

**Town of Norman Wells
Minutes
Committee of the Whole #20-03
Wednesday, February 19th, 2020, 12:00 – 1:00pm
Council Chambers, Town of Norman Wells**

Present:	Alexis Peachey Frank Pope Jean-Paul Bernard Trevor Smith	Deputy Mayor (Chair) Mayor Councillor (Work) Councillor
Regrets:	David Wever Jim Boyle	Councillor (Personal) Councillor (Work)
Staff:	Cathy Clarke Alex Millet Jennifer Waterhouse Johannie Lapierre	Senior Administrative Officer Recreation Director Governance Development Officer

Guests: Chris Chivers

1. **Call to Order** 12:07PM
2. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest** - None
3. **Review and Adoption of Agenda** - All in favour
4. **Delegation** - None
5. **Topics**
 - a) Community Plan Roll-out: January 15, 2020 – Completed
 - b) Gas Tax Allocation: January 29, 2020 – Completed
 - c) Advocacy Efforts: February 19, 2020

Advocacy Efforts

The Town Manager reminded Council that Committee of the Whole meetings do not require quorum as it is for discussions only.

This meeting is focused on Advocacy which this Council has identified as a primary focus. At the upcoming NWTAC AGM it is important that Council have a united focus. NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC) is the Town's lobby group/advocacy group to take forward issues to the Territorial and Federal governments. It is confirmed that the Premier and Cabinet will be in attendance at the NWTAC AGM. Mayor Pope will have an opportunity to advocate and generate support at the Mayors Boot Camp and again with Council at the Bull Pit Sessions scheduled with the Premier and Cabinet.

The Town Manager provided a brief overview of the different ways that an issue can be pushed through. These include activism, disruption and advocacy. Advocacy is about building networks and relationships. Not necessarily partner but you negotiate. Power is behind you. It takes time, thought and strategy. If don't follow through initial investment it is for naught. Building of legitimacy

A brief review was provided for each of the issues identified below:

- All season road
- Health care provision
- Mental health provision
- Ambulance service
- Funding access at the Territorial and Federal levels

- Climate change: coastal erosion, drainage
- Canadian North service and costs
- Economic and Tourism development supports
- Cost of living in the North: food and gas/fuel
- Education

A tight package will be heard more clearly as there are many in line to be heard. It is important to have a cohesive message. It is also important to get the community behind the issue. This means bringing together all partners and focusing on the issue, putting other challenges aside to focus on the united goal

Top Issues as Identified by Councillors

Councillor Peachey

Funding access impacted by the current political climate. Transportation/fuel costs should go up because of the environmental impacts. Cost to feed a family expected to increase by \$500 a year. Questions how to do something in this climate of political unrest

Councillor Bernard

Ambulance Service. Clarity on:

- Who is responsible
- Who will provide service
- Funding of training/equipment
- Location of ambulance
- Liability

Mayor Pope

Cost of living increase of 2% in Canada affects everyone. Shipping goods (food) via air all year. Bargaining prices have increased too. Government subsidy is poor. Cost of oil and gas fluctuates widely. In other communities set for the year. Airlines travel and freight. Food costs the highest in Norman Wells. We are going to keep losing people because they can't afford to live here. Need to invest in country food, market gardening, develop/purchase locally, muskox meat. A need to start small. Town could look at having a tourism license and encourage local people to work under it until up and running. Look at getting an outfitters license. Provide opportunities for the little guy to get into business. Help reduce the local cost of living.

Need to sell the North to the southern population. Attending meeting in Calgary this spring and meeting with Premier Kenny. Need to encourage pipeline and to look north for them. Need to sell ourselves. The biggest oil reserves in the world are close by. Government needs to do more education on fracking. Need to get out, be seen and be heard. Canada needs to educate all new Canadians on the north. Do we need to hire a lobbyist on our part? Cannot wait for others to do it. Must take initiative.

Mayor Pope met with the Northern Store and inquired about why everything being flown in. In the past a lot came in on the barge and the winter road. Flying in is more expensive.

Need to understand the funding processes at both the territorial and federal level. Money still sitting in Ottawa. Can not say we are going to do all this work this summer when we do not have access to it.

Mayor Pope believes that Norman Wells needs to lead the development of a serious economic development/tourism regional think tank. Include territorial and federal levels of government.

Need to be more proactive about looking after ourselves

Mayor Pope wants to know about revenues from the oil field since 1944 revenues Federal share 1/3 ownership has been in revenue could be as 10 billion. We need

accurate figures. We get nothing back in return. These figures are an estimate only. We need to rebuild the relationship with MP Michael McLeod. Have asked him to find some of these numbers for us.

Mayor Pope suggested time to invite MP McLeod back for a meeting.

Councillor Smith inquired if the Sahtu MLA will be coming in to meet with Council Town Manager. Nothing has been set up.

Councillor Smith

Cost of Living identified as key issue, it is sky rocketing. Need to address this. Links to the nutrition north inquiry with the Senator.

Councillor Smith inquired whether the Senator got back to us on Nutrition North. The Town Manager stated that the Senator had not but that she would follow up with her EA.

Councillor Peachey

Cost of Living also identified as a key issue. Also related to the ban of fuel proposed for the Arctic. Concern about access to funding at the territorial and federal level. Inquired when will they receive the Indigenous Engagement template. Need to push the GNWT to find out what is going to happen with our funding. The things happening in BC and down south are already impacting our funding as seen with the \$1.5 million that has not been released.

Town Manager

The Town Manager addressed the concerns raised. Shared how the notes provided to the Mayor for his meeting with the MP spoke to how these delays impact us on the ground. The Town has contractors waiting for the work contracts. They are counting on those funds to come into our community and boost our economy. There is also short build season. The Town has to put aside the 25% matching dollars (sterilize) so that it we have our contribution available once the funds are released. The devaluing of our funds was raised as a concern with the inflation rate. The funds committed continue to be devalued when delayed. High possibility that may not be able to do some of the planned projects this year. Need to educate MP/Federal government about the impacts. Up to Council to do that kind of messaging. Mayor Pope added that there is a need to educate the South about the North and the fact that there is a very short build season. Need to get people like MP McLeod and Senator Anderson to make connections so we can educate people.

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Mayor Pope believes that Council needs to collectively help the economic development committee. Get involved, share ideas with the committee. Need to also secure the funding. Can't plan projects until we know the money is coming.

Mayor Pope stated that Council needs to look at what money the Town has and prioritize the summer projects.

The Town Manager will provide an advocacy package to Council for the meeting scheduled Monday with the Norman Wells Health and Social Services.

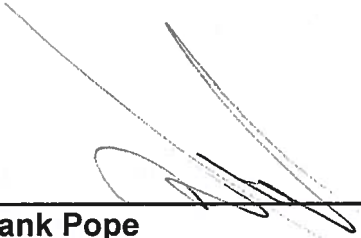
Important that all Councillors are on the same page and sharing the same message.

Next Steps

The Town Manager will prepare Advocacy packages for the Councillors attending the NWT Association of Communities Annual General Meeting next week.

1. Education

- 2. Cost of Living
- 3. Health/Ambulance/Mental Health



Frank Pope
Mayor



Cathy Clarke
Senior Administrative Officer

