



**MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF
CARMACKS ON September 2nd, 2025, IN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor D. Mitchell

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

Staff: Acting CAO A. Wylimczyk, P. Singh

Regrets: Mayor J. Lachance

Delegates: Jonathan Osborne

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Deputy Mayor D. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
- 2. AGENDA:** Council reviewed the agenda.

25-17-01 M/S Councillors C. Bellmore / T. Wheeler motioned that the agenda be accepted as amended with addition under Delegation 4.1 RCMP.

CARRIED

3. MINUTES:

3.1 From the regular council meeting on August 19th, 2025

25-17-02 M/S Councillors T. Wheeler / D. Hansen motioned that the minutes be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATION

4.1 RCMP – August 2025 Policing Report

Presented by: Cpl. David MacNeil, Carmacks Detachment

Highlights

- **Busiest Month of 2025:**
August recorded 79 calls for service, nearly double the same month last year (47).
 - 15 Criminal Code charges laid.
 - 12 Controlled Drugs & Substances Act charges laid.
 - 22 alcohol-related service calls.
- **Alcohol-Related Incidents:**



- Disturbances at the Gold Dust Lounge required early closure and extended RCMP presence.
- One driver was arrested for impaired driving, testing nearly three times the legal limit.
- Drug Interdiction:
 - With support from SCAN, RCMP intercepted approx. \$15,000 worth of suspected crack cocaine.
 - Four individuals arrested (non-Carmacks residents); three remain in custody.
- Road Safety:
 - 122 patrols / 136 hours conducted.
 - Focus on ATVs, speeding, unlicensed operators, and Freegold Road check stops.
- Community Engagement:
 - RCMP attended community events (softball tournament, family tie-dye workshop).
 - School foot patrols and playground presence resumed. Planning underway for safety drills.
- Wildlife Issues:
 - Increased bear sightings, partly due to resident feeding.
 - Two bears were destroyed after becoming habituated to human areas.

Court

- Next Carmacks Circuit Court: October 29, 2025, at the new Firehall (with phone option if no trials scheduled).

Community Priorities

1. Substance Abuse (drug and alcohol enforcement)
2. Road Safety (speeders and commercial vehicles)
3. Youth Engagement & Community Visibility

Council Feedback: Members commended the RCMP for strong enforcement, especially the successful drug seizure, and noted the importance of alcohol enforcement efforts in improving community safety.

4.2 Delegation – Balance BioGas Update

Presenter: Jonathan Osborne (by teleconference)

Compost & Organics Diversion Program

- Public engagement session held in June with 7–8 attendees, including one Council member and VOC staff. Positive community interest noted.



- Composting tent was erected at landfill in July; appreciation expressed for Council support.
- Household bins (300 total, 20L each) purchased; distribution event scheduled for September 11th (10:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.) at the landfill.
 - One bin per household, with names/addresses tracked.
 - Remaining bins will be left at landfill attendant building and Village Office.
- Next operational steps:
 - Secure adequate wood chips for composting process.
 - Install electric fencing around the compost tent (required for Yukon compost facilities).
- Anticipated program launch in early October 2025, making Carmacks only the third Yukon community with organics diversion.

Waste-to-Energy Pilot Project

- Project has been in development since February 2024; delayed due to funding challenges.
- Balance BioGas committed \$10,000 cash contribution toward detailed engineering design (no cost to VOC for this phase).
- Funding:
 - \$50,000 approved from Yukon University's Innovation & Entrepreneurship Fund (June 2025).
 - Application to YDC's ERIE Fund pending; supplemental support being pursued through CanNor.
- Proposed scope of detailed design phase (~8–10 months):
 - Engineering design of gasification and district heating systems (with system manufacturers).
 - Class B cost estimate (procurement-ready).
 - Financial/business case analysis with stakeholder engagement.
- Estimated full project (equipment & operations study): ~\$2M, but detailed design phase provides cost certainty before decisions.
- Council members indicated support for proceeding with the funding application. Final Council resolution to be considered at the next meeting, following receipt of a written summary from Balance BioGas.

Other Notes

- Balance BioGas also assists with landfill Adaptive Management Plan due October 31, 2025.
- Emphasis placed on phased approach: start with household organics, later expand to commercial/institutional contributors (school, daycare, restaurants, grocery).



Council Feedback: Council supportive of phased approach, stressed importance of detailed cost information prior to any major investment. General agreement to allow Balance BioGas to proceed with the funding application in the interim.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Correspondence – Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (Flood Mitigation Project)

Background:

- The Village of Carmacks (VOC) and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) were asked by Yukon Government (YG) to provide quotes for a federal funding announcement under the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF).
- Timing was impacted as both VOC CAO and LSCFN staff were on vacation. Submission deadline noted as September 15, 2025.

Discussion:

- Concerns raised that decisions appear to have been made using the Stantec report recommendations without sufficient Council or community input.
- Council noted the report seemed to rely on limited data (two flood years only), did not fully account for past flooding events (e.g., Ptarmigan groundwater flooding), and missed certain problem areas.
- Some residents' basements flooded due to groundwater seepage rather than river overflow, an issue not addressed in the Stantec plan.
- Stantec's proposed mitigation measures (raising River Road, constructing additional dikes) were viewed as significant undertakings that require broader public consultation before proceeding.
- Council stressed the need for transparency and strategic communication before committing to any specific flood mitigation design.

Next Steps:

- No quote will be provided for the federal funding announcement at this time.
- Council agreed a public engagement session should be arranged with YG and LSCFN to discuss the Stantec recommendations and gather local input.
- Suggestion made to invite David Eastland (YG) to attend a Council meeting soon to clarify options before engineering and design funds are committed.



25-17-03 M/S Councillors D. Hansen / T. Wheeler motioned that all the correspondence to be filed as no action.

CARRIED

6. REPORTS

6.1 Councillor Activity Reports

Councillor D. Hansen has nothing to report.

Councillor T. Wheeler noted positive community feedback on recently lowered speed limits. A resident expressed appreciation, observing that with many children in traffic, reduced speeds provide an added measure of safety.

Moreover, Councillor Wheeler reported an inquiry from another resident regarding volunteer opportunities. While not interested in the Recreation Centre, this individual indicated interest in helping at the animal shelter, particularly with dog walking or fostering support.

Councillor C. Bellmore inquired about whether the Village has held a Household Hazardous Waste Day this year and if another is planned.

Administration confirmed that one was held in April 2025, with such events typically occurring in April and October. Administration will confirm details regarding a fall date.

6.2 Deputy Mayor Report

Deputy Mayor D. Mitchell has nothing to report.

6.3 CAO Report

Acting CAO Annette Wylimczyk presented the CAO Report. Key updates included:

- Composting Program: Bin handout and engagement session set for Sept. 11, 2025.
- Scale Project: Contract awarded to Castlerock; completion by Oct. 30, 2025; site visit Sept. 4.
- Curling Rock Resurfacing: Paint ordered.
- Leased YG Offices: Departments moved in Aug. 28; minor changes completed; ventilation concerns noted.
- Lagoon: YG working with LSCFN; no new updates.
- Arena Boilers: Awaiting replacement fan before reactivation.



6.4 Public Works's Report

Public Works General Manager Jens Wylimczyk reported the following:

- Treatment Plant: Operating normally, all readings within standard ranges.
- Arena/Recreation: Arena boiler repairs ongoing; recreation centre fully operational.
- Landfill: Normal operations; cattle guard connection planned.
- Collection System/Duplex: Fully functional, no issues.
- Equipment: All in good condition. Traded 2015 Kubota R630 for new bobcat skid steer.
- Recycling Facility: Sorting, shredding, baling all operational.
- Old & New Firehall, Admin Building, PW Shop: All systems function smoothly.
- Streets: Road repairs continuing for safety and infrastructure improvements.

6.5 Bylaw Report

Bylaw constable Liam Ferraz reported the following:

- Occurrences:
 - Dogs at large – 2 (24 YTD).
 - Aggressive dog complaints – 2 (6 YTD).
 - Traffic violations (unsecured loads) – 3 (33 YTD).
 - Parking complaint (via RCMP) – 1.
 - Public encounters – 5 (48 YTD).
 - No RCMP assists or open space infractions this month.
- Highlights:
 - Two traffic stops for unsecured loads under Traffic Bylaw No. 307-24. Loads were re-secured on site after education provided.

Council Discussion:

- Concern raised about abandoned cats and whether bylaw services extend beyond large animals. Administration to clarify.
- Question about mobile/visiting businesses (e.g., food trucks) and ensuring they hold valid Village business licenses. Administration to follow up.

6.6 VIC Report

VIC Coordinator Jeremy Byers reported the following for August 2025:

- Total Visitors: 187 in August.
- Visitor Profile: Mainly tourists en route to Dawson, Whitehorse, or outdoor destinations.
- Inquiries: Directions/maps, accommodations, recreation, cultural/heritage sites, and travel safety.
- Sales: Postcards, maps, and local crafts were most popular.
- Visitor Information Centre will close for the season on September 5, 2025.



6.7 Finance Report August 2025

Reported by Annette Wylimczyk Finance Officer

- Financial Statements: Income statement attached; expenditure report will be presented at next meeting.
- Property Taxes: One payment received today; 9 properties outstanding.
- Summer Jobs Funding: VOC received advance funding but repaid \$592 due to fewer student hours being worked.
- Payroll System: Implementation phase ongoing. Technical issue with sign-in function being addressed. Staff training required to ensure employees punch in/out; failure to do so may result in missed pay.

6.8 AYC Association of Yukon Communities (AYC)

Councillor Wheeler reported that London Emissions Charges Resolution: Response from AYC AGM circulated to Council.

Upcoming AYC Board Meeting: Scheduled for September 20, 2025 in Carmacks (location to be confirmed – Firehall or Roadhouse).

Council/Staff Participation: All members welcome to attend; CEO/administrators' forum expected the day before.

7.0 BYLAWS

7.1 By-Law 320-25 Appointment of Interim CAO

25-17-04 M/S Councillors T. Wheeler / C. Bellmore motioned to Give the By- law 320-25 Appointment of Interim CAO first reading.

CARRIED

25-17-05 M/S Councillors D. Hansen / T. Wheeler motioned to Give the By- law 320-25 Appointment of Interim CAO second reading.

CARRIED

8.0 NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 Update on Weigh Scale Project

- Contract & Timeline: Project awarded to Castlerock; completion targeted for Oct. 30, 2025. Contractor site visit scheduled Sept. 4, 2025.
- Design & Installation: Engineering plans include site grading, traffic flow, scale house with electrical/heating, and installation of Avery Weigh-Tronix 70' x 11' scale.



- Training: Public Works staff visit Whitehorse weigh station for operational overview.
- Fees & Bylaw: Current landfill fees are by truckload/bay. Council discussed need to amend bylaw to allow charging by weight, possibly with differential rates for residents vs. outside users.
- Additional Considerations:
 - Suggestion to track vehicles (e.g., license plates) for accountability.
 - Potential discussions with LSCFN on contributions if fee structure differs for residents/non-residents.
- Concern raised about unauthorized dumping along Freegold Road.

Next Steps: Draft bylaw amendment to implement weight-based fee schedule.

8.2 Canada Life Benefit Cost Sharing

- Current Arrangement: 50/50 split between Village and employees. Average monthly premium is \$500 (\$6,000 annually). Employee share = \$250/month. Only 5 staff are currently enrolled; others have opted out due to cost.
- Proposed Adjustment: Shift to 80/20 cost-sharing (Village 80%, employees 20%).
- Rationale:
 - More equitable compared to municipal standards.
 - Increase affordability and staff participation.
 - Supports recruitment and retention.
 - Reduces indirect liability by ensuring broader employee coverage.
 - Aligns with common municipal practice (employer pays 75–80%).
- Council Discussion:
 - Interest in confirming breakdowns (e.g., employer covers health/dental, employees cover disability premiums to maintain tax-free benefits).
 - Suggestion to implement changes starting next budget year (2026).
 - Related discussion on Employment Bylaw – clarification needed on interim pay provisions for acting/interim management roles.

Next Steps: Staff to bring back options with detailed cost implications before budget deliberations.

9.0 QUESTION PERIOD SUMMARY

Public Comments – Brian Murrell:

- Raised concerns about the Balance BioGas project, noting high costs (\$1.8M set-up; \$800K first-year operations) and uncertainty about returns. Questioned whether electricity generation would even be permitted under Yukon Energy's monopoly.



- Emphasized need to gauge community uptake of composting bins before committing further. Suggested project could divert significant waste if widely used but warned of financial risks if participation is low.
- Shared perspective from other landfill operations: Carmacks landfill unlikely to run out of space soon if managed properly but emphasized importance of proper compaction and covering to extend life.
- Commented that taxpayer dollars, whether local or federal, should be used responsibly — suggested weighing the project's merits carefully against other community priorities.
- Asked about Bylaw Officer status (confirmation he is still active).
- Noted visitors still report difficulty finding the Visitor Centre, despite steady attendance.
- Asked about speed limits bylaw; Council clarified no referendum is underway, only a past petition. Bylaw may be revisited in coming months, possibly after hiring a new CAO.

Council Response:

- Acknowledged concerns on BioGas project; confirmed the current phase is information-gathering only, with no financial commitment from the Village.
- Re speed limits, Council confirmed bylaw could be reviewed in future if needed.

10.0 IN-CAMERA

No In-Camera.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

25-17-06 M/S Councillor T. Wheeler motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:33PM.

Deputy Mayor D. Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 8:33 PM.

Dennis Mitchell

Deputy Mayor D. Mitchell

Annette Wylimezyk

CAO Annette Wylimezyk (Acting)

