



**MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF CARMACKS ON May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, IN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Mayor: J. Lachance

Councillors: C. Bellmore, T. Wheeler, D. Hansen, D. Mitchell

Staff: CAO C. Pelletier, P. Singh

Delegation: Marsha Staples, David MacNeil, Jeff Melnyennk

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor: J. Lachance called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Moment of Silence – In Memory of Ted Buyers**

*"Before we proceed, Council would like to take a moment to acknowledge the recent passing of Elder Ted Buyers, a cherished member of our community. Ted was a citizen of the Village of Carmacks, and we would like to honor his memory with a moment of silence. I kindly ask everyone to join me now in a brief silence in his remembrance.*

*...moment of silence...*

*Thank you."*

- 2. AGENDA:** Council reviewed the agenda.

**25-09-01 M/S Councillors D. Hansen / T. Wheeler motioned that the agenda be accepted as amended under Delegation addition of 4.2 RCMP and 4.3 Wildfire Management.**

**CARRIED**

- 3. MINUTES:**

**3.1** From the regular council meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**25-09-02 M/S Councillors C. Bellmore / D. Hansen motioned that the minutes be accepted as presented.**

**CARRIED**

- 4. DELEGATION**

**4.1 Marsha Staples** appeared as a delegation to share her observations regarding signage issues within and surrounding the Village of Carmacks. Drawing from her review of the Village's Strategic Plan and personal experience, she identified several



concerns affecting community appearance and visitors, especially with the summer tourism season approaching.

**Key Points Raised:**

- **Misleading Signage:**  
The Sunrise Service Station signs on both ends of the Village suggest the businesses are open and advertise fuel prices, though both are closed—potentially misleading highway travelers.
  - **Deteriorating Condition:**  
The Coal Mine Campground sign is in poor condition. Ms. Staples asked if there are maintenance policies in place for such signage.
  - **Visitor Centre Sign Confusion:**  
Question mark symbols directing to the Visitor Centre and medical services are unclear and poorly marked. International visitors may not understand these symbols or their destinations, particularly along River Drive and at the Recreation Centre.
  - **Overgrown Vegetation:**  
Grass and brush growth often obscure signage visibility. Responsibility for clearing was clarified to fall under Highways vegetation maintenance programs.
- Strategic Plan References:**
- Signage concerns tie into Strategic Plan items such as “signage consolidation programs” and Policies which promote improving first impressions and visitor satisfaction. Ms. Staples noted the lack of visible progress or public information on these initiatives.

**Recommendations:**

- Remove or update closed-business signage (e.g., Sunrise).
- Clarify signage maintenance responsibilities with YG Highways & Public Works.
- Improve and simplify directional signage using universal symbols.
- Utilize existing signage funding before summer peak season.

**Follow-Up:**

Council acknowledged Ms. Staples’ input. CAO confirmed that funding is available for visitor signage and other improvements.

Ms. Staples was thanked for her presentation and continued advocacy for small but meaningful community enhancements.

**4.2 RCMP Monthly Report**

**Corporal David MacNeil – April 2025 Monthly Policing Report**

Corporal David MacNeil presented the April policing update. While call volume was lower than usual, several significant files were noted. Alcohol-related incidents remained consistent with last year.



### **Operational Activity:**

- Regular patrols totaled 153 hours.
- Tickets are issued for unregistered, uninsured vehicles, speeding, and four warnings. Total 46 tickets are issued year-to-date.

### **Key Investigations:**

- **Tantalus School Threat:**  
A fourth-hand threat report caused significant concern at the school. RCMP conducted lockdown drills, which were successfully carried out. No charges were laid due to lack of direct evidence. Plan in place to conduct proactive lockdown drills next school year.
- **Firearm Photo Incident:**  
A community concern about a photo showing an individual with what appeared to be an AR-15 was investigated. It was confirmed to be a BB gun, and the photo was outdated. No charges were laid.
- **ATV Collision:**  
Two individuals were seriously injured in an ATV crash. The case remains open, and charges are anticipated. Investigation includes search warrants orders.

### **Staffing Update:**

- Full RCMP staffing is expected by June, including Greg, Mark, and Corporal MacNeil.

### **Additional Notes:**

- Court hearings will be held at the Fire Hall.
- Council thanked RCMP for community engagement, including school visits and local events.

## **4.3 Jeff from Wildfire Management**

Jeff from Wildland Fire Management provided an overview of wildfire operations and preparedness efforts in the Carmacks region for the upcoming fire season.

### **Key Highlights:**

- **Staffing & Resources:**
  - The Carmacks area is managed by a combination of full-time and seasonal staff, including Regional Manager Jerry Trudeau.



- Currently staffed with 2–3 wildfire crews (out of 4 ideal). Additional crews and equipment (e.g. helicopters, air tankers) can be mobilized from other regions if needed.
- Fire Zones & Response:
  - Fires are managed according to proximity: critical zones (red) near communities receive immediate attention, while wilderness zones (green) are monitored and assessed for risk to property and life.
  - Wildland Fire Management operates under the Incident Command System (ICS) for structured and coordinated response.
- Detection & Equipment:
  - Fires are detected via fire lookouts (e.g. Bobby Gage), public reports, air traffic, and satellite heat sensors.
  - Operations are supported by tracking software, analog radios, satellite phones, and aerial detection flights.
  - Air tankers and helicopters are deployed for suppression based on fire size and location.
- FireSmart & Community Protection:
  - Jeff emphasized the importance of FireSmart practices, including clearing vegetation within 1.5 meters of structures to reduce ember ignition.
  - FireSmart Canada resources are available, and brochures can be shared with the public.
- Fire Guards:
  - An old fire guard from 1999 near Carmacks is mapped and ready to be widened quickly if fire activity increases.
  - Additional natural barriers, like the new road and bridge, also act as passive fire guards.
- Training & Fitness:
  - Crew members undergo an annual fitness test to qualify as Type 1 Firefighters.
  - Training is ongoing, and several familiar faces are returning to the Carmacks unit this year.

#### Current Status & Forecast:

- No active fires in the Carmacks region at this time.
- The season's severity is highly weather-dependent. Drought or rain will significantly affect activity levels.

Council thanked Jeff for his thorough update and expressed appreciation for Wildland Fire Management's presence, local engagement, and preparedness.



## **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

5.1 Request for Financial Support – 3rd Annual Ironman Hand games Tournament

**25-09-03 M/S Councillors C. Bellmore / T. Wheeler motioned to give \$500.00 to 3rd Annual Ironman Hand Games Tournament.**

**CARRIED**

5.2 Yukon Government Appointments Deputy Minister of Tourism and culture and Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

**25-09-04 M/S Councillors C. Bellmore / D. Hansen motioned that correspondence is acknowledged by council and filed as no further action required.**

**CARRIED**

## **6. REPORTS**

### **6.1 Councillor Activity Reports**

**Councillor D. Hansen** reported attending the AYC Annual General Meeting, noting that it was very well attended and that she enjoyed the experience. She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to participate and had no further updates since the last meeting.

**Councillor D. Mitchell** shared that although he had initially committed to participating in a local tournament, he had to withdraw due to conflicting commitments over the weekend. He did, however, attend the AYC AGM and remarked that he found it enjoyable and worthwhile.

**Councillor T. Wheeler** stated that she is currently on holiday and has no council activities to report on for the period. She informed Council of her intent to join the next meeting via Zoom while aboard a ship departing from Vancouver, though she noted that her internet connection may be unreliable. She thanked Council and affirmed her intent to remain engaged.

**Councillor C. Bellmore** reported attending the AYC AGM, which she found to be a positive and engaging event. She said that it was great to reconnect with other attendees and is looking forward to attending the upcoming FCM conference. She also noted the upcoming socioeconomic presentation on mental health initiatives scheduled for May 14 at the curling rink, beginning with a supper at 5:30 p.m. and the presentation to follow at 6:00 p.m.



6.2 **Mayor J. Lachance** reported attending the AYC Annual General Meeting, where he appreciated the opportunity to hear directly from territorial ministers, local delegates, and others on topics such as mining, the Casino project, and community development. In the community, he has been assisting local non-profits with garbage pickup efforts and participated in the recent floor hockey tournament, which featured three local teams, including an all-women's team. The RCMP also joined in to play and officiate some games. Mayor Lachance noted it was a great event and expressed his enjoyment, especially seeing the women participate and score goals—some even against him. He also attended barbeques held at both the recreation centre and the school, where students were enjoying outdoor activities. Looking ahead, he mentioned the upcoming Ridge Run scheduled for the end of the week and encouraged anyone interested in volunteering for checkpoints or safety roles to contact Ruth at the school. Lastly, he noted his plans to attend the FCM conference at the end of the month.

### **6.3 Finance Report**

Finance Officer A. Wylimczyk provided the Finance Report for April 2025. The report included the Income Statement and Payable Cheque Log, which were attached for Council's review.

**25-09-05 M/S Councillors C. Bellmore / D. Hansen acknowledges receipt of the Accounts Payable Report Cheques from 31263-31305 provided for informational purposes. CARRIED**

### **6.4 Bylaw Monthly Report**

Constable L. Ferraz submitted a summary of bylaw enforcement activities and occurrences for the month of April 2025, which was reviewed by the Council. Constable Liam Ferraz's report included the following highlights:

#### **Animal Control:**

- Responded to multiple incidents of dogs at large:
  - One near the post office.
  - One on the highway.
- No aggressive dog complaints were received during the reporting period.

#### **Traffic & Parking Enforcement:**

- Issued five warnings/notices for unsecured loads, primarily observed outside local stores.
- Assisted the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the sheriff with commercial vehicle enforcement efforts.





#### Visual Documentation:

- Photographic evidence was included as part of the report and reviewed positively by Council.

#### **6.5 PWGM Report**

Public Works General Manager J. Wylimczyk provided the monthly report for April 2025, which was reviewed and accepted by Council with no concerns.

#### **6.6 Monthly Recreation Report**

Recreation Director, C. Johnnie provided the monthly Recreation Department report for April 2025, which was reviewed by the Council.

Council discussed the potential addition of upcoming events in the regular Recreation Reports. Members expressed interest in seeing a monthly preview of scheduled activities, such as a calendar or summary (e.g., “What’s Happening in May”), alongside the usual report of past events.

It was suggested that a “Coming Up” section be added to the bottom of future reports to enhance awareness of upcoming programs, especially during seasonal planning like Canada Day and summer activities. While some information is currently included, more specific dates and event details would be helpful.

#### **6.7 CAO Report**

CAO Chantal Pelletier provided the following updates:

#### **Upcoming Events & Important Dates:**

- Tantalus School Graduation Ceremony: May 30 at 5:30 PM (note: updated from 4:30 PM based on invitation).
- Next Regular Council Meeting: May 20, 2025.
- Pool Grand Opening Ceremony: Initially planned for Saturday, June 7; due to scheduling conflicts, a soft opening will take place that weekend, with the official grand opening tentatively planned for Monday, June 9 at 5:00 PM.
- Public Composting Engagement (with Balanced Biogas): June 17, 2025.

#### **Pool Renovation & Staffing:**

- Four staff will be away in Dawson City from May 26 to May 31 for training.
- Pool work is ongoing with significant progress:
  - New propane tank installation scheduled for Thursday.
  - Pool liner technician is arriving on Friday.
  - Plumbing work and water filling to follow, pending delivery of pool chemicals ordered this week.



### **Infrastructure & Facility Updates:**

- Visitor Information Centre is to open on May 16.
- Asset Auction: First bidding round closed; six items sold including two fire trucks, a generator, trailer, and Kubota backhoe attachment. Public bidding round is now open.

### **Community & Governance Updates:**

- CAO attended the AYC Conference: Praised the event's organization and networking opportunities.
- Carmacks Bypass Sign Correction: Sign was incorrectly labeled as "Carmacks Bypass". It is now being corrected to "Casino Way."
- Community Cleanup: Well, attended; only one remaining area to be cleaned by nonprofits.
- Traffic Committee: Newly formed and will meet every third Monday or Tuesday before Council meetings. Updates will be provided regularly.
- Carbon Rebate Program: Ended following cancellation of the federal program.
- OCP & HAF Collaboration: Meetings held with LSCFN on collaboration opportunities, including potential for tiny home development.
- Meeting with Village lawyers (Jane and Mark) scheduled to discuss how Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) initiatives are tied into the Official Community Plan (OCP).

### **Other Updates:**

- **Council Chambers Map Project:** Challenger Geomatics Ltd. hired to create a large-scale wall map.

### **6.8 AYC Association of Yukon Communities (AYC)**

Councillor Hansen reported that AYC President Lauren Hanchar is coordinating resolution letters for member communities, including Carmacks. Once finalized, the letters will be sent collectively, with the Village CC'd. No action is required at this time; updates will follow as needed.

### **7. BYLAWS**

None.

### **8. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

### **9. QUESTION PERIOD**





No Question.

#### 10. IN-CAMERA

Motion to move into Closed Meeting in accordance with the Yukon Municipal Act, Section 213 (3) (a) if in the case of a council, the council decides during the meeting to meet as a council committee to discuss a matter.

**25-09-06 M/S Councillor D. Hansen / T. Wheeler motioned to go in-camera at 08:01PM.**

An in-camera discussion by Council regarding a labour and land matter.

**25-09-07 M/S Councillor D. Hansen / C. Bellmore motioned to go out of in-camera at 8:38 PM.**

#### 11. ADJOURNMENT

**25-09-08 M/S Councillor T. Wheeler motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM.**  
Mayor J. Lachance adjourned the meeting at 8:38 PM.



Mayor J. Lachance



CAO Chantal Pelletier

