

Watson Lake Chamber of Commerce
General Meeting
Tuesday, December 12th, 2017
MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order Meeting called to order @ 12:20 by Cheryl O'Brien
In Attendance- Cheryl O'Brien, Rick Harder, Linda Harder, Kathy Vigeant, Gerry Vigeant, Gerry Amann, Dianne Amann, Jenny Skelton, Gord Sundby, Patti McLeod, Ruth Wilkinson, Cam Lockwood, Chris Irvin, Jessica Petrlak, Barry Drury, Jenn Anderson, Ray Dyck, Kathy Dyck, Dan Reams, Sgt. Kent Langley, Kayla McMillan and Tiffany Lund

Adoption of Agenda

- Additions to Agenda- 2) Moonlight Madness 3) Airport Project 4) Societies Act
- Adoption of Meeting Agenda- *Motioned by Jess, seconded by Gerry A. Motion carried.*
- Adoption of October Meeting Minutes- *Motioned by Kathy D., seconded by Rick. Motion carried.*

Guest Speaker- Patti McLeod

- Fall Session has ended and topics of discussion include:
 - Budget
 - Hospital Act-Amending the Bill to do away with current Hospital Act structure. Details are still being worked out but new changes mean that there will be guaranteed seats for Watson Lake, Whitehorse, Dawson, First Nation reps and local government. Applications to sit on the board will first be approved by local Mayor and Council. Patti urges a local to apply for Watson Lake and stresses the importance of having a voice on this board.
 - Airport Act-Bill has been passed. YTG has stated that they will not implement new fees now but with no guarantee that this will not change in the future.
 - WCB Amendment- PTSD support has now been extended to include EMS, Fire Department, and RCMP.
 - Highways and Public Works- There was a debate on November 16th between Minister Mostyn and Stacey Hassard, regarding the new way of awarding contracts. Cost will no longer be the primary deciding factor when awarding bids. What was previously "Yukon Experience" is now being changed to "Northern Experience" and businesses will be awarded contracts based on the extend of First Nation participation. Minister Mostyn does not yet have a lot of information on what the process will look like and said that it will be fine-tuned as they go along.
The road improvement funds from the Federal Government will be administered over an 8 year time frame and will be roughly \$40mil.
 - Cannabis Legislation- YG has not ruled out private enterprise but plan on selling marijuana at the liquor store in Whitehorse to start with. Communities will order online only. No other information now as YG is waiting for the Federal Government.
 - EMS- Minister has committed to meeting with the community to discuss concerns. The supervisor position has now been moved to Whitehorse and a lack of staff has caused RCMP and WFLD to step up on calls, which is costing the TOWL and RCMP money.
 - Carbon Tax- YG is waiting to hear from the Federal Government before making any serious moves. The tax will target anyone who uses diesel and YG says that 100% will go back to Yukoners but there is nothing in place for funds to go towards reducing carbon emissions.
 - Elections Act review- new report. Watson Lake now lumped with Ross River. Watson Lake needs to ask for a public meeting for consultation.
 - YG doing a coroners review- more information to come.

- Raketti Family is starting a fund for students pursuing trades, with preference going to students from Watson Lake.

Old Business

1) Policeman's Ball

- Tenders are being sent out this week. Committee is meeting this week for further planning. Business of the year award will be presented at Gala.

2) Moonlight Madness

- Cheryl spoke with participating businesses and found that most places were a bit slower this year, with more people visiting but less spending. There was also some feedback on the time of day that it is held.

3) Airport Project

- Rick has received the final report and invoice from the consultant and would like to move on some of the recommendations made. He will hold a community meeting in the new year.

New Business

4) Yukon Societies Act

- Jenny has been working with the Yukon Community Services, giving feedback, for the new legislation which will be implemented in 2018. There are many issues now around the filing and audit/review required for non-profit groups.

Reports around Town

WL Ski Club- Jenny Skelton

- Ski Hill Auction was successful; however, the board will have to do some reimbursements to people who purchased items donated by JT Newberry.
- Ski Pass sales are going well, T-Bar lift passed inspection and hill is ready to open once it gets more snow.
- Ski Club will require an audit or review next year if the Yukon Society Act does not change.

Yukon College- Kayla McMillan

- Upcoming courses include Intro to Office, First Aid, and ASSIST. The ASSIST program has 30 spots available and priority will go to first responders interested in attending.
- Jess asked if Mental Health First Aid will be available. Kayla will consider getting now that she knows there is a need and interest.

RCMP- Sgt. Kent Lang

- Written report provided and held on file.
- Calls are down from last year by roughly 200.
- There was a recent fraud incident with the food bank. The accused has left town and there are previous warrants for his arrest.
- Cheryl noticed that there were no drug trafficking arrests in 2017 but Sgt. Kent assures that it is still a big focus but that they are more difficult cases to close. Detachment is currently seeking intelligence.

TOWL- Cam Lockwood

- NLC water line broke causing a flood and extensive damage. Insurance agents coming to assess damage.
- TOWL received good feedback from the community on the water/sewer bylaw.
- New employee hired for Public Works department.
- TOWL is working on revamp the Fire Chief position which may include removing the position from the union. Cam hopes to have it resolved in January. Cam also looking into getting proper compensation for calls to BC which has not been happening in the past. Fire Department is now renting the entire Fire Hall building.
- TOWL now focusing on infrastructure needs which include the lift station/lagoon, subdivision expansions, Tintina water/sewer upgrades and Rec Centre upgrades (electrical and back up heat).

Property Management- Barry Drury

- A permanent custodian position will be posted in the new year. Scott MacLean has been hired as permanent full time for property maintenance.

Outdoor Rec. Club- Kathy Dyck

- General Meeting will be held on January 16th at 7:00pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:35pm