



Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council

November 9, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

Members Present: Mayor D. Funk
Councillor H. Wiebe – via Zoom
Councillor C. Rensby – via Zoom
Councillor K. White – via Zoom
Councillor K. Bjarnason – via Zoom

Staff Present: CAO S. Worthing
EDO K. Guenter – via Zoom
DCO V. Anderson

Members of the Public 10 – via Zoom
Eddie Huband, Lakes District News – via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor D. Funk called the special meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

THAT the Agenda for November 9, 2021 Special Meeting of Council is approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

4. DELEGATIONS AND PETITION - None

5. REPORTS

5.a Provincial Announcement Old Growth Deferral

- Mayor D Funk thanked attendees for their time.
- Seeking information as to the economic impact to the community of this announcement.
- Council wants to hear what stakeholders expect from the announcement.

5.b Attendee Round Table

- Frank Varga, General Manager, Burns Lake Community Forest
- Extremely disappointed as to how this was rolled out.
- It is estimated that this is about a 6,000 M3 decrease for BL Comfor.
- Ken Nielson, General Manager Chinook Community Forest
- The current government is focused on reconciliation, and he feels this announcement is not reconciliation. The 30-day comment period for First Nations is not enough time for nations to analyze and provide feedback.
- Preliminary estimates show a 6% impact, about 5,000ha, hitting Chinook's 10-year timber supply.
- Daniella Oake, Planning Supervisor Babine Forest Products
- The Lakes AAC determination, along with forest health events, has had a significant effect on the overall AAC that Hampton has access to.
- Still working through the data set as to what the final impact will be.
- A heightened level of uncertainty has been created in this forest dependant community.
- Nick Dormaar, RFP Divisional Manager KDL Resource
- Still investigating the implications for Wet'suwet'en First Nation and YLP.
- Determining what happens when the Old Growth area overlaps planned cutting permits.
- The announcement has thrown a lot of uncertainty into the plans for the next few years.
- Cindy Shelford, there was an emergency TSR coalition meeting today to discuss the announcement. The government has admitted that they are going off old data, this is frustrating for stakeholders.
- A lot of uncertainty, and there is a concern as to how the process was handled.

- Beth Eagles, District Manager, Nadina appreciates the level of uncertainty for stakeholders and the opportunity to participate tonight.
- She explained the 30-day deadline mentioned in the media is not being followed, there is a lot of information, and the Ministry wants to ensure ample time for consideration.
- The District is reaching out to the First Nations, asking whether First Nations support putting a hold on cutting permits in these areas, it is targeted at areas that are considered of 'higher importance for biodiversity.
- The pixelated data received is not of good quality.
- If First Nations say "yes" we support a temporary deferral, then the Ministry will go to cabinet, it hinges on First Nation support.
- The Lakes is heavily dependent on the forest industry, which makes the question even more complex
- The Lakes TSA - Lakes Resiliency Project is underway, which supports more conversation regarding old growth.
- Beth Eagles recognizes that information is changing rapidly, which increases frustration levels.
- There is a new Regional Executive Director, Kevin Hasard, replacing Geoff Recknell
- Ian Gray (BFP) asked about what happens if the First Nations don't support the announcement. Beth Eagles understands that if First Nations say "no," the message will be sent forward, and the deferrals will not move any further forward.
- At this time, it is her understanding that if there is one nation not in support in the overlap areas, the deferral will not go forward.
- Mayor Funk asked participants if anyone had estimates of potential job losses.
- Councillor Rensby has contacted the Truck Loggers Association, industry is estimating 20,000 job losses, the province is estimating 5,000.
- Losses on the Island were discussed.
- This announcement will directly impact the community.
- The coalition meeting this afternoon showed how confused and annoyed stakeholders are.
- Miles Fuller - Lakes Resiliency Project is trying to find ways to fireproof our communities, the Old Growth areas that are trying to be saved around towns need to be gone to improve fire protection of communities.

- Councillor Rensby stated that on November 18, there will be a logging truck convoy going to Vancouver.
- Ken Nielson Asked Beth Eagles about engagement with First Nations and how they can be asked with inaccurate data. Beth Eagles said it is the best information we have at this time; a deferral will allow time for ground-truthing the data.
- Ken Nielson also asked if this would hold up the fire risk project on the southside. Approval and issuing of permits are business as usual until the deferral is in place. She will consult with the licensee for decisions in front of her as to whether they know it is in an overlap area.
- Daniella Oake - BCTS is about 20% of the area's cut, I heard that BCTS would pull permits in the overlap area.
- Beth Eagles said this is a concern, they are going ahead with anything that has been sold, about 1,000,000M3
- Beth Eagles said they are voluntarily deferring for sales in overlap areas.
- Mayor Funk - It was her understanding that the deferrals were immediate. Beth Eagles said the deferral will not move forward until First Nations approve, and then there is a whole process that would need to be put in place.
- Work in overlap areas doesn't need to stop until First Nations say "yes" to deferral.
- If licensees decide that areas are determined to be irreplaceable for biodiversity, they can voluntarily defer.
- Clint Lambert - A socio-economic study was not completed, how did the province come up with the job losses?
- Frank Varga - The estimate of one full-time equivalent in the forest industry is 1,320M3 has been used, perhaps that is how it was determined.
- Discussion of preparing the community.
- Cindy Shelford - The numbers for AAC determination was a provincial formula, they were unable to replicate the numbers at that time.
- The basic economics is one job loss results in spinoffs.
- Ken Nielson asked what 'irreplaceable loss' means for biodiversity. Beth Eagles will provide the definition. Staff will share with attendees.
- The deferral recommendation came from a technical advisory panel, and it is an independent committee.
- Neil Marinchuk is the local ministry contact, he was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

- We can look at the worst-case and best-case scenarios, and we will likely land somewhere in the middle.
- Need to continue to talk and share information, so all stakeholders are informed.
- Mayor Funk explained that Council felt blindsided by this announcement. Mayor Funk was told that Council should have seen it coming, unsure of how Council could have seen this magnitude of an announcement coming.
- Many people considered this a coastal issue.
- Councillor Rensby expressed his appreciation for Beth Eagles' time and comments made tonight.
- Clint Lambert - Has heard that there may be a 30% loss. It is frustrating that no one knows what the loss will be. Beth Eagle said that 19% is the worst-case scenario number that she has been told.
- The Old Growth areas were discussed regarding the fires in 2018; the dead old growth blowdown was a tinderbox.
- Discussion of what Old Growth Management areas were meant to achieve and are now not meeting the objective.
- Beth Eagles said they would be discussing OGMAs at the Lakes Resiliency table. There may be an appetite for change.
- Nick Dormaar, it is early days, a two-year timeline will allow for conversations and talk more about local concerns.
- Mayor D. Funk thanked everyone for attending.

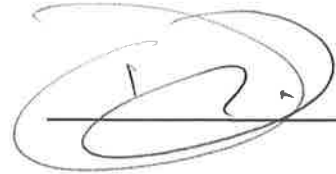
6. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

7. ADJOURN

It was moved and seconded by Council:

THAT November 9, 2021 Special Meeting of Council be adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

CARRIED



MAYOR



CORPORATE OFFICER

Certified to be a true copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council for the Corporation of the Village of Burns Lake held on Tuesday, November 09, 2021