



## ASSOCIATION OF YUKON COMMUNITIES

### - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING -

Date: Sept 17, 2022 @ 09:00 - 16:00

Location: 131 River Dr, Carmacks, YT Y0B 1C0

#### DRAFT MINUTES

#### **In Attendance:**

##### **Executive and Directors**

Councillor Ted Laking - President  
Councillor Lauren Hanchar – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Councillor Doris Hansen – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Mayor Gord Curran – Immediate Past President  
Councillor Joann Aird – Village of Mayo  
Mayor William Kendrick – City of Dawson  
Councillor Mellisa Murray – City of Whitehorse  
Councillor Denina Paquette – Town of Watson Lake  
Councillor Michelle Friesen – City of Whitehorse

##### **Members**

CAO Shelley Hassard – Village of Teslin  
CAO Lisa Teggarty – Village of Carmacks  
CAO Tracy Thomas – Village of Haines Junction (via zoom)  
CAO Margrit Wozniak – Village of Mayo  
CAO Cory Bellmore – City of Dawson  
CAO Larry Baran – Town of Faro

##### **Staff**

David Rozsa - Manager of Operations

##### **Yukon Government**

Carolyn Moore - Community Services Advisor  
Damien Burns - Asst. Deputy Minister of Community Development  
Richard Mostyn - Minister of Community Services (via zoom)

## **Guests**

Jordan Stackhouse – Elevator Yukon – (via zoom)  
John Glynn-Morris – Elevator Yukon – (via zoom)  
Currie Dixon – Leader of Official Opposition  
Kate White – Leader of the Third Party – (via zoom)

## **Regrets**

Mayor Lee Bodie – Village of Carmacks  
Councillor Leif Nyland – Town of Faro  
A/City Manager Jeff O'Farrell – City of Whitehorse  
CAO Cam Lockwood – Town of Watson Lake  
Mayor Bruce Tomlin – Village of Haines Junction  
Councillor Bonnitta Ritchie – Tagish Advisory Council (LACs)  
Councillor Jeff Myke – Town of Watson Lake

## ***Ministerial Update:***

Minister Mostyn addressed members:

- It has been a very busy Summer, and September with on-going community tours.
- The engagement and professionalism of our communities was commended.
- The flood season this year was presumed to be worse than it's ever been, and more difficult logistically as well. Many communities grappling with historic flooding. Recognized VoT for the extraordinary job they did in responding to the flooding crisis and handling the situation with demonstrated resilience. Flooding anticipated to become a regular occurrence in YT.
- Flooding followed by fires in challenging locations, furthering the difficulties experienced. Despite this, they were able to avert disaster.
- Process has begun for the engagement of communities with regards to increasing council term to 4 years. Looking for and happy to receive feedback.
- Asked municipalities their thoughts on moving municipal elections to the Spring, to avoid potential election fatigue due to numerous elections occurring simultaneously.
- COVID Relief Funding is an on-going topic. Stated there is no money in YG's budget for this year and so they're looking at what can be done in the future instead.
- YG's position is that they understand there were *some* costs; believes in some situations there were no added costs and requests that municipalities are transparent regarding where they *saved* money. Steadfastly believes that there were cost savings incurred during COVID19. Stated that YG has data from the national perspective.
- Better Buildings was a big initiative for Minister Mostyn, and they'll be in touch with municipalities soon to get agreements in place.
- Requested members *chew on* the knowledge that communities in Ontario are hurting whereas we are not seeing that here in the Yukon due to economic

growth of 8% and a nationally low unemployment rate. Stated Yukon is “absolutely going gangbuster growing at an incredible pace.”

- Speaking with CoW council, and others, regarding housing crisis across the territory. Believes Yukon is currently “climbing out of the hole,” and is very impressed with the progress so far regarding the housing crisis across the Yukon.
- Opined that people are adapting to a much harsher reality in Ontario, and the Yukon’s situation is far more favourable.
- Clarified that these opinions are not with the intent to diminish the struggles being faced here in Yukon – *He would rather have the problems we’re facing when compared to the problems of others.*

### **1. Call to Order – President Ted Laking**

The meeting was formally called to order at 9:31 a.m.

### **2. Changes to or Adoption of Agenda – President Ted Laking**

**Changes:** included discussion of CCBF in relation to FCM (9.4), and a letter from MLA Kate White in her capacity as the Chair of the Special Committee on Electoral Reform (9.5). The round table discussion to come after the final health break to ensure enough time is had for policy discussions.

**Motion BD22-09** It was duly moved and seconded THAT the Agenda be accepted as amended.

**Carried Unanimously**

### **3. Adoption of the Minutes from the Mar 5, 2022 Board Meeting**

**Motion BD22-10** It was duly moved and seconded THAT the Minutes of the March 5, 2022 Board Meeting be adopted as presented.

**Carried Unanimously**

#### **4. President's Report – President Ted Laking**

Members were directed to the report provided. President Ted Laking updated members on:

- Executive Director, Staffing, Hiring
- Community visits by AYC delegation
- Resolutions from the 2022 AGM

**Motion BD22-011 It was duly moved and seconded THAT the President's Report be accepted as presented.**

**Carried Unanimously**

#### **6. Finance and Administration**

##### **6.1 Reports to August 31, 2022 – David Rozsa**

After some discussion, the financial reports to August 31, 2022 were accepted as presented.

**Motion BD22-12 It was duly moved and seconded THAT the August 31, 2022 financials report be accepted as presented.**

**Carried Unanimously**

##### **6.2 CTTS Update – David Rozsa**

Members were updated on the activities of the Community Training Trust Society. Delays in funding were the result of YG change of department from Adv. Ed. To Econo. Dev. First payment of fiscal year not received until Sept 7<sup>th</sup>. Two new board members were added from CoW (Ted Laking) and CoD (Alexander Somerville) fully diversifying the board. \$3,554 funded so far to VoT, with \$11,716 pending dispersal of funds and \$16,024 pending the Board's adjudication for Q2 (\$9,656) + Q3 (\$6,368).

## 7. Legislative Update

### 7.1 Leader of Official Opposition, Currie Dixon:

With regards to legislative assembly, it's an odd time. Landscape changed; Dixon is still leader of Opposition, but Premier Sandy Silver has stepped down. They're unsure which caucus or cabinet will be running to succeed him. Collectively considering how to approach the sitting and bring forward questions, but regardless they will fulfil their role and look forward to doing so.

Regards to AYC / Municipalities: they have a number of questions about the budget. Particularly they're interested in federal infrastructure funding. Aware that CCBF is coming to conclusion; YG will need to re-negotiate to develop the successor to the CCBF agreement.

In terms of role as Leader, last election platform wanted to increase support to Yukon municipalities. Want to reassess if those commitments are still proper and adequate.

Extended thanks to Village of Carmacks for hosting the Board Meeting.

Dixon asked about AYC's view about Better Build program.

AYC Position: *no update to provide*. It was a huge rush at the time, and AYC hasn't received much information on the path forward yet.

### 7.2 Leader of Third Party, Kate White:

Municipalities are the direct conduit to the people, dealing with the daily happenings of their citizens. Urges municipalities to bring forward what they're looking for, either individually or collectively through AYC.

Letters from the Special Committee on Electoral Reform went out to municipalities, but it was an oversight that AYC did not receive one. Believes as an advocacy organization AYC can bring a more rounded vision of what collective municipalities would like to see going forward.

As it stands the committee does not currently have a position, as the report is not complete. Anticipated to be submitted in the Fall. White believes that the legislature will be driven by the topic of affordability, housing, and lot development.

## 8. Ongoing Business

### 8.1 2022 Resolutions Update (Attachments)

Members were directed to the report provided.

**Demand Charges:** Municipalities don't have the opportunity to dial their energy down at peak times, when they deliver services, resulting in peak demand charges. A change to address this was requested to begin, so a resolution to the issue can be determined.

Letter from Minister regarding Peak Demand Charges discussed more a lesson on electrical charges, and how the process works. It was insightful knowledge but did not address the issue. President Laking feels that we may not succeed with this request and seeks confirmation from Board on path forward. It was mentioned from the Board that each metre has a specific read; suggested a demand metre be changed to a residential metre but assign those metres at the commercial rates. Therefore, they pay based on usage and not based on the "demand metre" rates. It was asked if this would result in a lesser cost, but this was not ascertained. Surmised that the cost would be less as demand wouldn't be as high but was not verified.

**Action Item:** President Laking to follow up with Utilities and Minister Streicker for more information regarding electrical charges and the process to determine if the path suggested above will bring the costs down. Or, if there are other methods to achieve this result.

**Increase Council Term to 4-years:** This has had a lot of progress so far, Minister Mostyn is on board; YG has already begun engagement with the public, and they are addressing this resolution with promptitude.

If public is in support, YG would like to get legislation next fall so that at the next election constituents will be voting on council for a 4-year term. Suggested that the spring election, if moved, take place in April. Adding the question of moving the election to the survey was deemed too late in the process to be effective, as many have already submitted their responses presumably. Due to fiscal year ends, having a Spring election could create complications for municipalities.

**Action Item:** President Laking will contact Minister Mostyn for more detailed information.

**Emergency Relief for Municipalities:** Minister Mostyn stated there's no money in the budget for this. Believes that municipalities may have saved or made money, rather than lost it. Minister requests a more extensively researched report for a budget consideration next Spring.

## 8.2 Policy Discussion Papers (Attachments)

Members were directed to the previously submitted attachments. It was not included in the package provided due to environmental concerns over utilizing an additional 400 pages to the booklets for a brief presentation. An action plan is to follow prepared by Elevator Yukon with guidance from AYC and Executive.

These are draft papers and are living copies. Looking for feedback to amend them based on AYC's needs and additionally they'd like to find new ways to engage and get more data. Looking to create five focus groups, on pre-determined dates, to discuss the five drafts on a separate basis for anyone who wants to add their input or participate. The board will get oversight review of the papers before they are finalized to provide feedback and direction.

**Action Plan:** Executive and AYC staff to set up preliminary dates for these focus groups.

Went in Camera @ 11:56am

## 9. New Business

9.1 **CMG:** *redacted*

**Motion BD22-13** It was duly moved and seconded THAT **\$8,000** from Professional Fees budget is dedicated toward the AYC-led CMG Project.

Carried unanimously.

9.2 A) **Healthcare in Communities:** *redacted*

9.2 B) **Shortage of Health Staffing in communities:** *redacted*

**Action Plan:** President Laking to reach out to Health Minister regarding what can be done to address these gaps detailed in 9.2 A, and 9.2 B.

9.3 **Territorial Supplementary Budget – AYC Position:** *redacted*

**Action Plan:** President Laking to draft a statement lobbying these topics. This statement will then be provided to the Board for review. Oct 5<sup>th</sup> is the requested deadline.

#### 9.4 Canada Community-Building Fund Renewal (Gas Tax): *redacted*

**Action Plan:** President Laking to supply FCM's position to Minister Mostyn and provide the position that AYC agrees and would similarly like these implemented.

#### 9.5 Special Committee on Electoral Reform: *redacted*

**Went out of camera @ 1:48 pm**

### 8. Ongoing Business: Continued...

#### 8.3 Round Table: Member Check in:

**VoM:** Not a lot to provide. Question to Executive regarding the policy of renaming awards and how to recognize municipal staff (as per Motion AGM22-010 and Motion AGM22-011). President Laking stated there was no updates to provide, as it was tabled in a triage fashion until the ED comes on board officially.

**ToWL:** Flo Charger installed and works well. Secured funding through FEDs for signage for their trails. New municipal building is complete, but has some deficiencies being worked on. New signage being installed has Kaska language as well as English. Infrastructure – dry hydrants coming to Watson Lake. Looking for a public waste drop off and secured some large expensive items for their public works department. Streetlights from town to 2-Mile are progressing, and the government is financing the project. More crosswalks added to increase safety, with overhead lighting. ToWL sold land to YG for 10-units that will be staffed 24-hours. Secured a new Bylaw Officer but pending on a Fire Chief. Pool was not open due to lack of pool manager. Three youth were sent to Whitehorse to attend lifeguard training. When it comes to proactive funding, they've secured 1/4 phases of funding, discussing with MP Henley on how to get funding for the rest due to a late application. Had seven people visit Watson Lake to do work on the signpost.

**VoC:** CAO Lisa Teggarty has come on board. They're building a new emergency services building (Fire, S&R, Medical). This will include office space, offsetting some of the cost. They are also building a new arena. Doing some work in the last year at Merv Tew Park, including new amenities like beach volleyball, a day use area, and more. Assessment work done on heritage buildings, plans to revitalize them next year. Spent millions on sewage treatment plant years ago; now they propose removing it and putting in a lagoon instead. Consultation with Little Salmon First Nation anticipated too. New weigh scale expected for next year.

Mayor Bodie sends regrets that VoC were unable to include an event the night prior to the Board Meeting due to inundation.

**VoT:** Summer was busy; they experienced significant flooding. Extent was 3<sup>rd</sup> of a metre from their record, rising 20cms daily giving rising evacuation concerns. Permanent flood mitigation plan in the works, some funding provided so far. Expected this may cost up to \$10m dollars based on Engineer report. Had trouble getting funding from governments, due to jurisdictional issues. They deployed 80,000 small bags, 50 water pumps, and countless super bags in their response to the flooding. Completed \$2m dollars worth of permanent mitigation work, so far. Firehall is nearing completion, around October. Boundary expansion is hoped to be completed this term. Updating water bylaw, hasn't been updated in awhile.

**CoD:** Water/sewer upgrades continue. Lagoon planning ongoing, opposition to the idea is growing. Land Dev. projects continuing, no forward results so far, but various developments underway. Doesn't appear they will have new lots for sale this year, one project the city is undertaking on the North End, Phase 1, Water and Sewer Extension with a few lots. Temp Recycling diversion centre, working on a larger full time diversion centre. Hoping to have it completed by late fall. Dawson has experienced some staff turnover. Council is still looking at future end uses for the old CIBC bank on Main Street. New mountain bike trail for all skill levels coming down off the Dome. Rec Dept. awaiting an all-electric Zamboni. Four new councillors in Dawson; everyone getting up to speed and learning to work together. Vacant residential land policy available on website. Policy outlines how these lots are identified, with the idea of helping to inspire people to build and develop on them.

**CoW:** Recent public input session for OCP resulted in good feedback. They experienced landslides, a sewage leak, and the addition of a bypass sewer line. Trouble with procurement resulting in delays, and a lack of bids. Lot of public engagement ongoing, including snow and ice removal getting 900 responses. Creating inclusivity committee. Transportation Masterplan was rerouting transit system, public were not satisfied with result, so it's being reworked. Free transit offered during month of June, administration bringing back numbers regarding whether this resulted in more people using transit. Truth and Reconciliation Day coming up, they will be raising the flag and an unveiling of new crosswalks is to come.

**VoHJ:** No representative of VoHJ was available to attend at the time of the round table member check in.

**ToF:** Discussed their council initiative of getting pertinent information out through a monthly newsletter: *Focused on Faro*. New RCMP detachment to be completed soon. Lands Branch being worked with to get industrial and residential land turned over to ToF. Had two plebiscites (not to be confused with a referendum). Still

pending what to do with the Solar Complex, which has been unoccupied for 10-years.

**10. Other**

**10.1** Next board of directors meeting, in **Whitehorse**, on **Dec. 3, 2022**.

DRAFT

## 11. Business Meeting Adjourned

11.1 Meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

**Moved and duly seconded to adjourn the business meeting.**  
*As witness to the approval of these minutes.*

*Ted Laking*

Ted Laking (Oct 11, 2022 09:59 PM)

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**President**

*Lauren*

Lauren Hancher (Nov 4, 2022 14:37 PM)

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**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

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### List of Action Items

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