

**Town of Norman Wells
Minutes
Regular Council Meeting #20-13
Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 7:00pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 219-547-8709 Password: XXXXXX
Dial In: 1 778 907 2071 (Same Meeting ID & Password)**

Present:	Frank Pope Alexis Peachey Pascal Audet Jean-Paul Bernard Trevor Smith David Wever Jim Boyle	Mayor Deputy Mayor (telephone) Councillor (telephone) Councillor (telephone) Councillor (telephone) Councillor (telephone) Councillor (telephone)
Staff:	Cathy Clarke Alex Millet Hugo Pabke Jennifer Waterhouse Johannie Lapierre Randy Sinasac	Senior Administrative Officer Recreation Director/Acting Public Works Manager Utilities Manager Governance & Community Engagement Manager Development Officer Fire Chief
Delegation:	Steffen Karl	Stantec
Guests:	Chris Chivers	

1. **Call to Order** 7:01PM

2. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Councillor Bernard – Item 9abc – Firefighters Honorarium By-Law due to his role as a volunteer firefighter with the Town of Norman Wells Volunteer Fire Department

3. **Review and Adoption of Agenda**

Resolution

'Be it resolved that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting, dated May 5th, 2020 is hereby adopted.'

Motion: No. 20-13-01
Moved by: Councillor Peachey
Seconded by: Councillor Audet

Motion Carried

4. **Delegation**

Steffen Karl Stantec Item 9f - Road Improvements brought forward
Steffen Karl, primary author of the Norman Wells Climate Change Preparedness in the North Program report provided an overview of the finding of the report. The full report can be obtained from the Town Office.

Two major concerns were identified:

1. Roadways
2. Slope erosion along the river

Questions from Council

Councillor Boyle – The Councillor is familiar with the technical instrumentation due to his work. Inquired about the reading schedule for monitoring and who would be responsible for conducting readings. Also inquired about the use of SAA and SI's. Steffan responded that a number of options for monitoring based on budget. Town staff could be trained to take readings, were providing readings during the winter monitoring. Opportunity to install SAA and SI's, again based on budget.

Councillor Wever – The findings show that there is poor vegetation on the banks. Inquired if it is possible to re-vegetate. Steffan responded that there are number of methods that could be used depending on the area. Synthetic products are available to stabilize the slope and allow vegetation to regrow. Where there is a lot of water flow it will be more challenging to re-vegetate. Suggests that in these areas look at armouring the channels directly.

Councillor Audet – Inquired as to who owns the land along the river and does the Town have the authority to do this work on this land? The Development Office confirmed that some land belongs to the Town, some belongs to the Land Corporation and there is some Federal Reserve Land. Will need to work with/engage these organizations in the project.

Steffan spoke to the priority areas. There is a stretch of about 1.3km near the radio antenna that is holding a lot of water. A High-level estimate of \$300,000 was provided for re-ditching in certain areas and installation/replacement of culverts and armouring of channels. Steffan then addressed the road

condition itself. Will continue to see settlements on the chipseal which will require ongoing maintenance /upkeep. Recommendation is to use gravel to create a better road surface, will be easier and more cost effective to maintain. The need to use better-graded material (not as fine) for the road surface was mentioned several times. Steffan explained that a geotechnical grid could be installed and crushed material layered on top. This could extend from the end of the chipseal road to the end of Mackenzie Drive in DOT. This would cost approximately \$3.1 million. This with the drainage work would come to approximately \$4 million. Suggested to do the drainage work first then assess how much of the road can be done.

Mayor Pope - Inquired if the entire road needed to be done or just some specific pieces. Steffan's recommendation was to look at the road and where can optimize. More work is needed in some areas and less in others.

Councillor Boyle – Inquired if got rid of the fine crush would that eliminate some of the problems? Steffen responded that the material encountered was not optimal. Can build on top of the fine crush, it can be used as a subgrade.

Councillor Wever – Inquired how much of the \$4 million would be product. Steffan did not have the exact numbers at this time but can provide it. Councillor Wever

5. **Departmental Reports** Second meeting of each month

6. **Committee Reports**

- a) Recreation Committee - none
- b) Economic Development Committee - none
- c) Town Planning and Land Use Committee – none

7. **Minutes**

- a) Special Meeting of Council #20-11

Resolution

'Be it resolved that the Minutes for the Special Council Meeting, dated April 28th, 2020 are hereby adopted.'

Motion: No. 20-13-02
Moved by: Councillor Peachey
Seconded by: Councillor Smith

Motion Carried

- b) Committee of the Whole #20-05

Resolution

'Be it resolved that the Minutes for the Committee of the Whole Meeting, dated April 28th, 2020 are hereby adopted.'

Motion: No. 20-13-03
Moved by: Councillor Peachey
Seconded by: Councillor Wever

Motion Carried

8. **Old Business**

- a) None

9. **New Business**

Councillor Bernard left the call at 7:39PM

- a) Firefighters Honorarium By-Law #20-05

Resolution

Concern raised over the per hour rates for the indemnities. Council was in consensus that it should be per session, not per hour. Discussion was held around the criteria for awarding honorarium. Consensus by Council that the 50% attendance rate for annual bonuses was too low. Would like to see around the 75% rate with provisions for excused absences, etc.

Motion was withdrawn. The Fire Chief will rework the formulas for the honorariums and bring back to Council.

'Be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Norman Wells hereby withdraws the Firefighters Honorarium By-Law #20-05.'

Motion: No. 20-13-04
Moved by: Councillor Smith
Seconded by: Councillor Wever

Motion Carried

Councillor Bernard returned to the call at 7:56PM

d) Final Quarry Totals/Tax Arrears owing on GNWT Leases Information
The SAO shared that the Development Officer has put a lot of work into tax arrears file. There have been three meetings of the Working Group and nothing has been resolved yet. The Development Officer explained that the Town will still publish the Tax Arrears list. The payback to the GNWT on the school portion of these leases is \$189,382. The Quarry still has money owing. The Development Officer asked for direction from Council, should a letter be written including the amounts? Should it be sent to the Premier, etc. or submit an invoice. Councillor Audet and Boyle in agreement that a letter should be sent with an invoice. Councillor Boyle inquired if the GNWT will be added to the Arrears List. The SAO confirmed that no choice but to include these Commissioners arrears. Discussion about whether GNWT will pay. Council recognizes that GNWT will most likely not pay but hopefully the Town can get something for it for other projects. Administration will share the letter with Council before the Mayor signs and sends. All in agreement

e) Project Status Listing Report Information
Request to track bring forward items.
HRN has recently done a dump push. Looking to build more fence panels to contain the blowing garbage. Public Works plans to put someone at the landfill for about a week and a half to work with community members on proper dumping. Will be handing out copies of the landfill map. If dumping does not improve recommending that may need to regulate access. SAO explained that HRN does two large pushes per year at about \$18,000 each. Last push was four days ago and already a mess. HRN had provided the suggestion to put a Public Works person at the dump to work on education. Concern about the condition of the road in the landfill. Mayor Pope responded that major grading needs to be done but currently there is a lot of water. Grading will be addressed once it dries up. Inquiry about moving the location of the household waste dumping area. Suggestion to continue this discussion at the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting focused on the landfill.

f) Road Improvements Information
The SAO would like to move forward with the road improvements project. Council in agreement that the SAO may proceed with the RFP.

10. Council Forum

Councillor Bernard – Inquired if regular building checks are being done and maintenance issues addressed in preparation for potential reopening. Asked for update on the filter replacement. Public Utilities Manager explained delays in fabrication due to COVID-19. AWI not currently allowing staff to travel.

Councillor Smith – Inquired when road sweeping will begin. The Acting Public Works Manager (APW) stated that he is working with HRN to begin. Councillor Smith also inquired about the damaged guardrails. The APW shared that he and the foreman had looked at them today and will include repairs on the maintenance list.

Councillor Wever – Inquired of benches could be placed in playgrounds for parent. APWM said will look to see if can fund through budget and look at utilizing existing benches. Councillor Wever also suggested that as part of the Town's 25% contribution for the roads project, the donation of quarry material could be considered as an in kind contribution.

Councillor Peachey – Inquired if there has been any discussion with ITI/Tourism on how the government template for opening up the economy can support local outfitters first. Mayor Pope stated that he would speak with ENR but doubtful that it will reopen.

Councillor Audet – Inquired about the status of Jackfish. SAO is waiting to see how the GNWT responds regarding public parks. Jackfish will align to McKinnon Park. ENR is concerned about their ability to consistently monitor and enforce social distancing. Mayor Pope added that maintenance of parks and playgrounds should be undertaken to ensure ready for when allowed to open.

Councillor Boyle – Inquired why it is taking so long for ditch clearing. Flooding issues on a Senior's property in DOT. Inquired if any update on disrepair of the junction of Canyon Creek Road and Jackfish. Also wondered why the road to the ski cabin is not being maintained this year. The SAO responded that working within budgets. PW has been working on the culverts. Councillor Boyle indicated that the lack of snow clearing this year had caused the problem and believes it is a health and safety issue. The APW acknowledged the issues and indicated that would look to see how plan can be adjusted for next year. They will work with Infrastructure to get the Jackfish road issue resolved.

Mayor Pope – Councillor Audet will be resuming his role as Chair of the Economic Development Committee (EDC), and Councillor Boyle will continue as Assistant Chair. Thank you to Councillor Bernard for covering during Councillor Audet’s leave of absence. Councillor Bernard will continue to sit on the Town Planning and Land Use committee. Mayor Pope is happy to attend any of the committee meetings if they require help.

11. Correspondence to Council

a)

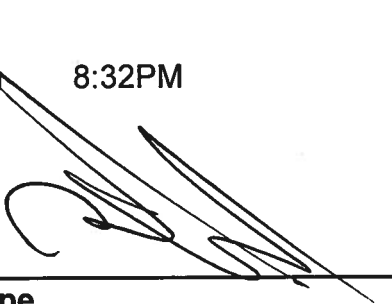
12. Correspondence from Council

a)

13. In Camera

a)

14. Adjourn 8:32PM



**Frank Pope
Mayor**



**Cathy Clarke
Senior Administrative Officer**