



**MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE
VILLAGE OF CARMACKS ON February 17th, 2026, IN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
CHAMBERS**

PRESENT: Mayor: J. Lachance

Councillors: D. Mitchell, T. Wheeler, D. Hansen, H. Belanger

Staff: CAO B. Rogers, P. Singh

Regrets: RCMP Delegation

Delegation: Micheal Ukrainetz

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

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

Mayor Lachance added an item under section 8 Finished and unfinished business as 8.6.

26-04-01 M/S Councillors H. Belanger / D. Hansen motioned that the agenda be accepted as amended.

CARRIED

3. **MINUTES:**

3.1 From the regular council meeting on February 3rd 2026

26-04-02 M/S Councillors D. Hansen / T. Wheeler motioned that the minutes be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. **DELEGATION**

4.1. RCMP Monthly Report

RCMP were scheduled to attend as a delegation but were unable to do so. The January monthly RCMP report was provided to Council for information.

**4.2. Yukon Government, Department of Community Services Michael Ukrainetz,
Senior Project Manager**

a) Waste Scales Project — Status & Next Steps

- Update: Michael advised the waste scales project is largely complete and in the wrap-up stage. Starlink is installed and training has begun/been arranged.
- Software/Training: Council raised the outstanding issue of software needed to communicate with the scale system. Michael indicated the software/training is



handled through Avery once internet is active and understood the software purchase requirement is satisfied.

- Permitting/Occupancy: Council noted a remaining item is the building inspector visit and related paperwork for occupancy/permit sign-off. Michael indicated this is being handled and is imminent.
- Data connection / future servicing: Council asked about longer-term data/fibre servicing to the landfill side and implications for future development on that side of the highway. Michael was unsure which infrastructure owner(s) apply (Total North / Northwestel, etc.) and committed to follow up with Dave regarding infrastructure ownership and options.

Action items:

- Michael to follow up with Dave on data/fibre infrastructure ownership and options to support the scales and future development.
- Council/staff to coordinate remaining inspection and paperwork needed for occupancy/permit completion.

b) Public Works Building — Tender Plan, Budget, and Funding Timeline

- Tender readiness: Michael advised tender/RFP documents are prepared based on previous Council direction.
- Approach change: A previous new build tender came in over budget; the project has pivoted toward a retrofit of the existing building (multi-bay concept).
- Funding: Funding is tied to the Fire Hall project and requires updated implementation/approval documentation (dates and related details). Michael stated Canada approval to pivot to retrofit is in place; documents/letters are being finalized.
- Schedule target: Anticipated tender in March, award in April, and construction to start as soon as possible if pricing comes back within budget.
- Budget context: Michael noted remaining funding in the ~\$3.7M–\$3.8M range (before design/admin/other costs), with hoped-for construction pricing approximately \$2.9M–\$3.1M.
- Sunset constraint: Michael flagged the funding sunsets at the end of Fiscal 2027, leaving a limited construction/closeout window. Working backward from sunset, a substantial completion target was described as late summer next year, with final closeouts in fall.

Key discussion points:

- Council asked whether a simpler “hangar-style” heated structure could be pursued if retrofit pricing is not feasible. Michael advised that would likely require a different funding approach and would not fit easily under the current agreement.



Action items:

- Continue internal approvals and finalize tender package updates.
- Proceed to tender as planned, monitoring schedule risk due to funding sunset.

c) Lagoon / Wastewater Disposal — Status, Costs, Licensing, Interim Options

- Status: Conceptual design is complete and the community has accepted the general location; the major outstanding issue is a property matter involving Little Salmon (YG negotiations delayed by elections).
- Residential land concern: Council reiterated concerns that the proposed lagoon area could be suitable for residential development. Michael commented that suitability for lagoon doesn't automatically mean suitability for housing foundations; noted soil considerations and referenced prior studies in the area.
- Expenditures to date: Michael estimated existing work (Geotech/exploration, monitoring, early design) is approximately ~\$750k plus design work; final design could be \$1.0M–\$1.3M. Construction cost estimates previously discussed ranged roughly \$15M–\$20M+ depending on options and escalation.
- Ownership/servicing questions: Council raised ongoing concerns about who ultimately owns and operates the infrastructure (Village vs LSCFN vs YG), and the long-term O&M burden.
- Interim approach — assessment request: Council requested exploring a third-party operational assessment (experienced operator, not only engineers) to evaluate:
 - Recommissioning/retrofitting the existing wastewater facility,
 - Potential conversion to a lift station,
 - Interim actions to address the unsanctioned pit and compliance risks.
- Existing plant upgrade costs: Michael reported prior reviews indicated costs can escalate quickly:
 - Initial rough numbers in the \$750k–\$900k range were discussed historically,
 - A more complete “bring to code / capacity / expansion” scope was estimated around \$3M and still wouldn't resolve capacity/infiltration constraints.
- Capacity & infiltration: Michael noted major flooding years (2021–2022) created capacity issues and emergency discharge conditions; Council noted culvert work and requested updated assessment using new data.
- Sludge handling: Council discussed sludge handling frequency (generally annual/periodic, not daily), including options for offsite disposal (e.g., Whitehorse).
- Water license confusion: Council noted inspection comments suggesting the sewage pit was tied to the municipal water license. An email summary referenced during the meeting indicated:



- The Village has an active wastewater license for the treatment plant, expiring Dec. 31, 2028,
 - No obvious reference to the sewage pit in that license,
 - Pit/lagoon ownership appears to be YG-held based on available records/correspondence.
- Michael agreed to review/confirm and help clarify the discrepancy (including with Environmental Health/WSP inspection processes).

Action items:

- Michael to review/confirm how the pit/lagoon relates to licensing and inspection findings; help clarify mismatch with Environmental Health/WSP.
- Council/staff to consider commissioning an operator-focused assessment of the wastewater facility and interim options (cost/funding pathway to be explored).

d) DMAF / Flood Mitigation Project — Communications, Engagement, and Sequencing

- Background: Michael advised that project documents (conceptual design, outcomes, schedules) were previously provided to prior staff/council leadership. He could not fully speak to earlier history before he and Dave became involved.
- Funding context: DMAF work accelerated following major flood years (2021–2022). Carmacks is described as the only community Michael is aware of that received DMAF contribution funding (with another approval mentioned in wildfire context).
- Engagement concern: Council emphasized a disconnect in community understanding—impacts to private property, wells, driveways, and how decisions were made. Michael agreed that improved engagement is needed and said Stantec’s contract includes public engagement session(s).
- Eligibility limits: Michael stated individual residences may not be directly eligible under funding rules; focus is on critical/public infrastructure (downtown core, access/egress routes, emergency routes, etc.).
- Project sequencing idea: Michael discussed potentially sequencing work by splitting regulatory applications between Village side and Little Salmon side to reduce impacts and potentially start work earlier where possible.
- Timing: Michael anticipated renewed engagement work around March, noting earlier plans were delayed by elections.

Action items:

- Develop/execute a communications and engagement plan with Stantec/YG so residents understand scope, timing, and property-related questions.
- Continue coordination with Little Salmon and the Village on working group engagement and sequencing strategy.



Fibre/Utility Locates — Drill Program Precautions

- Council asked about precautions to avoid cutting fibre along River Drive during Geotech drilling.
- Michael stated he has contacted Total North for locates and acknowledged known issues where locates have been inaccurate in past projects.
- Duration of drill program was described as short (Michael to confirm exact duration; referenced as potentially one day / limited hours).

Action items:

- Ensure locates are completed and documented before drilling begins; confirm drill schedule/duration.

e) Arena Project — Outstanding Issues

- Michael stated the main issue is ventilation/code compliance, tied back to original design.
- Humidity testing showed higher humidity only for a limited number of days annually; ventilation/code remains the focus.
- Additional items were noted by Council as still being managed: heating, plumbing, building envelope matters.
- Council thanked Michael/YG for prior support (referenced \$20,000 for heating/boilers)

Council thanked Michael for attending and requested that questions arising from Council/staff/community be forwarded to him (via Jenna/Arbor) so they can be addressed. Michael advised he would pass greetings to David.

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Reports

6.1 Council Activity Reports

Councillor D. Hansen has nothing to report.

Councillor D. Mitchell reported that he attended and observed part of the recent hockey tournament, noting that it was very well organized and enjoyable to watch. He commended those involved in coordinating the event. Councillor Mitchell advised that due to family matters that arose, he was unable to remain for the full duration of the tournament.



Councillor H. Belanger reported that she stopped by the arena during the recent hockey tournament to show her support and see how the event was progressing. She advised that aside from that, she has been focused on work commitments.

Councillor T. Wheeler reported that, in her role as Chair of the Carmacks Campus Committee, she met with Yukon University's Acting President and Executive and met again with the Acting President earlier today while in the community. She noted that the posting for the Yukon University Campus Coordinator/Manager position closes on February 23rd and encouraged anyone interested to apply, as they are hoping to attract a strong candidate.

Councillor Wheeler also attended the recent event at the recreation center where she participated in karaoke and appreciated the opportunity to connect with residents. She shared that a community member raised concerns about a perceived slowdown in evening recreation activities, noting that in the past there were events such as laser tag and other drop-in activities. She indicated there is interest in seeing more evening recreational programming beyond the fitness center.

6.2 Mayor's Report

Mayor Lachance extended appreciation to everyone involved in the recent hockey tournament and curling events, including sponsors, volunteers, players, organizers, and community members. He noted that the strong level of participation and support over the past several weeks has been encouraging to see and reflect positively on the community.

Mayor also attended a Yukon University lunch and learn alongside Councillor Wheeler. He shared that it was good to reconnect with familiar faces and hear questions about the community's needs and opportunities. Discussions included the types of courses and supports Yukon University may be able to provide locally.

In addition, the mayor reported that he continues to work daily with youth in the community and expressed that it is a pleasure to see their growth and development.

6.3 CAO Report

CAO Blake Rogers reported that his first weeks have focused on orientation, including one-on-one meetings with department heads and staff, introductions to key partners, and familiarization with major projects and Village systems. He met with Community Advisor on February 5 and with the LSCFN Executive Director on February 13 to discuss collaboration, including DMAF and joint council matters.

He attended the Sustainable Communities Forum (February 11–12), where discussions included wildfire risk reduction funding and partnership opportunities, and connected with other CAOs across Yukon.



Financial updates included an emergency recreation center elevator repair estimated at approximately \$17,000. Offsetting this, Recreation received \$21,000 in funding for an Elders bus trip and \$4,500 in cost recovery from the Rugged Apprenticeship Program.

6.4. Association of Yukon Communities Report

Councillor Wheeler reported that the next AYC Board meeting is scheduled for March 7 and will be held virtually via Zoom as an all-day session.

She advised that the deadline for submitting resolutions to AYC is mid-March and noted that there is still time for Council to consider bringing forward any resolutions. A resolution committee meeting is anticipated around February 20 to review potential submissions.

7. Bylaws

7.1 Civic Addressing Bylaw 301-24 Addition of New Addresses

26-04-03 M/S Councillors T. Wheeler/ D. Hansen motioned to approve 9 new addresses to Bylaw 301-24 – Civic Addressing Bylaw.

CARRIED

8. New and Unfinished Business

8.1 VoC Strategic Planning Session — Confirmation of Interest/Availability

CAO informed council that Jordan Stackhouse from Elevator Yukon is seeking confirmation that Council still wishes to proceed with a strategic planning session, originally discussed in late 2025, focused on priorities and future direction including reviewing the OCP. Jordan recommended a two-day, in-person session including some training components, potentially in March.

Council discussed timing around March break and other commitments. Council confirmed interest remains and requested Administration circulate a date availability poll, with likely timing late March or early April, and a preference to complete before mid-April.

8.2 Scotiabank Investing — Update and Recommendations

Finance Officer provided an update on investment options discussed with the Village's financial advisor, noting the Village is in good standing and could earn higher interest by investing available funds while maintaining access to cash for emergencies.

26-04-04 M/S Councillors T. Wheeler/ D. Hansen motioned to approve Administration's recommended long-term investment strategy with Scotiabank, including a \$500,000 two-year non-redeemable term, a



\$100,000 thirteen-month non-redeemable term, and a \$100,000 cashable term investment.

CARRIED

8.3 Replacement of Public Works Vehicles — Update and Recommendations

Administration advised that an older Public Works vehicle is showing significant recurring mechanical issues, with immediate repairs estimated at approximately \$7,500 and additional concerns identified suspension, tires, leaks, and repeated repairs.

Council reviewed replacement options, including financing through Ford and alternative procurement through Driving Force. Council discussed concerns regarding leasing limits, used versus new vehicle risk, and whether a leased vehicle could be fitted with existing attachments.

Administration noted the need to confirm lease terms for attachments and emphasized separating “working” vehicles such as plough/sander equipped from general passenger/service vehicles in the asset plan.

Council directed Administration to bring back additional details, pricing, budget impacts/deficit, and lease conditions for consideration at the next Council meeting.

8.4 Joint Council Meeting — Date Confirmation

Council reviewed two proposed dates provided by LSCFN and selected March 11, 2025 5:00 p.m. at New Fire Hall for the Joint Council Meeting.

8.5 CAMA / FCM Conferences — Confirmation of Participation

Council confirmed that CAO B. Rogers and Municipal Clerk P. Singh will attend the CAMA Conference in Whistler.

For FCM, Council confirmed that two members of Council will attend, with Councillor Helena Belanger confirmed as one delegate and the second attendee to be confirmed and coordinated later.

8.6 Minister of Community Services Meeting — Update

CAO informed council that previously proposed February 25 minister meeting is postponed due to scheduling conflicts and upcoming legislative session timelines. CAO proposed arranging an interim Zoom meeting with Minister Bellmore and potentially Minister of Education Scott Kent as well before session, followed by an in-person meeting after session April/May timeframe. Council expressed support for a remote meeting and preference to include both Ministers if possible. CAO will follow up with the Ministers’ offices.



9. QUESTION PERIOD

None.

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.

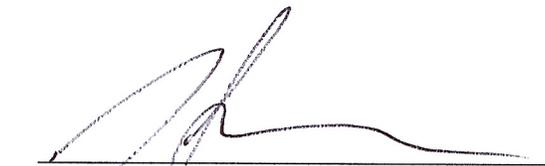
26-04-05 M/S Councillors D. Hansen motioned to go into In-Camera at 8:43 PM.

26-04-06 M/S Councillor D. Hansen motioned to go out of In-Camera at 9:21 PM.

11. ADJOURNMENT

26-04-07 M/S Councillor H. Belanger motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 PM.

Mayor J. Lachance adjourned the meeting at 9:21 PM.



Mayor J. Lachance



Municipal Clerk Parminder Singh



