



MINUTES

of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Village of Chase
held in the Council Chamber at the Village office at 826 Okanagan Avenue, and via Zoom
on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Lepsoe
Councillor Colin Connett
Councillor Ron Harder <via Zoom>
Councillor Jane Herman
Councillor Fred Torbohm

In Attendance: Joni Heinrich, Chief Administrative Officer
Sean O'Flaherty, Director of Corporate Operations
Deb Lovin, Chief Financial Officer

Public Participants: 23 in-person, 8 via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lepsoe called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Torbohm
Seconded by Councillor Herman

“THAT the agenda of the September 26, 2023 Regular Meeting be adopted as presented.”

CARRIED
#2023/09/26_001

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the September 12, 2023 Regular Meeting

Moved by Councillor Connett
Seconded by Councillor Torbohm

“THAT the minutes of the September 12, 2023 Regular Meeting be adopted as presented.”

CARRIED
#2023/09/26_002

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

5. PUBLIC INPUT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

Every Child Matters Crosswalk

- In support of the crosswalk and request for Kukpi7 Lynn Duck-Chief's press release to be included in the minutes of this meeting
- Opposed to the crosswalk – the government is allowing private lands to be taken away by Indigenous people
- Recognition that we are on unceded territory of the Secwepemc people and support the crosswalk
- Concerned that this was defeated at the last meeting and had to be brought back – a crosswalk is a good way to show our young people compassion
- Support for the crosswalk – everyone should be comfortable living in our country

Water and Sewer Rates

- It is unconstitutional to charge money for water
- The Village will be receiving a bill for storing a water meter on my property
- The increase in water rates is too high too fast – should be done in babysteps
- Cannot dump all these increases on the residents of our little town at one time

6. DELEGATIONS

6.1 Kukpi7 (Chief) Irvin Wai – Neskonlith Indian Band

- Was saved from being taken to the residential school as my grandmother married a Chinese man so my last name is Chinese
- Racism is real for all of us – it is hard to get out of bed every morning unsure of when one will be targeted
- Sad thing to be treated as a second class citizen in your own country
- The crosswalk is a small thing with major implications – it brings awareness about the terrible experiences of the residential school system and brings closure from that awareness
- We are neighbours and friends and an outright 'No' is a slap in the face
- It takes all of us to beat racism
- A crosswalk is a visual reminder that we are all working together, moving ahead together
- We will all share in the maintenance of the crosswalk – it is not just painting on the ground to us
- Thanked everyone for their time, noting there will always be hard decisions, we will not all agree on everything but we must continue to work on our relationships
- The crosswalk is a small ask and a big gesture for our people

6.2 Councillor Shelley Witsky – Adams Lake Indian Band

- In her second term on council, have worked with many groups including Chase for the betterment of the area including landmarks, trails, cultural education
- Told a story of some families who took their children into the mountains so they would not be taken away to residential schools
- An Indigenous person in the Okanagan was hidden and raised by her own family and has been very successful working towards the healing of the Indigenous people and helping to educate non-Indigenous people
- She gave the example of Osoyoos Indian Band and Chief Louis, being very successful in working with the Town of Osoyoos to enhance tourism in that region
- The four communities have discussed the crosswalk for over a year – would like to see the crosswalk and murals and banners too

6.3 Nakia Hill – Summary Overview of the 2023 Summer Recreation Program

- Showed pictures from various days and activities of the program
- Average number of children was 25, the last day we had 42 children
- Some days we had to turn children away as we did not have enough staff
- We toured the police station, the Ambulance station and the medical clinic, swam in the wading pool, played at the creek, went to the beach, played games, watched movies

- The wading pool is an integral part of the program and needs some TLC
- Would like to promote this program and the need for more funding in 2024
- Many positive comments from the parents/guardians and the children who attended
- Gratitude given to the Chase Lions who contributed \$15,000 towards the program

7. REPORTS

a) Mayor and Council Reports

Mayor Lepsoe

Reported on various activities and sessions attended at UBCM including:

- Requested higher level representation on the Shuswap Watershed Council
- Participated in the Small Talk Forum – issues discussed are pertinent to small communities like Chase – there was discussion about asking the Province to allow fire trucks to be used longer than 20 years in small communities
- Attended a session called, “renovating the public hearing process”, our Council’s resolution passed – to request the Province to provide more funding for the First Responders (medical) assistance small communities provide to the Ambulance service
- Met with Kevin Falcon, Leader of BC United and our MLA Todd Stone
- Attended the annual banquet and had a chance to speak with many Mayors and Councillors of other communities

September 23 – spoke on behalf of the Village at the vigil held in Memorial Park for the firefighters who were killed in a car crash

Councillor Connett

September 12 – Attended the Council meeting and a Chase and District Health Services Foundation meeting

Councillor Herman

September 12 – Council meeting

September 13 – Chase meeting

September 16 – Attended the Chase Heat tailgate party

September 18 to 22 Attended UBCM – very interesting sessions and met lots of elected officials from many other small communities

September 23 – Took part in the Chase Rotary Golf Tournament

September 24 – Met with Hisako Takahashi from Cates, Ford and Epp regarding the possibility of a seminar about Estate planning being held in Chase in the future

Monitored emails and phone calls and spoke with many residents regarding the Every Child Matters crosswalk issue

Councillor Harder

Received lots of phone calls about the crosswalk – would say it was 50/50 for and against based on the calls received. Also received lots of complaints about the property on Brooke Drive – the residents should not have to put up with the mess.

Councillor Torbohm

September 12 – Attended Council meeting

Monitored emails, did lots of talking with people about the crosswalk – found that most people are in support of it.

Moved by Councillor Herman

Seconded by Councillor Torbohm

“THAT the reports from Council members be received for information.”

CARRIED

#2023/09/26_003

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 Every Child Matters Crosswalk

Moved by Councillor Herman

Seconded by Councillor Torbohm

“THAT Village of Chase proceed with the installation of an Every Child Matters Crosswalk at a cost of \$625 from each of the four communities; AND,

THAT the cost of the annual maintenance of the crosswalk be shared equally between the four communities.

CARRIED

Councillor Connett OPPOSED

#2023/09/26_004

8.2 Fees and Charges Bylaw – Water and Sewer Fee Increases

Moved by Councillor Torbohm

Seconded by Councillor Harder

“THAT third reading of Village of Chase Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 820-2016 Amendment Bylaw No. 930-2023 be recinded.”

CARRIED

#2023/09/26_005

Moved by Councillor Torbohm

Seconded by Councillor Harder

“THAT the Village of Chase Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 820-2016 Amendment Bylaw No. 930-2023 be read a third time as presented.”

CARRIED

#2023/09/26_006

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Development Permit #2023-5, 1225 Montgomery Place

Moved by Councillor Torbohm

Seconded by Councillor Herman

“THAT Development Permit DP2023-5 be approved.”

CARRIED

#2023/09/26_007

9.2 2-Year Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw 931-2023

The Chief Financial Officer presented information about tax exemptions.

Moved by Councillor Herman

Seconded by Councillor Harder

“THAT the 2024 through 2025 Village of Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw 931-2023 be given first 3 readings.”

CARRIED

#2023/09/26_008

9.3 4-Year Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 932-2023

Moved by Councillor Torbohm

Seconded by Councillor Herman

**“THAT the 2024 through 2027 Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 932-2023
be given first 3 readings.”**

CARRIED

#2023/09/26_009

10. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

11. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON MUNICIPAL MATTERS

Dan Stevens 1016 Second Avenue

- Spoke about various opportunities available through Fire Smart program and offered to assist the Village in obtaining funding.

Adria Mathisen 28 Beach Crescent

- Wondered if any of the concerns raised by the community about the water rates are actually taken into consideration by the Council
- Surprised that Councillor Harder referred to a specific property in Chase in his that needs to be ‘cleaned up’ when there are a number of properties in Chase that need attention

Larry Walker 221 Pine Street

- Village should have a bylaw that requires people to clean up their ripened fruit that has fallen from trees – bears are in town to find food and once they are caught they will be killed
- Also stated that there has to be a better way to monitor water usage in the Village’s parks

Kelly Franklin 750 Elm Street

- She thanked Council for reconsidering the crosswalk
- She stated concern by the resistance of some members of council – she believes there should be a crosswalk, banners and murals
- She stated that Councillor Connett should step down from his role as Councillor

Shelley Witzky – Councillor Adams Lake Indian Band

- Adams Lake Indian Band as well as the other two Indigenous communities are huge supporters of Chase – lots of money is spent at businesses in Chase
- We want to continue to have positive relationships between all four communities

Lawrence Sampson of Adams Lake Indian Band

- Was given money to ensure crosswalk was done if Chase did not want to do it because of the cost
- Spoke about the need and plans for controlled burning above IR#4 in the spring

Celia Hudson 440 Juniper

- Very disappointed at the 2 occurrences of inappropriate language from a council member during this meeting – this behaviour should not be permitted

12. RELEASE OF IN CAMERA ITEMS

None

13. IN CAMERA

None

14. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lepsoe announced that a Special Meeting of Council will be held tomorrow, September 27, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. to consider adoption of Bylaw No. 920-2023 (Water and Sewer rates)

Moved by Councillor Torbohm
Seconded by Councillor Herman

“THAT the September 26, 2023 Regular Meeting be adjourned.”

**CARRIED
#2023/09/26_010**

The meeting concluded at 5:45 p.m.

David Lepsoe, Mayor

Sean O’Flaherty, Corporate Officer