

DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON  
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Monday, July 4, 2022  
Council Chambers

Regular Meeting – 7:00 pm

(1) CALL TO ORDER:

(2) MINUTES:

- a) Accept minutes of the June 6, 2022 regular meeting

(3) PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS: None

(4) UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

(5) CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) Review letter from Minister's of Rural Economic Development and Rural Broadband Strategy – three most important issues impacting our economic development as a rural community.
- b) Review letter from RDKS Philip Germuth - Hazelton Highway 62 Repaving Project concerns.
- c) Review letter from RDKS Ted Pellegrino – Hazelton Area Road Improvements Project RDKS comments
- d) Review letter from Ruth McAfee – concerns regarding community garden.

(6) REPORTS: None

(7) BYLAWS: None

(8) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Council Schedule
  - Regular Council Meeting - August 1, 2022
  - Nomination Period Begins for Municipal Elections – August 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Regular Council Meeting - September 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Nomination Period Closes for Municipal Elections – September 9<sup>th</sup>
  - UBCM - September 12 – 16, 2022 (Whistler)

Adjournment

DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
June 6, 2022  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1) CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Mayor Lowry  
Councillor A. Berg  
Councillor G. Burns  
Councillor B. Henwood  
Councillor J. Hobenshield  
Councillor R. Sturney  
Councillor M. Weeber

STAFF PRESENT: W. Hunt  
L. Roe  
B. White

2) MINUTES:

RESOLUTION 8115/22

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the minutes of the May 2, 2022 regular meeting be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

3) PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS: None

4) UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a) Update on Canada Day – Scheduled from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. We are looking at ordering 300 cupcakes, coffee, tea, juice, and 3 gift baskets. We are still looking for help and one band has signed up to perform.

5) CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) USRC Advisory Committee Representation – choose a representative

RESOLUTION 8116/22

MOVED & SECONDED

That, Councillor Burns to be appointed District of New Hazelton's USRC Advisory Committee Representative.

CARRIED

6) REPORTS:

Councillor Sturney provided an update on the BC Natural Resources Forum that took place in Prince George earlier this year.

Councillor Weeber provided an update on the TV Association. They will be giving out two bursaries and they provided five new televisions to the extended care wing of Wrinch Memorial Hospital.

Councillor Hobenshield attended the Annual General Meeting for the Hazelton District Public Library. There are some new faces on the Board. Memory kits for use by families will be available from the Library in September.

Mayor Lowry attended the monthly Regional District of Kitimat Stikine meeting as well as the Northwest Regional Hospital Board meeting. There will be an open house for residents of Two Mile regarding potential water line installation and other amenities. This will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> at the Upper Skeena Recreation Center.

7) BYLAWS:

- a) District of New Hazelton Repealing Bylaw No. 366, 2022 – Adopt

RESOLUTION 8117/22

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the District of New Hazelton adopt the Repealing Bylaw No. 366, 2022.

CARRIED

- b) Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 367, 2022 – Adopt

RESOLUTION 8118/22

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the District of New Hazelton adopt the Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No.367, 2022.

CARRIED

8) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Council Schedule**

Council reviewed their schedule for the coming months.

- b) **Review of Letter sent to Acting Administrator Tysen Leblond Wrinch Memorial Hospital and Rehabilitation Services Program regarding CHIC.**

Council supported Councillor Henwood's decision to withdraw from the CHIC committee as outlined in her correspondence.

- c) **UBCM Whistler – September 12-16, 2022**

Council members will let staff know if they are interested in attending. Staff will send out the agenda as soon as it is available.

- d) **Hazelton Safe Haven - Issue Temporary Use Permit for Mennonite Church to operate as a safe place for 2 refugee families.**

Hazelton Safe Haven is looking for a place to potentially house two refugee families. If agreed by the Owner, they would like permission to amend zoning to allow the use of the Mennonite Church to operate as a home for up to two families. Staff advised that this could be done through a Temporary Operating Permit for a period of up to 3 years.

RESOLUTION 8119/22

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the District of New Hazelton issue a 3-year Temporary Use Permit for the BC Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches to house two refugee families sponsored by Hazelton Safe Haven.

CARRIED

- e) Scholarships – Six scholarships applications were received and two were selected. Scholarships were awarded to Claire Hobenshield and Zechariah Matthieu.
- f) Councillor Burns asked about update on the Travel Policy. Staff have not yet had time to look into making changes.
- g) Councillor Hobenshield inquired about where Billboard for Ross Lake went? The Lease on the rental space is up and therefore it will be removed and kept to be used at another time. Council would like to see it renewed and put somewhere closer to Hazelton and on the proper side of the road. Staff will look into this.

10) ADJOURNMENT:

RESOLUTION 8120/22

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the regular meeting be adjourned at 8:21 pm.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT THIS

DAY OF

, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR



MAYOR MARILYN LOWRY  
PO BOX 340 3026 BOWSER ST.  
NEW HAZELTON BC V0J 2J0

Ottawa, June 2022

Dear MAYOR MARILYN LOWRY and Council,

The economic contributions from rural communities are integral to Canada's success. Rural areas are home to many key industries such as manufacturing, forestry, agriculture, and energy.

Yet, municipalities under 20,000 residents receive less support from the federal government in comparison to their much larger counterparts. Red tape duplications and certain application requirements disproportionately burden small rural communities with very few staff.

This is unfair, unjust, and needs to be addressed urgently. As such, Conservative Shadow Minister for Rural Economic Development and Rural Broadband Strategy, M.P. Shannon Stubbs, Deputy Shadow Ministers M.P. Damien Kurek and M.P. Jacques Gourde, are seeking to convene a townhall with you to address federal funding for rural communities.

Rural Canadians must band together for fairer and more robust funding for communities all over rural Canada.

It is integral to our economy that the federal government works for everyone no matter where they live. The voices of rural Canadians need to be heard. We kindly ask you to express the three most important issues impacting your economic development as a rural community. We will use this feedback to ensure our work for rural Canada is as productive as possible and will determine the agenda for our proposed townhall. This is an opportunity to network, share your priorities, and solutions to the challenges we face.

We value hearing from you and should you wish to attend our forum, please email M.P. Stubbs at [shannon.stubbs@parl.gc.ca](mailto:shannon.stubbs@parl.gc.ca), M.P. Kurek at [damien.kurek@parl.gc.ca](mailto:damien.kurek@parl.gc.ca), or M.P. Gourde at [jacques.gourde@parl.gc.ca](mailto:jacques.gourde@parl.gc.ca).

Thank you for your time.

Shannon Stubbs, M.P.  
Shadow Minister for Rural Economic Development  
and Rural Broadband Strategy  
Lakeland

Damien C. Kurek, M.P.  
Deputy Shadow Minister for Rural Economic  
Development and Rural Broadband Strategy  
Battle River—Crowfoot

Jacques Gourde, M.P.  
Deputy Shadow Minister for Rural Economic  
Development and Rural Broadband Strategy  
Lévis—Lotbinière



Regional District of  
**Kitimat-Stikine**

300-4545 Lazelle Avenue  
Terrace, B.C. V8G 4E1  
Tel 250-615-6100  
Fax 250-635-9222

Our file No. 5400 20

June 16, 2022

Rosemary Barnewall, District Program Manager  
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure  
Bulkley Stikine District  
Bag 5000  
Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0  
via email: [Rosemary.Barnewall@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rosemary.Barnewall@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Ms. Barnewall

**Re: Hazelton Highway 62 Repaving Project**

The Ministry's recently completed repaving on Highway 62 was discussed by the Regional District Board at its meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup>. The Electoral Area B Director for rural Hazelton and the Board expressed several concerns with the outcome of this project. Of paramount concern is that this project did not include extending and paving the shoulder widths to improve road safety as requested by the Regional District in our letter of April 8, 2022 enclosed.

This repaving project was the opportune time to improve safety particularly on sections of the road adjacent to the Eagle Down Trail. As previously mentioned, adding more road width to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians and provide greater separation with vehicles would greatly improve useability and safety. The Trail is a pedestrian corridor that is extensively used by visitors and residents of Hagwilget, Gitanmaax, Village of Hazelton and District of New Hazelton.

It was also noted that this repaving project has resulted in several unsafe conditions to the roadway including uneven and broken pavement. The Regional District requests that the repairs to the pavement are made as soon as possible. The remaining broken pieces of pavement left along the shoulders are a hazard particularly for pedestrians and cyclist and need be removed.

Yours Truly,

Philip Germuth  
Chair

Enclosure: Letter to R. Barnewall, dated April 8, 2022, re: Hazelton Area Road Improvement Projects

cc. Hagwilget Village Council [executive.director@hagwilget.com](mailto:executive.director@hagwilget.com)  
Gitanmaax Band [d.shanoss@gitanmaax.com](mailto:d.shanoss@gitanmaax.com)  
Village of Hazelton [info@hazelton.ca](mailto:info@hazelton.ca)  
District of New Hazelton [info@newhazelton.ca](mailto:info@newhazelton.ca)  
Gitxsan Government Commission [dmcrae@gitxsangc.ca](mailto:dmcrae@gitxsangc.ca)





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Our file no 5400 20

April 8, 2022

Rosemary Barnewall, District Program Manager  
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure  
Bulkley Stikine District  
Bag 5000  
Smithers, B.C.  
V0J 2N0

Dear Ms. Barnewall

**Re: Hazelton Area Road Improvement Projects**

Thank you for your March 24<sup>th</sup> email with an update on the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Bulkley Stikine District (the Ministry) 2022 road improvement and works projects in the Hazelton Area. We're pleased that projects include design and repairs to roads some of which are at risk of jeopardizing access to our communities. I advise that the project updates you provided was shared with Hazelton Area Regional District Board Directors Lowry, Sterritt and Paranich. The Regional District provides the following comments on the projects identified and other salient road issues in the area.

**Paving Highway 62**

This is welcomed news as the surface on both the travel portion of the road and shoulder need repair. This paving project also presents an opportune time to improve the useability and safety of the Eagle Down multi-use trail by extending and paving the shoulder width to the existing roadway adjacent to the trail especially the section between the Highway 16 at New Hazelton to the Hagwilget bridge. Adding more width to provide separation between vehicles and pedestrians will greatly improve useability and safety. We hope you will consider and apply this request to the Highway 62 paving project.

The Eagle Down Trail is a popular route for practical and recreational use. Developed as a joint community project with the Ministry, the trail connects communities and is used year-round by both residents and visitors for walking, jogging, and cycling. Sidewalks and trails separated from the roadway provide the benefits of active transportation, safety, mobility, and promote healthier communities. To address safety concerns, the Regional District has strongly advocated that the Ministry install streetlights to provide pedestrian lighting on the Trail between Hagwilget Bridge and Upper Skeena Recreation Centre. A specific location that is in critical need of a streetlight is the pedestrian crosswalk from the parking area and viewpoint near the Hagwilget bridge. There are existing power poles within the right of way along this section of Highway 62 and installing streetlights will greatly improve safety for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists during the evening and in fall and winter months with shorter daylight hours. Furthermore, lighting pedestrian trails and sidewalks is supported by the policies contained in the Ministry's Electrical and Traffic Engineering Manual Sections 303.3.9 and 303.3.11.



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Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Bulkley Stikine District  
April 8, 2022

### **China Cut Slide Area**

A long-term solution is required to address conditions at the China Cut slide area on the Kispiox Valley Road. This section of road has been a safety concern for many years. As you know, while movement at the site has historically been very slow, the above average rainfall events have increased groundwater saturation and erosion resulting in the need to implement single-lane alternating traffic. Kispiox Valley Road north of the slide area is the only maintained access to approximately 900 residents including the First Nation communities of Kispiox and Sik-e-Dahk and a long-term solution is required to relocate this road away from an active slide area. While you indicate that construction timelines for repairs are not yet known, we are pleased to learn that this year's projects include design work for the China Cut Slide area. The Regional District requests that we remain informed on Ministry's plans and timelines to relocate this road away from the slide area.

### **Highway 62 near Ksan Slide Area**

Design work for repairs to the slide area near Ksan on Highway 62 is also welcome news. Another area of potential concern on Highway 62 that should be investigated includes the section of road on the escarpment between Hagwilget Bridge and the viewpoint near the entry to Hagwilget Village. The Regional District appreciates being kept informed on these two issues.

### **Alternate Access to the Hazeltons**

The Regional District has advocated for a year-round secondary route in the Upper Skeena and reopening the Hazelton-Kitwanga Back Road as an alternative route will help mitigate community concerns. As you know, the Hazelton Kitwanga Back Road is currently closed due to the Visserman Slide and we understand that Ministry staff are working closely with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) to explore a new potential route which would bypass the slide site. We understand that this process is still in the preliminary stages. Providing a year-round alternate route to the communities in the Upper Skeena will greatly contribute to the safety of our residents. The Regional District would like to remain informed on the progress towards reopening the Hazelton-Kitwanga Backroad.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we look forward to more information as it becomes available on these and other projects.

Yours truly,

Ted Pellegrino,  
Director Development Services



**Brooke White**

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**From:** ruth mcafee <ruthmcafee@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2022 11:30 AM  
**To:** Brooke White  
**Subject:** community garden

Hello Brooke,

I see that the council has decided to hold off on a decision until fall, concerning a community garden.

I am writing to express my concerns re the District making a community garden. My understanding of community gardens is that they are beneficial in an area that has multi-family housing - we do not have any in New Hazelton apart from Roche View Lodge which has its' own garden plots. Everyone living here has property with space for a garden if they wish to have one.

As well, I am very aware of property damage, especially to properties that don't have someone in attendance 24/7.

Therefore, I hope the council will decide not to pursue the idea of a community garden. I feel that monies can be better spent elsewhere.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns.

Sincerely,

Ruth McAfee