

**Town of Norman Wells  
Minutes  
Committee of the Whole Meeting #20-02  
Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 12:00 pm  
Council Chambers, Town of Norman Wells**

---

<b>Present:</b>	Frank Pope Alexis Peachey Trevor Smith David Wever Jean-Paul Bernard	Mayor Deputy Mayor Councillor Councillor Councillor
<b>Regrets:</b>	Pascal Audet Jim Boyle	Councillor Councillor (Work)
<b>Staff:</b>	Cathy Clarke Johannie Lapierre Alex Millette Misty Rayner	Senior Administrative Officer Development Officer Recreation Director Finance Manager
<b>Guests:</b>	Zackary Chivers	

1. **Call to Order** 12:12PM
2. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**
3. **Review and Adoption of Agenda**
4. **Delegation**
5. **Topics**

- a) **Community Plan: Completed**
- b) **Gas Tax Allocation**

-What should we be spending our funds on, needs/wants and priorities

The Finance Manager advised that the information in the package comes from the electronic files as the paper files aren't easily accessible at this time. It shows where the Town has spent the Gas Tax funding over the last 10 years. 2019: banked about 4.2 million dollars. We received Gas Tax funds for 2019 and the once eligible doubling of the funds for 2018. CPIF funds haven't been received for 2019 yet. Still outstanding \$303 000 in gas tax which is usually received between January and March of the following year as MACA fiscal year ends on March 31.

The SAO reminds that the Town only starts to collect interests once the money hits our account, so the timelines are important to consider. The funds come without interest even if they are received after the contribution date. The funds and interests can only be used for the eligible projects. There are other existing grants the Town can apply for. Gas Tax can often be used as matching dollars. Council will have the opportunity to discuss about how the different funds/reserves will be dealt with. Community engagement is highly recommended.

The Deputy Mayor Peachey presents an example of the correlation between the Gas Tax funding and the existing Reserve funds by-laws. It is possible to work on current project as well as putting money to the side for the future. The money can be divided/differed to multiple years.

The SAO adds that the Town will eventually meet with the financial institution to look at an investment strategy. There will be more return on a long-term investment but the Town first needs to determine the priorities and get money into the reserves. The present objectives are consistency, the ability to get the interest from day 1 and the determination of short, mid and long terms needs.

Discussion is held about the importance to see the big picture while talking about waste management for example as the landfill remediation project and the property clean-up project impact each other. On the drainage project, the ICIP funding is still on hold even if the funds have been approved before the federal elections. The Town is currently sterilizing money for 25% of the project cost as a required contribution. The longer it takes, the less the money is worth. This issue with the federal funds being frozen impacts

the North across Canada. It is not possible to correspond directly with the federal government. Communications must go through MACA as the agreement for funding is between the territorial and federal government.

The Mayor comments that the Town must do project planning, optimize the existing money and Council agrees to add the topic on the lobby list.

The Deputy Mayor Peachey requests a list of the expected funds separated from the received ones in order to identify priorities about the reserve by-laws and to work on the projects. The Finance manager will add the information to her monthly report.

Each member of Council presents their priorities:

Councillor Bernard: Landfill and recycling, facility maintenance (depending on status/condition), utilidor (life expectancy assessment required), medical transport.

Councillor Wever: Landfill (sewage, waste management, energy efficiency options), recreation center, a more attractive town.

Deputy Mayor Peachey: Landfill (along with clean-up of unsightly property), utilidor and recreation facilities (jackfish included, status report required).

Councillor Smith: Landfill (along with the research of a new site), recreation facility (neglected for last number of years), by-laws and policies.

Mayor: Landfill (rules of operation, remediation and implementation), waste management (shredding rubber), by-laws and policies, parks and playgrounds (operational and safe), facility maintenance, utilidor system (requires considerable planning and repair). The landfill project could be discussed at the open house meeting of the Sahtu Land and Water Board to be held next month.

The SAO notes that the community engagement component is common and beneficial to the landfill and recreation projects. The Town can start to get the community's input and provide information to the residents. For example, the costs and manpower necessary for the current arena operations (in potable water for instance) vs for a new facility (possibility of ice use fees).

The Finance Manager informs that asset management is an on-going project and that 95% of the Town buildings have aged out, the pool being the youngest (1996).

The Mayor reminds the importance of planning for the landfill and the property clean-up as lots 165-166 are contaminated. GNWT applied for funding for all Sahtu communities landfills as it is on their land. Discussions will have to occur with MACA and the Department of Lands. The Executive director of the Sahtu Land and water Board informed that most of Northwest Territories landfills are at capacity or over. There will still be a partnership with GNWT in the future for the lease of a new site to implement a landfill.

The Finance Manager explains that an AECOM study reported that the landfill had 5 years life expectancy at the start of 2018. The life expectancy might have changed since then as some items have been trucked out (barrels, batteries). Although we have been moving stuff out, the Mayor adds that a large amount of material has been disposed at the landfill in the last year.

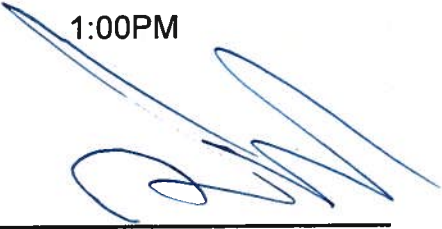
The SAO compares with Yukon which has a 40 years standard.

Councillor Wever inquires on the status of the metal selling project. The SAO replies that our contact is still interested. They are in the process to see if they could bring a compactor during the barge season and if other communities would be interested by the service too. We could check if it would be possible to do the work ourselves, but equipment and manpower might be an issue for this option.

Councillor Wever comments that the territorial should be challenged on the environmental topic. They could provide directions as the problem is all over the Northwest Territories. The SAO informs that Trevor Bremner, Resource Management Officer at the Department of Lands assured that he has started internal discussions about the immediacy of the properties clean-up. The Mayor would like to meet with IORL soon about their remediation program to see how much room the Town could utilize for its own waste.

The Mayor reminds Council about tomorrow night's dinner with Margaret Dawn Anderson, the senator for the NWT

6. **Adjourn** 1:00PM



---

**Frank Pope**  
**Mayor**



---

**Cathy Clarke**  
**Senior Administrative Officer**