it is the responsibility of the people of this area to keep it intact.....we can drive over Steamboat Mountain and see wildlife and the wilderness or see the results of oil & gas exploration, smell sour gas, see oil rigs and the forest removed for seismic lines but it is the responsibility of the people in this area what the future brings.

Mr. Wiens and Mr. Drinkall asked that these wildlife and wilderness values, and the economic activity they support, be taken into consideration in any Regional Board deliberations regarding where and how industrial activity is allowed to occur.

Mayor Morey thanked Director Middleton, Director Barr, Dave Wiens and Dale Drinkall for their presentation.

*Dan Klassen entered the meeting at 7:05 PM

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2003
PAGE 7

14. Continued

Discussion ensued regarding the presentation made by Director Middleton, Director Barr, Dave Wiens and Dale Drinkall whereby the following was noted:

- ~ prior to making further decisions, more information is required
- ~ the Town Council and Regional Board need to be updated on processes prior to the next pre-tenure planning meetings
- ~ Kathleen O'Neil from the Muskwa Kechika Advisory Board could be requested to do a presentation for the Board to provide an overview of the different zones and sectors
- ~ Mary Viszlai-Beale from Ministry of Forests could be requested to do a presentation for the Board regarding the Land Resource Management Plan

13. Alvina Berggren
Emergency Social Services/
Red Cross Director/ Presentation
of Queen's Jubilee Award

Chair Morey began her presentation to Ms. Alvina Berggren as follows:

"Tonight, I have the great privilege of presenting a most deserving individual with an honourable award - The Queen's Golden Jubilee Commemorative Medal.

As a trained disaster response volunteer, Alvina Berggren has assisted countless Canadians in the aftermath of disaster.

She has embarked on key volunteer leadership roles as a member of the Northern BC & Yukon Regional Council, and Emergency Response Team Leader, a Coordinator of the Provincial Government's Northern BC Emergency Social Services Mobile Response Team, and a trainer for the Red Cross and the Justice Institute.

Alvina's voluntary service has also taken her across the Canada/US border. She served with the American Red Cross in 1995 as a Family Services technician following the New Orleans Flood, and a Disaster Welfare & Inquiry technician following the Puerto Rico Hurricane George in 1998.

Most recently, she served in Brooklyn headquarters managing volunteers in the aftermath of the events of September 11th.

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2003
PAGE 8

13. Continued

Alvina consistently demonstrates the qualities of a well-trained and truly compassionate disaster response volunteer. She has, and continues to make an outstanding contribution to many communities, including Fort Nelson and Northern Rockies.

She is involved in a leadership role in developing and implementing a pilot program in Fort Nelson by providing support services to the Fire Department in passport accountability at large fire scenes. This program is being reviewed by Red Cross Canada for implementation across the Country.

Alvina is a most dedicated and active member of the Fort Nelson Emergency Operations Committee. She provides red cross training in the community and does all the red cross training for emergency and social services.

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.

It gives me great pleasure this evening, to award Alvina Berggren the Queen's Golden Jubilee Commemorative Medal, in recognition of her outstanding voluntary service with the Canadian Red Cross Society. "

Ms. Alvina Berggren came forward to accept the Queen's Golden Jubilee Commemorative Medal.

Thereafter proceeded a photo opportunity.

*Dave Wiens & Dale Drinkall exited the meeting at 7:24 PM.

* Alvina, Ken & Corey Berggren exited the meeting at 7:25 PM.

CORRESPONDENCE

15. Literacy BC
Re: Request to Declare Family
Literacy Day in Fort Nelson
January 27, 2003

Mayor Morey proclaimed January 27, 2003 as "Family Literacy Day in the Town of Fort Nelson. "

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2003
PAGE 9

16. Provincial Emergency Program
Re: Elected Officials Workshop
- It was noted Mayor Morey, Councillor Streeper and Councillor Craddock all sit on the Emergency Program Executive Committee and should attend the workshop.

*It was suggested that further information be made available to those members and this item be deferred to the January 27, 2003 Council Meeting, for approval of travel expenses pending more information being available.

17. Union of BC Municipalities
Re: Rural/Small Communities
Police Costs

MOVED by Councillor Unruh, **SECONDED** by Councillor Craddock that the letter dated January 8, 2003 from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities regarding rural/small communities police costs be received for information.

CARRIED

18. Temporary Adjournment
- MOVED** by Councillor Lutsiak, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that the January 13, 2003 Town Council meeting be temporarily adjourned at 7:30 PM.

19. Re-Call to Order
- The meeting was recalled to order at 7:32 PM.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

20. Administration Report #01/03
Re: ADMINISTRATION - Town &
Regional District "Contract for
Services" Renewal to
December 31, 2007

Administrator Bailey provided background information regarding the Town & Regional District "Contract for Services" renewal.

MOVED by Councillor Unruh, **SECONDED** by Councillor Craddock that the Town Council authorize the Mayor and the Town Clerk to execute the Town of Fort Nelson "Contract for Services" as amended, for the period January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2007.

CARRIED

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2003
PAGE 11

22. Administration Report #03/03
Re: STREETS & ROADS -
Traffic Control, Alaska Highway/
North Entrance, Speed Limits
& Traffic Flow Conditions,
Response from Ministry of
Transportation Re: Revision
of Speed Limits for Information **MOVED** by Councillor Lutsiak, **SECONDED** by Councillor Craddock
that Administration Report #03/03 Streets & Roads - Traffic Control,
Alaska Highway/North Entrance, Speed Limits & Traffic Flow
Conditions, be received for information.

CARRIED

23. Administration Report #04/03
Re: TOWN SQUARE - Fort Nelson
Public Library Lease Extension AND
Amendments - Leases
- MOVED** by Councillor Craddock, **SECONDED** by Councillor Streeper
that the Fort Nelson Public Library's lease be renewed for the term
January 01, 2002 to December 31, 2006, for a total rent of One
Hundred and Thirty Five Thousand (\$135,000) Dollars, payable in
advance on the first of each and every month in the amount of Two
Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty (\$2,250.00) Dollars per month
during the entire five (5) years of the lease, AND that the conditions of
the previous lease remain the same in the new lease and that the
Mayor and the Clerk be authorized to affix the corporate seal of the
corporation of the Town of Fort Nelson to all documentation necessary
to convey the Town's interest on the terms and conditions specified.

CARRIED

24. Administration Report #08/03
LEGAL MATTER - Section 231 Local
Government Act, Conflict of Interest
and Application to Supreme Court,
Status Report
- It was noted that the last paragraph on Page 1 of the Special Town
Council minutes held on December 10, 2002, should read: "His reason
for declaring said conflict was that he was acting on behalf of Lands &
Water BC as the vendor (Royal LePage Realty) and on behalf of the
purchaser, RLV Holdings.

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2003
PAGE 12

24. Continued

MOVED by Councillor Lutsiak, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that Administration Report #08/03, Legal Matter - Section 231 Local Government Act, conflict of interest and application to Supreme Court, status report be received for information.

CARRIED

25. Administration Report #10/03
Re: TRAFFIC CONTROL - 50th Avenue
South, North Lights Motel Area,
Angel vs. Parallel Parking

MOVED by Councillor Craddock, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that the "angle parking only" sign(s) fronting the Northern Lights Motel located at 4507 - 50th Avenue South be removed and that parallel parking be permitted in that area.

CARRIED

26. Administration Report #11/03
Re: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT -
Encana Winter Road Plan (Alaska
Highway to Airport Road)

Extensive discussion ensued regarding the Encana winter and permanent road routes and the distributed map illustrating both routes (attached to the minutes) whereby the following was noted:

- ~ it was preferred that a permanent road solution be established rather than having two roads and to avoid cutting trees unnecessarily
- ~ new routes would require further public consultation processes and approvals

*Fire Chief/BEO Lutsiak exited the meeting at 8:07 PM.

- ~ Dan Klassen advised the proposed permanent route would interfere with traplines held by two band members; he requested the Council consider approving an alternate permanent route
- ~ it was suggested there is not enough information regarding intersections and traffic access impacts on the Alaska Highway and Airport roads
- ~ the route Encana would like to utilize for the winter road was the original route suggested for the new Clarke Lake road, however this route was determined to be too close to the water treatment plant and sewage lagoon to leave room for future expansion for these facilities

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2003
PAGE 13

26. Continued

*Fire Chief/BEO Lutsiak entered the meeting at 8:15 PM.

*This item was deferred to the Regional Board meeting for further discussion.

BYLAWS/POLICIES

27. For Adoption

Town of Fort Nelson, Zoning Amendment
(Construction Camps)
Bylaw No. 633, 2002

MOVED by Councillor Craddock, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that the Town of Fort Nelson, Zoning Amendment (Construction Camps), Bylaw No. 633, 2002 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

28. Temporary Adjournment

MOVED by Councillor Lutsiak, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that the January 13, 2003 Town Council meeting be temporarily adjourned at 8:23 PM.

29. ReCall to Order

The meeting was recalled to order at 10:06 PM

26. Administration Report #11/03
Re: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT -
Encana Winter Road Plan (Alaska
Highway to Airport Road)

MOVED by Councillor Lutsiak, **SECONDED** by Councillor Streeper that Town Council & Regional Board allow EnCana to proceed with the winter road, as originally proposed, subject to the following conditions:

~ all reasonable efforts to work with MEM to identify and use what is to be a permanent route are explored, and that route be used first, if at all possible

~ written confirmation from EnCana that this plan does not negatively affect the company's commitment to the Clarke Lake and SYD Road construction projects

~ that the Town & Region staff be included in all discussions and decisions regarding the construction of the winter road (and including final approval by Council/Board on alignment, as well as location and design of intersections at both ends)

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2003
PAGE 14

26. Continued

~ that EnCana confirm its understanding that any costs arising from problems with the road are the responsibility of EnCana, and that this approval is for this winter only (January to break-up 2003), by way of signing a letter of agreement regarding the project

CARRIED

30. Adjournment

MOVED by Councillor Streeper, **SECONDED** by Councillor Lutsiak that the January 13, 2003 Town Council meeting be declared finally adjourned at 10:08 PM.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED a true and correct copy of the minutes of a Town Council meeting held on Monday, January 13, 2003.

Chris Morey, Mayor

Debbie Walker, Corporate Administrator

Sylvia Hayes, Recording Secretary