

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, October 27, 2025
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

Council Members Present: Mayor Victor Smith
Councillor Bonny Graham
Councillor Scott Medlock
Councillor Pauline Newbigging
Councillor Angela Skoglund
Councillor Heather Stewin

Council Members Absent: Councillor Dusty Smith

Staff Present: John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer
Kevin Dicken, Director of Operations/Deputy CAO
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development
Mike Olson, Director of Finance
Thomas Cameron, Fire Chief
Branden Morgan, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Daneille Laporte, Communications/IT

Others Present: 3 members of the Public

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Stó:lō people, particularly the Chawathil, Union Bar and Yale First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved / Seconded

THAT the October 27, 2025, Regular Council Meeting Agenda be adopted, as amended, to amend the resolution for item 5(f), and add item 5(g), a verbal report regarding a resolution for a noise exemption for lagoon de-sludging at the Pollution Control Center.

CARRIED.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Regular Council Meeting

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held October 14, 2025, be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED.

4. DELEGATIONS

(a) Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning

Representatives from the Hope Mountain Centre were in attendance to present to Council regarding accomplishments during the 2025 trail building season. In their presentation, the following items were discussed:

- Education
 - School Programs
 - Public Programs & Events
 - Indigenous Youth Outdoors
 - Manning Park Interpretive Programs
 - Trail Signage
- Conservation
 - Grizzly Bear Monitoring
 - Black Bear Committee
 - Water Quality Monitoring
 - Leave No Trace
 - World Rivers Day
 - Friends of the Skagit
- 2025 Summer Trail Crew
 - 624 volunteer hours
 - \$12,480 cash value
 - Top volunteer, Kerry Noakes, volunteered 165 hours
- 2025 Financial Contributions
 - District of Hope contributed \$40,000
 - \$88,990 total value of all contributions
- 2025 Trail Work
 - A total of 16 trails were improved, including:
 - HBC Trail
 - Hope Bike Park
 - Tikwalus Trail
 - Serpent's Back Trail
 - Hope Lookout
 - Thacker Mountain
 - Landstrom Ridge
 - Spirit Caves
 - Mount Hope Summit
 - Wells Peak
 - Flood Falls Trail
 - Hope-Nicola Valley
 - Goat Bluffs Trail
 - Thunderbird Trail
 - Dewdney Trail
 - Centennial Trail

- The range of work included:
 - Clearing brush and logs
 - Staircase, trail tread and footbridge repair
 - Bench, toilet and water bar installation
 - Directional and interpretive sign installation
 - Painting, staining and raking
 - Garbage removal
- Trails of Hope Brochure
 - 20,000 copies printed since 2023
 - New update planned for 2026
 - Distributed via local businesses, visitor centres, trade shows, outdoor stores, and special event
- Goals for 2026
 - Continue maintaining local trails
 - Welcome three returning staff from Hope Secondary School
 - Complete the new “Thunderbird Trail” connecting the Flood Falls and Serpent’s Back trails
 - Update the Trails of Hope brochure
 - Repair Section 57 applications
 - Goat Bluffs Trail
 - Nicolum Bluffs Trail
 - Hope Mountain Waterfall Trail

Council noted that they have approved \$40,000 in annual funding for the Hope Mountain Centre for a period of three years at the October 15, 2024 Regular Council meeting, which will continue until 2027.

Council inquired as to whether the Hope Mountain Centre accepts donations of tools and other materials for trail work. Kelly Pearce, Trails Director, advised that individuals can reach out to let them know they have donations. He added that the Hope Mountain Centre website, www.hopemountain.org, has a CanadaHelps donation button that will issue a tax receipt for donations.

5. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Report dated October 17, 2025 from the Director of Community Development Re: *Heritage Conservation Act* Proposed Amendments

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council receive the report as information; and

FURTHER THAT Council endorse the letter from the Mayor to be sent to the Province with the District’s comments on the proposed changes to the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

CARRIED.

- (b) **Report dated October 17, 2025 from the Fire Chief**
Re: 2025 UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Support Services

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council supports the District of Hope application to the November 2025 UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for grant funding up to the amount of \$30,000 to improve the efficiency of the District of Hope Emergency Support Services through the provision of equipment required for training and implementation of the District of Hope Emergency Support Services Activation Plan; and

FURTHER THAT Council commit the District of Hope to provide overall grant management. **CARRIED.**

- (c) **Report dated October 20, 2025 from the Fire Chief**
Re: 2025 UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - 2025 Volunteer and Composite Fire Department Equipment and Training

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council supports the District of Hope's application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund 2025 Volunteer and Composite Fire Department Equipment and Training, indicating support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management. **CARRIED.**

- (d) **Report dated October 20, 2025 from the Fire Chief**
Re: 2026 UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and Training Stream

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council supports the District of Hope application to the 2026 UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for grant funding up to the amount of \$30,000 to improve the efficiency of the District of Hope EOC through the provision of training, equipment; and

FURTHER THAT Council commit the District of Hope to provide overall grant management. **CARRIED.**

- (e) **Report dated October 21, 2025 from the Director of Finance**
Re: Grants-in-Aid 2026

The Mayor noted that in the interest of time, he has conducted an analysis of the applications and has provided dollar values for Council's consideration. He noted that the District's Grant-In-Aid program allots \$10,000 annually for disbursement, however the application total \$110,500 in asks; far outside the \$10,000 allotment. Of the \$110,000 applied, \$57,375 is the value eligibility based on the policy criteria. Additionally, it was noted that Hope Crime Prevention, Hope Care Transit, and Hope & District Arts Council already receive grants of \$5,000 annually as part of the budgeting process.

Council inquired as to whether the amount allocated for Grants-in-Aid can be increased to accommodate the large number of applications. The Director of Finance advised that Council could increase the allocation through a resolution as a one-time or permanent change moving forward.

Council proceed to discuss the application individually. Councillor Graham declared a conflict of interest for discussions regarding the AdvantageHOPE application and took her leave of Council Chambers at 7:31 p.m.

Council noted that AdvantageHOPE is a society similar to the other applicants, and that this is the first time they have applied for Grants-in-Aid funding for a separate project.

Councillor Graham resumed her seat at 7:33 p.m.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council authorizes a disbursement of \$10,000 of the 2026 Grants-in-Aid as follows:

• AdvantageHOPE	\$2,000
• Canyon Golden Agers	\$2,650
• Hope Association for Community Living	\$1,250
• Hope Community Choir	\$ 600
• Hope Community Services	\$2,000
• Mount Hope Senior Citizens Housing Society	\$1,500
	CARRIED.

- (f) **Report dated October 22, 2025 from the Director of Finance**
Re: Upcoming Changes to Gathering and Transmission Pipeline Valuation for 2026

Moved / Seconded

THAT the report dated October 22, 2025, from the Director of Finance regarding the BC Assessment upcoming changes to gathering and transmission pipeline valuation for 2026, be received for information; and

FURTHER THAT Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Premier and Minister of Finance asking that changes to the Transmission Pipeline Valuation for 2026 be considered or at least phased in over several years. **CARRIED.**

- (g) **Verbal Report from the Director of Operations**
Re: Noise Exemption for Lagoon De-Sludging at the Pollution Control Center

The Director of Operation noted that extended hours are required in order for the works to be completed and that the District will ensure notification is delivered to the necessary residents and posted on the District's web site and social media platforms.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council exempt Lambourne Environmental, contractor for the District of Hope, from the noise regulation timelines in *District of Hope Good Neighbour Bylaw No. 1240, 2008* for lagoon de-sludging at the Pollution Control Center.

AND FURTHER THAT the noise exemption period be granted from October 27 to November 14, 2025 between the hours of 9pm and 7am;

AND FURTHER the District of Hope undertake notification via hand delivery and social media to inform the public in the affected area of the timelines for these works. **CARRIED.**

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

(a) Letter of Support

Re: AdvantageHOPE and Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council issue a Letter of Support to AdvantageHOPE and the Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association for their joint application to the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program for Phase 2 of the Mountain Bike Trails Network. **CARRIED.**

(b) Letter of Support

Re: Hope RCMP

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council issue a Letter of Support to the Hope RCMP for their application to the Community Safety and Targeted Enforcement Program for continued funding of Project CREVO. **CARRIED.**

Mayor Smith Reported:

- He attended the installation ceremony of Dr. James Mandigo as the 7th President and Vice-Chancellor for the University of the Fraser Valley at the Abbotsford Campus, noting that Dr. Mandigo brings 25 years of post-secondary education experience and joined the UFV team in 2019. He added that the District is working to bring more course offerings to the Hope Campus, and that UFV will be delegating to Council in 2026.
- He attended a Geohazard Project meeting with six Upper Fraser Valley First Nations Bands led by the Seabird Island Band with CAO John Fortoloczky. He noted that the purpose of the meeting was to present a final technical report to facilitate funding applications and share information with emergency teams.
- He announced that the Auxiliary to the Fraser Canyon Hospital will be holding their annual fundraising event at the Hope Legion Hall on November 1st from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. He added that admission is \$10.00 and can be purchased at the door, and that it is a fun event hosted with the help of local business donations.
- He attended a Chawathil First Nation meeting with CAO John Fortoloczky where they exchanged information on the FireSmart Program, emergency planning, and other initiatives to continue building a long-term relationship.
- He attended a BC Hydro workshop, noting that he hopes they will delegate to Council to share their ideas for future innovations.
- He toured a Ross Road property with MLA Tony Luck due to concerns raised by residents regarding soil dumping. He noted that while no evidence of soil dumping was found, a meeting has been arranged between the property owner and District staff to maintain an open line of communication.
- He congratulated Linda Goglin, Deputy Director of Finance, on 38 years of service with the District.
- He announced that the District received the Organization Safety Excellence Award from the BC Municipal Safety Association for its efforts to improve workplace safety. He added that Mark Howard, Occupational Health and Safety Advisor, received the Employee of the Year award for leadership and dedication across the organization.

Councillor Graham Reported:

- She attended the AdvantageHOPE meeting, noting that Amanda Figlarska, Marketing Manager, is working on projects to keep AdvantageHOPE and tourism going.
- She noted that AdvantageHOPE is focusing on the upcoming Fog Fest in November to expand the upcoming season, working to secure hotel stay discounts, shopping passes, and a Blue Lake Resort price package. She added that her daughter will be performing at the Silver Chalice on November 22nd.

Councillor Skoglund Reported:

- She announced that the annual Beta Sigma Phi Christmas Craft Sale will be taking place at the Hope Legion Hall on November 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- She reminded everyone to stay safe on Halloween.

Councillor Medlock Reported:

- He attended the AdvantageHOPE meeting, noting that Ryan Ellan of the Tashme Historical Society was in attendance to discuss the Station House project. He added that AdvantageHOPE is searching for grants to cover archaeological costs.
- AdvantageHOPE has booked a strategic planning session with Dale Wheeldon, President of the BC Economic Development Association. He added that Mr. Wheeldon is familiar with AdvantageHOPE and is an expert in his field.

Councillor Stewin Reported:

- She attended the 3rd Annual Powwow at Hope Secondary School.
- She noted that the dedication and plaque ceremony for the planned Purple Lights mural on the outside of the Treehouse Health Foods store has been postponed until Spring.

Councillor Newbigging Reported:

- She attended the Hope Ice Breakers opening game on October 18th, noting that it was a full house. She added that their next games are against Powell River on November 28th and 29th.
- She noted that the clubhouse at the Hope Golf & Country Club will be closing on October 31st, and will reopen in 2026.

8. PERMITS AND BYLAWS

- (a) Report dated October 22, 2025 from the Director of Finance**
Re: *Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw*

Moved / Seconded

THAT *Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1612, 2025*, be read a first, second and third time this 27th day of October, 2025. **CARRIED.**

9. FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

(a) For Information Correspondence

Moved / Seconded

THAT the For Information Correspondence List dated October 27, 2025, be received.
CARRIED.

10. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS

There was no other pertinent business.

11. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions raised.

12. NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Monday, November 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

13. RECESS TO IN-CAMERA MEETING AT 8:00 P.M.

Moved / Seconded

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to Section 90(1)(c) [labour relations or other employee relations] of the *Community Charter*. **CARRIED.**

14. RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING

The Mayor reconvened the Regular Council Meeting at 8:23 p.m.

15. ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 8:24 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held October 27, 2025, in Council Chambers, District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith

Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham

Director of Corporate Services