

VILLAGE OF MAYO
Minutes of Special Council Meeting
of Monday, March 30, 2020
Village of Mayo Council Chambers

Present

Council:

Mayor Scott Bolton (by phone)
Councilor Blair Andre (by phone)
Councilor Carol Knight (by phone)
Councilor Joann Aird (by phone)
Councilor Trevor Ellis (by phone)

Victoria Gold Corp.

President John McConnell
Vice President Mark Ayranto

Government of Yukon

Minister of Community Services, John Streicker

CAO:

Margrit Wozniak

Absent:

Public Works Manager, Scott Hamilton
Clerk/Treasurer, Jennifer Brooker

1. Call to order

Mayor Scott Bolton called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

3. Items to be discussed:

a) Conference call with Victoria Gold President and Vice President regarding covid-19 protocol for Victoria Gold

Mayor Bolton mentioned that on Friday, March 27th, Mayor and Council had discussed the letter dated March 25, 2020 that the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun sent to Premier Silver. In this letter NND asked YG to put all mines into care and maintenance, so no workers from outside Yukon would come to Mayo and the Silver Trail Area, due to concerns about the covid-19 virus being brought to the area from outside.

Council had discussed the content of the letter NND sent to Premier Silver on March 27th, after they had received a copy from NND.

Council also had concerns about the safety of the citizens of Mayo and was considering writing a letter to voice their concerns. Then Council was made aware of the article in the Whitehorse Star in which John McConnell stated what Victoria Gold is doing to safeguard its employees as well as the citizens of Mayo following the most recent order of the Yukon Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Brendan Hanley, namely that anyone coming to Yukon from another Province or Territory must self-isolate for 14 days.

Based on this new information, Council decided not to send a letter, but to set up this conference call with John McConnell and Mark Ayranto instead, to discuss Victoria Gold's new covid-19 protocol to safeguard its employees and the citizens of Mayo.

John McConnell and Mark Ayranto stated that now employees of Victoria Gold who arrive from another Province or Territory have to self-isolate in Whitehorse for 14 days before they are allowed to travel to the Eagle Gold mine site.

The crew rotation schedule has been changed to four weeks in, four weeks out.

Air travel to and from Eagle Gold is now exclusively via private charter transportation. This eliminates the majority of commercial travel.

All on-site and offsite employees and contractors are instructed to practice social distancing;

All employees and contractors traveling to Eagle Mine are required to complete flight pre-screening conducted by a third-party professional occupational health and safety services provider.

All employees and contractors leaving the Eagle Mine are required to complete the screenings prior to departure.

There is restricted and controlled access for all employees and contractors of Victoria to all Yukon Communities.

Victoria Gold has protocols around travel and Quarantine

Employees must avoid all non-essential travel outside Canada.

Mark Ayranto mentioned that Victoria Gold now has a medical doctor on retainer. This doctor advises 8 Mines in the Pacific Northwest on all things medical, including covid-19.

There are on-site medical services at Eagle Mine. There is an onsite primary care clinic.

There are still fuel trucks coming and going. However, the drivers have orders for strict isolation on the way and not to have any interaction with Victoria Gold employees.

Some employees (approx. 40) work remotely.

To ensure social distancing there are less chairs in the canteen and common areas.

There are extended meal times so workers can eat during different times, not all at once.

Victoria Gold also has an extra dorm wing set up for people who need to be in self-isolation.

There are safety checks every day. Workers are checked to inquire if they feel good, if they have a fever, etc.

The buses and planes that transport workers to and from the mine site have additional sanitizing procedures in place. The incoming and outgoing workers keep separate.

Mayor Bolton stated that NND and Mayo citizens say stop mining to ensure the safety of the community of Mayo. However, it sounds like Victoria Gold is doing a great job of ensuring everyone's safety.

Minister Streicker stated that Victoria Gold has been working with the Emergency Coordination Center and the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Victoria Gold's Covid-19 protocols are the gold standard. Dr. Hanley believes that the plan is appropriate for the risk levels we are experiencing right now. Victoria Gold meets or exceeds everything the Chief Medical Officer of Health put in place. Victoria Gold is monitoring the new developments on a regular basis so they can react to new information, orders as they come out.

The Village of Mayo Council wants to ensure that all citizens, including first responders such as Ambulance Personnel and Fire Department Personnel and Nurses remain healthy. Mayo can't afford any of them getting sick.

John McConnell stated that he grew up in a community such as Mayo and he fully appreciates Council's concern.

Council mentioned that it might be worthwhile if Victoria Gold put out a householder to inform the citizens of Mayo about the safety protocols they have in place to safeguard the community of Mayo.

Minister Streicker posed the question to John McConnell and Mark Ayranto: "What would it be like if Mines in the Yukon were to shut down and go into care and maintenance?"

John McConnell stated that they had looked at different scenarios and thought them through, from things getting better, things getting worse, and to complete shut-down.

People would still be needed at the Mine site during all the scenarios.

Minister Streicker stated that he had heard the same message from Minister Pillai.

John McConnell stated that he is in almost daily contact with Minister Pillai.

Mayor Bolton stated that what Council heard from Victoria Gold eliminates the need for them to send a letter to YG.

John McConnell stated that he would be pleased to call into future Council meetings to provide updates to Council.

Village Staff will forward Council's contact information and the dates for the upcoming Council meetings to John McConnell.

Council asked John McConnell if he has any meetings planned with NND. John stated that he contacts Chief Mervyn once a week.

Councilor Ellis asked on behalf of EMS about the procedures and medivac's for a sick mine employee. Can this be done directly from Victoria Gold to the plane rather than through the Mayo Ambulance and Nursing Station? Would YG allow the Mine to order their own medivacs? Right now, this can only be ordered by the local Health Center.

Minister Streicker will check into this as a possible temporary measure.

John McConnell asked about testing people for covid-19. Health Centre can swab people. Then it is sent to the lab in BC. There is a 3-5 day turnaround to get results. Testing is not done randomly, only if someone was exposed to the virus or has symptoms.

There was a question about Placer Miners returning to Yukon from outside. Minister Streicker stated that with the new orders in place, these orders can get enforced.

YG EM&R is working hard to get the word out about the new rules to the Mining community.

4. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer