



**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday, November 14, 2024**

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**ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT**

MAYOR	Cathy Gonet
DEPUTY MAYOR	Eva Hope
COUNCILORS	Greg Wilson
	Hillary Deneron

STAFF - Senior Administrative Officer                      John W. McKee

The Chairperson (Mayor) took the chair and called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Council approved the meeting agenda without changes.

**MOTION 2024- 77**

The agenda for the November 14, 2024, meeting is approved with amendments.

Moved:            Hillary Deneron

Seconded:        Greg Wilson

Carried.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting, and two changes were made.

**MOTION 2024- 78**

The minutes for the October 17, 2024 meeting are approved as presented.

Moved:            Hillary Deneron

Seconded:        Greg Wilson

Carried.

## **BUSINESS ARISING FOR THE MINUTES**

### **DONATION Corbin Wilson**

Corbin Wilson received a donation to attend the NWT Nationals Basketball Team. The condition of this donation was that he complete 25 community recreation service hours. He has now completed the 25 hours.

### **DMAF CONTRACT**

The SAO met with the NWTAC to adjust the vegetation/ fuel management areas. Approval is expected early next week, November 18, 2024.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **GNWT'S OBLIGATION TO CONSULT WITH ABORIGINAL GOVERNMENTS**

Council Members were presented with a Lawson Lundell presentation on how Aboriginal Consultation works in the Community Plan process and how that process can work in parallel with municipal public engagement to ensure adequate consultation and engagement with Aboriginal Governments and organizations.

Council reviewed this process, and Acho Dene Koe still has not supported the draft Community Land Use Plan. This process must be completed before the Plan can receive its third and final reading.

## **FINANCIAL**

Council reviewed the Operational Financial Statements for the period ending September 30, 2024. The SAO highlighted the following -

GNWT is not paying the total rent for the Service Officer Office

For the first part of the year, hamlet breaks even for staff housing – winter will be a deficit

Hamlet can no longer use CPI funds for staff housing

Lower Staff units are used as transitional housing for lower-income employees for two years, and they can get a subsidy. They then move into other housing.

The Hamlet is expected to have two employees move into a new fourplex used for transitional housing.

Hamlet charges the total economic rate when the employee moves in – subsequent rents cannot be raised enough to cover increasing costs.

### **SOLID WASTE**

Hamlet charges for services, but rates do not cover actual costs. So far, there is a \$28,590 deficit, which comes out of operations funding.

GNWT has plans to remove cars, steel, and hazardous waste as a region. This was to be completed three years ago but has yet to be done. GNWT has already collected \$50,000 from Hamlet as their portion of the cost.

Hamlet could not wait and had hazardous waste removed last month for \$18,000.00. It charged this cost to Gas Tax, but MACA may not permit it and expense it as operations.

Solid waste disposal is skyrocketing mainly due to regulations. MACA does not provide a subsidy like it does for water and sewage.

Cameras are now installed to catch dumping without paying – mainly contractors.

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE**

Loss Control Consultants provide the hamlet with maintenance costs and replacement schedules.

Current funding levels will not allow the Hamlet to meet these maintenance levels.

There is a need to manage assets better.

#### **INCOME**

Facility rental is only about 47% of what was projected.

#### **EXPENSES**

Vehicle Maintenance costs: \$81,000 Maintenance costs increase as the fleet ages and service parts become more expensive.

Wildfire mitigation 2024 - \$18,000

Does the Hamlet want to spend more on wildfire mitigation(Fire Smarting)?

Expect large expenditures if an incident – no reimbursement.

In the winter months, there are high heating and power costs.

#### **MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

There is a deficit if vehicle replacement costs are calculated - use federal government funding to offset it.

The Hamlet will now be allowed a maximum reserve of \$50,000.

Economic rates will be smoothed over 5 years to keep rates stabilized.

Water Volumes were down about 15% over the same period last year.

Subsidy cost down \$16,140.00

Increased call-out rates better reflect the cost of call-out.

The budget next year is to keep the economic rate and subsidies consistent.

MACA subsidy will be reduced by \$130,000.00 over the next three years.

Waste services costs will be subsidized by \$57,250.00 from operation and maintenance funding.

#### **FUND ACCOUNTS**

All funds are fully funded.

Hamlet has negotiated a higher interest rate but must pay service costs.

The net rate is higher.

#### **MOTION 2024- 79**

The financial statements for September 30, 2024, are accepted as presented.

Moved: Greg Wilson

Seconded: Hillary Deneron

Carried.

#### **HAMLET FUNDING CHANGES**

The S.A.O. reviewed the new funding changes and how they will specifically affect Fort Liard.

	<u>2023/2024</u>	<u>NEW</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
Water and Sewage	740	610	-130
Operations and Maintenance	1,552	1,571	19
Community Public Infrastructure	856	716	-140
Community Building Funding	314	387	73
	3,462	3,284	178

## **PROJECT STATUS**

### Solid Waste Cell Expansion

Consultation process complete – responding to responses

Expect MVLWB approval in January 2025

Construction summer 2025

### Sewage Sludge Plan

The plan was drafted and submitted to MVLWB.

Lab results for fecal counts in the sludge were above the minimum. Hamlet will ask MVLWB asked to review the minimum, as sludge will only be used as a dump cover.

### Water Plant Cell Coating and Pipe Replacement

Expect work to be done in the summer of 2025

### Water Plant Stairs

WSCC requirement: design issues. Hamlet will review with other communities as we understand they have similar problems.

### Waste Removal GNWT

Work is scheduled for the summer of 2025. Hamlet had to remove some waste in October 2024, which cost \$17,000.

### DMAF Vegetation Fuel Management

Waiting for NWTAC for changes to the area.

## **BYLAWS**

### **MUNICIPAL SERVICE RATE AMENDMENT**

This Bylaw defines a new garbage pickup and disposal rate for multi-unit residential housing with more than two units.

**MOTION 2024- 80**

That Bylaw 344 "Municipal Service Rate Amendment" receives its first reading.

Moved: Hillary Deneron

Seconded: Eva Hope

Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Noted

*NWT Fire Chief Ground Ambulance/ Highway Rescue—MACA is in discussions with Health on this issue. Without agreements in place, the municipality would face extreme liability.*

NWTAC – AGM February 2025 to March 2, 2025

Fort Liard Housing Authority Board – New Members – *council supports new Board Members Sylvia Bertrand and Brenda Berreault.*

**REPORTS**

RCMP – October 2024

Northern Employee Benefits Insider

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

December 30, 2024, Council Christmas Dinner

January 7, 2025 – Swearing In New Council

January 2025 – Hiring Senior Administrative Officer

January 18 & 19, 2025 Council Orientation

January 2025 Conflict of Interest

February 26 – March 2, 2025 – NWTAC AGM

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION 2024- 81**

That the meeting of November 14, 2024, be adjourned.

Moved:


Seconded:

Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.



Derwin Kotchea  
Mayor



John W. McKee  
Senior Administrative Officer