

**Tagish Advisory Council
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
January 6th, 2016 at the Community Hall**

Present: Bonnitta Ritchie (Chair), Myron Penner, Rick Halladay, Kathleen Ayers, Danielle Hinnek

Regrets:

Council Administrator: Randy Taylor

Guests:

Call to Order: 7:07pm

Adoption of Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda:

Moved: Kathleen Ayers

Seconded: Danielle Hinnek

Motion: Carried

Adoption of Minutes from December 2, 2015: Bonnitta read a summary of the Minutes

Motion to adopt Minutes as presented:

Moved: Danielle Hinnek

Seconded: Kathleen Ayers

Motion: Carried

Delegates: Clint Ireland, HPW; Mickey Parkin, HPW; Paul Murchison, HPW; Alicia Debreceni, HPW; Chris Madden, CS; Cpl Adam Gardner, Carcross RCMP; Cst Dan Rouleau, Carcross RCMP

New Business:

- **Brush/Tree Clearing in Taku Subdivision:** Taku Subdivision/Tagish residents attended to question HPW and comment on the current tree and brush clearing of cul-de-sacs in Taku subdivision. It was requested that Mickey Parkin provide a background of the project: Mickey explained that this is the same type of work that was done in Marsh Lake. It is to allow storage space for snow and to accommodate larger equipment conducting snow removal, maintenance, etc. Currently HPW has to send up to 3 separate pieces of equipment to accomplish these tasks; the objective is to decrease response time and be more efficient by being able to utilize 1 piece of equipment instead of 3.
The following are questions and comments directed to HPW and the responses by the HPW delegates (see delegates above):
 - Nobody from HPW has been out to measure the cul-de-sacs. We feel there is enough room currently for snow storage as it has been fine to this point, so why does this continue? Semi trailers can make it around the cul-de-sac, why can't HPW equipment? Why are these being clear-cut? It is not being trimmed, but it is clear-cutting. We are upset because nobody told us this was going to happen.
 - There are current standards in place for HPW cul-de-sacs (50 metres across) and the ones in Taku subdivision do not meet that standard. We have only so many resources and we need to be more efficient. Driving a semi around it may be OK now, but if there is more snow, it could be an issue. The first project of this type was

- in Marsh Lake and we did do a better job of communicating. There were a few people who had a problem with the project, but they learned to live with it. We should have done a better job of communicating in Tagish.
- A former HPW heavy equipment operator stated that it has been difficult getting around cul-de-sacs and has seen broken mirrors as a result. It is time consuming cleaning small cul-de-sacs and it costs time and budget because there are 8 cul-de-sacs in Taku sub.
 - No HPW response
 - Fuel truck, water truck, fire truck and ambulance drivers have all said they have no problem getting around the cul-de-sacs. HPW did some clearing 8 years ago and never came back to remove the stumps. There is concern that storing snow in the cul-de-sacs will cause flooding of properties and structures in the Spring. Trees provide wind protection; removal could result in wind damage to other trees and property.
 - This project started late in the season, if we started earlier, the stumps would be removed by now. It is our intention to come back and remove the stumps. Gravel will be placed to prevent water from flowing onto properties.
 - It has been stated that, in part, the clear-cutting is to provide better access to emergency vehicles. It is understood that the Tagish Fire Chief has toured and inspected the cul-de-sacs and has not found any access issues. For snow storage, the entire cul-de-sac does not need to be cleared, there could be selective cutting to permit the space required. All the cul-de-sacs would have been clear-cut by now if not for the action of a group of citizens to stop the cutting. We strongly oppose the clear-cutting of cul-de-sacs and the infringement of property owner's rights with no tangible benefits. The removal of trees destroys the wind, noise and privacy buffer as well as affecting migratory bird habitat.
 - The cutting that is taking place is not on private property and not designated green space; it is on the road right of way. It is not meant for wind buffer or privacy. It is reserved for us to be able to maintain the road. We are using the equipment that we have to maintain the road. There is no budget to purchase specialized equipment for these tasks.
 - Boyd Pyper, Tagish Fire Chief stated that although this is being touted as benefiting emergency access, no one in HPW has consulted with the TFD regarding the recent cutting. It is a fact though that during a heavy snow year, there is difficulty getting the fire truck in the cul-de-sacs. This holds true with many other roads and locations in Tagish. On the other hand, Tagish residents should have been consulted. There was opposition in Marsh Lake, why wasn't Tagish consulted? Not all cul-de-sacs are the same. There is a very large cul-de-sac that would have enough space to store snow without clear-cutting. It is not just a right of way, it is partially our home; you should understand that.
 - HPW should have communicated better, that is why we are here today, to do that. We are talking about all the cul-de-sacs, all the roads, and the highways. Any bit of time we can save on any adds up for overall efficiency. We are trying to increase the level of service to all. There was a lapse in communication with this project as it was delivered differently than in the past. People within the group that delivered this program were not aware of the issue that ensued in Marsh Lake. We made a mistake; lack of communication was not intentional.
 - What is meant by communication? Telling us what you are going to do, or coming and talking to us what might be best to do? Is the communication tonight just to tell us what you are going to do?

- It is our responsibility to maintain the infrastructure. The cutting is on the right of way. It is our experience that this type of clearing does improve efficiency. My intention here today is to tell you that we intend to continue clearing the cul-de-sacs.
- Cul-de-sacs were designed and built with a purpose. Your idea of efficiency goes against that purpose. Will you stop this until proper consultation takes place?
 - We have the responsibility to maintain roads for everyone.
- People who could/did not come to the meeting wrote letters to be read and submitted. All comments expressed opposition to the cutting and questioned the efficiency aspect, reasons for cutting, and communication and loss of privacy.
- Gov't should bring in their equipment and do a test to see how well the cul-de-sacs work. It seems like what we say doesn't matter cause you are just going to do it anyway. This feels like a waste of time.
- Shelley Penner, Ambulance Supervisor thanked HPW for the good snow clearing service provided to Tagish. However, as with the TFD, the Tagish Ambulance Service was also not consulted regarding this. After a drive around, the biggest safety concern noted is the willows that are growing along the roadside, particularly in the Tagish Estates.
- The issue is the lack of training provided to the new operators and their lack of experience. This is no excuse to cut cul-de-sacs. We want assurance that the rest will be left alone. Is there a way to meet in the middle? Can trimming be done to make room and still leave the large trees?
 - At this point we are open to an option such as that. Not sure if it is possible, measurements would have to be taken. We could look at tree health regarding removal of some and consult with an arborist. Not committing to leaving the rest, but rather will take some measurements and talk to a certified arborist.
- Can we have a commitment that no more cutting will take place until the measurements are taken and the arborist is consulted?
 - "Yes, absolutely."

The Chair thanked people for taking the time to come out and express their views and to HPW delegates for speaking to their concerns.

- Carcross RCMP Detachment Update: the *Monthly Mayor's/Chiefs Policing Report December 2015* was distributed and discussed. It was noted that there were 31 calls in December; this is an increase from the same time last year, but an overall decrease for the year. There were increased roadside checkpoints over Christmas/New Years. The total impaired charges in 2015 were 4X the total in 2014. Cpl Gardner urged people to call in any suspected impaired drivers. Drug abuse remains a big issue and it was noted that 85-90% of property crime is related to drug use. The Carcross detachment is now fully staffed. The detachment is committed to be involved in the community and attends community meetings/events, and visits at the Carcross School.
- Council Terms of Reference (TOR): Kathleen distributed Mt Lorne's Operating Policy for review. Danielle reviewed the Marsh Lake website and did not find anything to add to TAC's existing TOR. This item is tabled to the next meeting to give Council time to review Mt Lorne's Policy.

- Council Administrator Contract: Randy advised that the Council Administrator Contract is up for renewal as the existing contract expires the end of January. A new contract was distributed for review and discussion. Randy informed Council that he would continue to perform the duties until March 31, 2016. This provides TAC almost 3 months to hire another administrator. Bonnitta expressed the importance of the Administrator in that a lot of the work accomplished the last 3 years i.e. OIC, Civic Addressing, etc. is due in part to the Administrator performing their duties. Randy noted that time is of the essence as he would not be around much after March 31st to provide training or overlap. Randy offered to document the admin procedures as he has been performing them to assist the new administrator and/or expand the documentation of the contract. Chris Madden mentioned that other LACs might be interested in this procedure document as well.

Randy will email the procedures document to Council and TAC will communicate by email to determine the hiring process. An ad will need to be ready by the 3rd week in January in order to advertise in the February Tagish Newsletter. Shelley suggested that website training could be shared with TCA as they are hiring a new Rec Director who will require training.

Old Business:

- Local Area Planning/Tagish River HPA Update: Randy provided the update, as Paul was unable to attend the meeting. There is nothing new to report on the Tagish River HPA. The next meeting is January 12th. The Local Area Planning Committee has almost completed the Background Document. This document includes maps and discussion papers based on public consultations. These documents will be released shortly. The next public consultation meeting has yet to be determined, but could be in February.
- Pennycook Road Update: the email from Clint Ireland was distributed and discussed. The email addressed the lack of communication with Pennycook residents and stated that HPW will be developing a communication strategy to address this. The email also outlined the work completed and the budget in 2015 under the Rural Road Upgrade Program:
 - Survey of the road right of way \$10, 000
 - Brushing of the unmaintained section (km 2.3 to km 7.7) \$10K
 - Surfacing of unmaintained section (km2.3 to km7.7) \$12K
 - Project Management \$6.5K
- Community Well Update: The facility will be opening this Friday contingent on the water passing the Bacteria Test. The old well will be maintained through the winter in case problems arise with the new well. The Tagish Fire Dept. plans to test the well on Saturday. Rick Kent will be on-site; this is not an official opening. It was asked if there would be a tutorial for the use of the new well. Clear instructions should be posted on-site.

Reports: Financial:

- 2016 Budget/Schedule A: Randy presented Schedule A and 2015 Expenditures documents for discussion. It was noted that the budget is strictly for operations and community events, as TAC cannot purchase any capital items. Randy noted that the 2015 surplus (\$337.66) would be deducted from the upcoming 2016 YG O&M Grant.

Motion to approve the budget and Schedule A as presented:

Moved: Rick Halladay

Seconded: Myron Penner

Motion: Carried

- Cheque Signing Authority: the letter to the Bank of Nova Scotia was presented for signature. Randy explained the letter requires Bonnitta and Rick to sign as remaining Councillors requesting that Myron, Kathleen, and Danielle be added for signing authority. The bank will then notify us when the documents are ready for the new councillors signature.
- Invoices to be paid:

Name	Description	\$amount
Randy Taylor	Admin services	\$360.00
TCA	Hall rental (Jan)	\$150.00
	Total	\$410.00

Correspondence: Correspondence was presented and discussed:

- Pennycook Rd-Clint Ireland Email
 - Previously discussed
- Community Well-Rick Kent Email
 - Previously discussed
- TCA-Thank You Letter
 - Thanking Council for the Christmas events donation
- Amended Yukon Municipal Act
 - Notification from Damien Burns, A/Director, Community Affairs
- AYC Constitution Change Letter and Briefing Note
 - This letter addresses the change in the constitution required to permit LAC's to have a vote at the AGM and/or on the Board of Directors. AYC is requesting comment by the end of January. Possible scenarios were presented in the letter. Bonnitta suggested that one representative from each LAC have a vote at the AGM and one representative from each LAC have a vote on the Board. She asked Council members to review these documents and email her comments and suggestions.
- Yukon Cabinet Budget Tour Email-Norma Davignon
 - Notification that the Premier and/or members of his Cabinet are hosting public meetings to collect input on community priorities for the 2016/17 budget. The meeting in Tagish is tentatively scheduled for January 14, 2016 at 6:00pm.

Question Period:

- TAC was thanked for facilitating this meeting under difficult circumstances; the conduct was impressive. YG and the RCMP were also thanked for attending this meeting.

Adjournment:

- Meeting declared closed at 9:45pm
- Next meeting February 3rd at 7:00pm