



Village of Lytton
Special Council Meeting Minutes Adopted
Wednesday August 25, 2021 1:15 pm
Conducted via Zoom

Council Present: Mayor Polderman, Councillor Graie, Councillor Hay

Staff Present: CAO Curry

Regrets: Councillor Leitch

1 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Polderman called the August 25, 2021 Special Council meeting to order at 1:28 pm.

2 Adoption of Agenda

2.1 Agenda for the Special Council Meeting of August 25, 2021

21-137 *Moved by Councillor Leitch, seconded by Councillor Hay, **THAT** Council adopt the agenda for the August 25, 2021 Special Council meeting as presented.*

CARRIED

3 3.1 Adoption of Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on August 11, 2021

21-138 *Moved by Councillor Hay, seconded by Mayor Polderman, **THAT** Council Delay adoption until after the CLOSED meeting.*

CARRIED

21-143 *Moved by Councillor Graie, seconded by Councillor Hay, **THAT** the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday August 11, 2021 be adopted as presented.*

CARRIED

4 Delegations

4.1 Tim MacLeod, Re-Entry Coordinator regarding Re-Entry Process

Tim MacLeod, Re-Entry Coordinator, provided a verbal report on the re-entry process with the following highlights:

- A contractor has been engaged by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to identify hazards in the evacuation zone. The final report is expected August 30, 2021, and will identify the hazards, what they are, and what the prime contractor can do to clean it up.
- WorkSafe BC has reviewed the DRAFT report and identified several hazards that must be mitigated to ensure a safe work environment, including asbestos. They have deemed the entire site medium to high risk. They hope to have sifting begin within days of receiving the final hazard identification report.
- Discussions are occurring with Insurance Companies to negotiate the evacuation zone as one job site, and bring in one prime contractor, which will lead to efficiencies of scale, provide savings, and ensure compliance. In particular, this could be advantageous for uninsured properties. Goal is to provide clean up so that they property owners will have a property that is ready to build on.
- Once hazards are cleared sifting will begin one property owner at a time. Property owners will need to wear PPE and stay on the roadway. They will not be doing the sifting themselves. Property owners can select which volunteer organization to use. Contact information will be provided on the Village website.
- WorkSafe BC is able to consider every house as same hazard per house. Businesses are different and will need individual hazard assessments completed.
- Any remaining survey pins on Village property will be identified and marked so that they are not destroyed during the debris removal, making it faster and easier to identify lot lines after clean up is complete.

5 Public Comment

Ken Pite

Wants focus to be on laying foundation for a community that won't burn again. Has noted that the proposed district energy system will require underground installations and wants to know if power and communications infrastructure, along with an underground water system for irrigation and fire deterrence would be included when trenches are dug.

Jennifer Thoss

Would like Council meetings to be recorded and accessible on the Village website. Feels that residents should have a choice of which company they use for sifting. Would like Council to introduce all individuals at the meetings and their roles, including staff joining remotely.

Judith Urquhart

Would like more information on the Net Zero Plan and the District Energy System. Has sent in other questions about the new Building Bylaw and would like a reply.

Tiffany Callewaert-Hogan

Would like to know why residents have not been consulted on the new Building Bylaw. Would like to sift own property. Would have liked to have been told when the highway was going to reopen before it happened.

Chris O'Connor

Concerned about Council excluding the public from their meetings. Doesn't feel there are hazards on his property, and feels Council is delaying the process. Stated that some residents have hired a lawyer to send a letter to Council.

Denise O'Connor

Would like more information on who is working for the Village, what their roles are, and what services are still being provided.

Owen Collings

Audio issues – asked to email communications@lytton.ca with comments for Council.

Megan Fandrich

Would like to see communications improved and a general timeline for recovery provided.

Jessoa Lightfoot

Would like clarification on the function of Team Rubicon. Wants to know if it would be possible for residents to get passes, similar to those for people who need to fee animals. Would like to see a community discussion to include residents in the planning.

Mayor Polderman

Thanked everyone for comments. Noted that one of the questions was with regard to Net Zero houses. Stated that at an upcoming meeting there will be a panel of experts on Net Zero houses.

6 Correspondence

6.1 Correspondence for Information

6.2 Correspondence for Action

7 Staff Reports

7.1 Reports for Information

7.2 Reports for Action

a) RECOVERY UPDATE REPORT – VERBAL

A. Yanciw, Community Recovery Manager, provided a verbal Recovery Report with the following highlights:

- Tim MacLeod has been hired as the Re-Entry Coordinator to manage all re-entry activities and protect the Village of Lytton from liability.
- A Housing Needs Assessment will be open until September 3rd and all residents are encouraged to complete it – a link is available on the Village website. Expecting to bring a report to Council the week of September 6th.
- Proposing establishment of a Leadership and Policy for Recovery Select Committee to oversee all aspects including interim housing.
- Working on transitional and rebuilding business supports with the Lytton Chamber of Commerce, Community Futures Central Interior First Nations (CFCIFN), Rural Development, the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT), and being lead by Community Futures Sun Country (CFSUN).
- Fraser Basin Council (FBC) has been hired to facilitate public consultation on the rebuilding process, including the Building Bylaw. The Bylaw will not be brought back to Council until consultation is complete.
- Province is engaging Red Cross to work on case management and provide one-on-one support for people experiencing challenges (i.e. with insurance, mental wellness, employment insurance, etc.) Red Cross supports will be in place until people are back in homes. As people apply, they will be assigned an individual case manager.
- Disaster psychosocial supports are available for the public, and Employee and Family Assistance for staff and Council at village.
- The Village has not hired any new staff. Lawyers are preparing standardized contracts for all Provincially paid contractors working for the Village of Lytton, including a policy/Council liaison position to help facilitate the flow of info. Once completed, information will be shared regarding the contracted resources and their roles.
- Expecting to meet with the Province this week to develop a short-term recovery plan timeline; which should be in place by September 30th.
- Will be re-establishing water testing soon to confirm condition of water and ensure it is safe for consumption.

b) LEADERSHIP AND POLICY FOR RECOVERY COMMITTEE

21-139 *Moved by Councillor Graie, seconded by Councillor Hay, **THAT** Council establish a Leadership and Policy for Recovery Committee as a Select Committee to be composed of all members of Council as per the attached Terms of Reference, and appoint Councillor Leitch as the Chair.*

CARRIED

a) DONATIONS OF GIFT AND VISA CARDS

21-140 *Moved by Councillor Graie seconded by Councillor Leitch **THAT** Council approve the distribution of the gift cards and prepaid Visa cards to be determined on the basis of a draw for Village of Lytton addresses of homes that were lost, with the ability for residents to remove their name from the draw.*

CARRIED

b) AMENDED COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH LYTTON FIRST NATION

21-141 *Moved by Councillor Graie, seconded by Councillor Hay, **THAT** Council approves entering into the attached amended and simplified Cooperation Agreement with Lytton First Nation as presented.*

CARRIED

8 Bylaws**9 Reports by Mayor and Councillors****9.1 Mayor Polderman**

Reported that town was evacuated again during the last two weeks. After it rained, the order was downgraded to an alert. Spoke with Tim MacLeod and the engineer about re-entry. Met with Interior Health Authority (IHA) regarding the location of health services in Lytton. Proposed Lytton First Nations (LFN) dental site as a temporary location in consultation with the LFN. Met with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) regarding re-opening of Hwy 12. Responded to calls and emails. Spoke with the Provincial Temporary Housing Team. Spoke with Red Cross.

9.2 Councillor Leitch

Reported that he has been in touch with a lot of people. Followed up on the Canadian National Rail (CN Rail) donation. Reminder residents that they have to register for Red Cross benefits by August 31st. Interim housing will be provided as long as needed. Meeting with EMBC tomorrow.

9.3 Councillor Hay

- Arrived home around 2:30 on Thursday after the last Meeting and heard the sirens of our fire truck on the highway, so hurried out into my truck and sped down the highway until I found them. They were combating a vehicle induced fire beside the Highway and about 300 yards north of Siska. Got the fire out and drenched the area with water.
- Met with IHA personnel wanting to discuss the Water Plant and the Waste Water Plant. Told me the Village was going to receive assistance from two outside areas, still have not seen them arrive two weeks later. Currently there is no water flowing to IR #17. One origin of assistance was from the City of Merritt and the other one was from Fraser Valley.
- Met with Team Rubicon to discuss where they were at in their planning for the sifting process. They were just awaiting the Order to be lifted after receipt of the Report by the Ministry of the Environment.
- Conducted tours to the water intake to ensure there was sufficient water flow in case of a fire, did this three times each day. Also, the Mayor accompanied me, and we also checked on Team Rubicon, On Side Restoration and the Security guards, usually at least twice each day.
- When the Mahawkon Fire took off and there was an Evacuation Order on effect by the Mayor, I went around to check on folks to ensure they knew about the Order and what it meant. Two young RCMP Officers visited each house on Ponderosa Hts, Loring Way, Kent Rd, Pines Motel, High School.
- Remained behind once again to provide the Mayor with current, factual information when he required it. Lots of smoke up on top of the mountains east of Lytton but took most of the day for the fire to be noticed. Seemed to come down the mountain against the wind in three places. Structural firefighters (our crew included) along with the forestry folks, place sprinklers on all the roofs on the east side of the Highway in Siska. They fought the fire all night. Went south the next morning and they were just “mopping up” some small flames. Great bunch of folks, really dedicated to minimizing the damage caused by the fires.
- Rain, sweet rain, came in buckets and the air was refreshing to the lungs after so many days of smoke. But with the rain came the mudslides. Mayor was back in town in short order to assist with the people who chose to stay behind. Once we were told of the mudslides on Highway #1 and #12, we drove out to see firsthand what damage had been done. Well, I am here to tell you, as we left Lytton there were semi’s all over

the place and as we neared within a couple of miles of the actual slide, it looked like the retreat from Moscow. Drivers had just unhooked their loads and left them where they had stopped. Next, we went to see the mudslide which we were told was large and at Six Mile. We drove to 32 km mark and it was a smaller slide and had trapped one semi on it. Think that day Highway #1, #12, #8, #97c and #5 were all closed. Crews worked tirelessly to get these highways open again.

- Provided information to folks with reference to what was transpiring in their absence and after some more rain, all seemed okay around Lytton for the first time in a long time. There were some small smoldering spots way up in the mountains, but for the most part it was clear.
- Was in contact with a resident who submitted valid concerns regarding the Building Bylaw. These concerns were forwarded to Staff to provide the technical answers.
- The road through IR #18 was closed yesterday while LFN along with those affected by the recent fires conducted a Cleansing Ceremony. Team Rubicon started the sifting process on IR #18 yesterday afternoon and people were well satisfied with the work being done. If you have not contacted Team Rubicon to speak to them with reference to sifting on your property, I advise you to contact them at 778-694-0713 and that phone is manned from 8 am to 8 pm daily. They will not be able to provide you with a date and time as the Order still has not been lifted in the downtown area by the MoE.
- Jessoa, again thank you for your strong support to the community in getting factual information distributed to all concerned.
- I have a couple of questions which I require answers for as I have queries posed to me regarding them:
 - What is the status on the temporary housing?
 - There was a person who started, but only lasted three weeks - what did he accomplish?
 - The Provincial Team seems to be a bit elusive and I would like to know what they have accomplished and when they foresee the completion of the housing for our residents and where the planned site is going to be. It is 8 weeks since the fire and things seem to be moving rather slowly. I attended a Provincial Meeting yesterday on behalf of the Mayor and noted the following - 16 agencies supposed to attend - 9 were not present - 5 had nothing to report and 2 provided good information. WOW.

9.4 Councillor Graie

Reported that she is still getting questions about net zero housing as people feel they won't have a say in how their new house looks. Suggested staff review FAQs on website to make sure they are easier to find.

10 CLOSED MEETING

10.1 Close Meeting to the Public

21-142 *Moved by Councillor Leitch, seconded by Councillor Hay, **THAT** Council close the meeting to the public to discuss a matter related to Community Charter Section 90(1)(i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.*

CARRIED

11 Adjournment

11.1 Adjourn the Special Council Meeting of August 25, 2021

21-144 *Moved by Councillor Leitch, **THAT** the August 25, 2021 Special Council Meeting be adjourned at 4:39 pm.*

CARRIED

Certified Correct

Mayor Polderman

Corporate Officer Curry