



MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, February 22, 2024

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

MAYOR	Genevieve McLeod
DEPUTY MAYOR	Eva Hope
COUNCILORS	Julia Capot Blanc
	Greg Wilson
	Hillary Deneron
	Cathy Gonet

ABSENT

COUNCILORS	Barbara McLeod [without notice]
------------	---------------------------------

STAFF - Senior Administrative Officer	John W. McKee
---------------------------------------	---------------

The Chairperson (Mayor) took the chair and called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
Special Meeting – February 15, 2024, regular meeting cancelled – no quorum.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Council approved the meeting agenda without changes.

MOTION 2023- 008

That the agenda for the meeting of February 22, 2023, be approved as presented.

Moved:	Greg Wilson
Seconded:	Cathy Gonet
Carried.	

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interests were declared.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting, and no changes were made.

MOTION 2023- 009

The minutes for the January 25, 2024, meeting will be approved as presented.

Moved: Cathy Gonet
Seconded: Greg Wilson
Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FOR THE MINUTES

Ambulances—The SAO provided information on ambulance funding available from Municipal and Community Affairs and some cost estimates for an ambulance. The cost of an ambulance and its operations far exceeds what the Hamlet could afford. The SAO suggested a non-medical vehicle. No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING

- ✓ A letter from the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs outlining the responsibility for Emergency Response Planning was noted.

The Hamlet is obligated to review its emergency response planning annually. The SAO made a PowerPoint presentation on the present status.

Bylaws

282 Fire Protection July 2020
274 Fire Chief Appointment November 2019 /Amended 325
281 Emergency Management July 2020
312 Community Safety Department May 2022

Plan

Emergency Response Plan Approved April 2022
Annual Review February 2024
Evacuation/Registration Plan – in progress
MACA Registration system not operational
Fire Department – Rewrite the procedures completed except for Wildfire.

GNWT HSS Emergency Plan

Draft – needs review with the Regional Chief Operating Officer
There needs to be a better understanding of school use by Hamlet and HSS
Nursing Station in Flood Plain – possibility of water issues

Joint Use Agreement

In the event of flooding, the hamlet requires the use of the community gym for a staging area –the community hall in a flood plain. There is a Joint Use Agreement, but schools must be more aware of Emergency Legislation Supersedes.

Updating Meetings

February 2024, met with RCMP to review plans for this year and what the Hamlet” Emergency Preparedness.
RCMP have scheduled meetings so RCMP prepared for flooding – March 2024

November 2023, met with NWTPC staff from Hay River, Fort Simpson, and Hay River + local Superintendent to review preparedness.

Wildfires

There needs to be more prepared in dealing with wildfires. They identified a top priority in the Hamlet Emergency Response Plan.

Hamlet will be the first responder (fire department), and training is required.

An Evacuation Plan is required.

There was further discussion about planning for a wildfire. The community expects that a fire break will be built. The mayor will attend the NWTAC meeting next week and will get an update on the funding through the NWTAC. The top priority is a Fire Evacuation Plan, which is being developed and will be ready for review at the next meeting. Council discussed some issues that need to be solved to enable a speedy evacuation.

There is a need to get the ADK leadership involved at the planning and action levels.

FINANCIAL

OPERATIONAL BUDGET 2024-2025

The SAO made a PowerPoint Presentation of the statutory requirements for an approved balanced annual budget.

- ✓ The budget must be adopted by April 1, 2024, Section 97 of Hamlets Act
- ✓ Budget is Balanced
- ✓ Current year deficit covered by 2023 surplus.
- ✓ No increase in GNWT payments
 - MACA Operations 1,552,000
 - Library 36,000
 - Safety 303,000
 - Property Tax 27,000 Average – amount collected.
- ✓ 90% of revenue government transfer payments
- ✓ 9.5% increase in revenue due to higher rent and project fees
- ✓ Wages as per chart
- ✓ 2% increase in wages – scale unchanged
- ✓ Employee costs stable
- ✓ Budget for 2024 election – everybody up for re-election
- ✓ Donations on an individual basis – must follow Hamlet's act.
- ✓ Insurance rates have not increased; costs are increasing due to increased values.
- ✓ Computer software licence costs significantly 50k
- ✓ Wi-Fi is essential but costly – cut in telephone costs.
- ✓ Expecting an increase in heating and electricity costs
- ✓ Maintenance costs are based on Loss Control – amount into funds – inspection every two years – maintenance must be more important due to increased replacement costs.
- ✓ Staff Housing Costs 70K annually – MACA no longer allows replacement from CPI.
- ✓ Call Taker 30k per year.
- ✓ Hamlet needs to develop a plan so that fire equipment is replaced over time.
- ✓ Safety – specific – rent for office space and administration fee.
- ✓ Vehicle, equipment, and maintenance costs are becoming high – computerized – more vehicles shipped out.
- ✓ Janitorial services to be cut back.

- ✓ Recreation – all programs funded from contribution agreements but no increase, and more complex agreements – individual events.
- ✓ No GNWT subsidy for waste disposal
- ✓ Revenue does not cover costs – 38k from operations – about 75% collected.
- ✓ Compliance costs astronomical
- ✓ Money into a fund for the replacement of municipal service vehicles

Water Sewage

- ✓ Based on the same economic rate, .0215
- ✓ MACA subsidy is the same at 740,000.
- ✓ Residential subsidy 54%
- ✓ Seniors 98% should not grow as fast with the residency clause.
- ✓ More emphasis on standards compliance
- ✓ Regulatory costs up to 35k
- ✓ Truck maintenance costs are increasing, especially sewage trucks and computer systems.
- ✓ Getting more efficient to reduce staff costs.
- ✓ Diesel Fuel fluctuates – we might have to add a surcharge.
- ✓ 125k to vehicle replacement fund

The SAO reminded the council that monitoring will be necessary due to increasing costs, with no revenue continually increasing to offset them.

Council accepted the budget as presented.

MOTION 2023- 011

That the 2024/2025 Operational Budget was approved as presented.

Moved: Eva Hope
Seconded: Greg Wilson
Carried.

- Councillor Greg Wilson declared a Conflict of Interest and left the council chambers. His wife is an employee.

WAGE COST OF LIVING INCREASE

The SAO put forward a proposal for a 2% cost of living increase for Regular Employees.

Council discussed a 2023 cost-of-living increase for employees at their September 2022 meeting. This increase was to have been implemented for the December 23, 2022, payday. However, this agenda item was tabled and never implemented.

MOTION 2023- 012

That a two percent (2%) cost of living expense be approved for regular employees effective April 1, 2024.

Moved: Eva Hope
Seconded: Hillary Deneron
Carried.

- Councillor Greg Wilson returned to the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

MLA Shane Thompson – Wildfire Protection Funding

REPORTS

NWTAC – What do your fees buy?

PUBLIC NOTICES

Research Application -5864

Research Licence 17460 issued.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular council meeting – March 15, 2024
Meeting with MLA – March 19, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2023- 013

That the special meeting of February 22, 2024, be adjourned.

Moved: Eva Hope
Seconded: Greg Wilson
Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.


Genevieve McLeod
Mayor


John W. McKee
Senior Administrative Officer