DATE: October 20, 2014
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Larry Watkinson, Director of Fire/Rescue Services
SUBJECT: Land Clearing Debris Burning
ATTACHMENT(S): Appendix - A, Burning Permit to Flatiron-Graham
Appendix - B, Resolution of Amendments to Burning Bylaw 2975-1996
Appendix - C, District of Mission Burning Bylaw 2975-1996

This report is provided as background for a late delegation on the October 20, 2014 agenda.

PURPOSE:
To provide Council with information on the amendments of the Burning Bylaw 2975-1996 as amended 4051-2008-2975(3) July 9, 2008 as it relates to land clearing burns.

BACKGROUND:
On September 16, 2013 the Acting Fire Chief of the day issued an ad hoc burning permit (Appendix A) to Flatiron-Graham, a joint venture, to burn the slash piles created by the land clearing completed in order to put through the new Interior to Lower Mainland Transmission (LMT) electrical lines. This project intends to enable more electricity to be delivered from areas where it is generated – in the Columbia and the Peace regions – to the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, ensuring that homes and businesses continue to receive clean and reliable energy that passes through the District of Mission.

Flatiron-Graham completed an unknown amount of burns in 2013 and is now back requesting another burning permit to finish off the project, and clear the debris left from the logging activity. When Flatiron-Graham approached the current Fire Chief in August 2014 they were not clear how they received the previous permit as our current Burning Bylaw 2975-1996 does not allow burning of land clearing debris, as amended June 9, 2008 through Council resolution (Appendix B) to remove Section 4.4 (open burning of land clearing debris) from the Burning Bylaw 2975-1996 effective July 1, 2008.

The Fire Chief has informed Flatiron-Graham he will not be issuing a burning permit for land clearing based on the current Burning Bylaw 2975-1996 not allowing for these types of burns.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS:
It is understood that Flatiron-Graham did receive a sanction/permit from the Acting Fire Chief of the day to burn these piles in September 2013, and they would inform the Fire Department of when these piles would burn, unfortunately this sanction/permit was in contravention of the Burning Bylaw 2975-1996 (Appendix C).
The Fire Chief has received a request by Flatiron-Graham to consider a burning permit as each pile costs approximately $10-12,000 to grind and haul away. Flatiron-Graham is willing to participate in all expected high efficiency burning techniques, site preparations, and supervision while the piles would be burning. Flatiron-Graham would also be required to follow the Province’s requirements for indexing and weather conditions for smoke venting for these piles to be burned.

To my understanding there are approximately 30 piles left to burn inside the District of Mission. Flatiron-Graham has been forthright with information and mapping of the piles and has communicated with the Fire Chief their intentions of efficient clean burning if approved by council.

It should be mentioned that the current Fire Chief has not issued permits when requested by other developers or property owners to burn land clearing debris inside the District of Mission based on the Council resolution of June 9, 2008. It is however common practice that the District of Mission Forestry Department inside the tree farm license (TFL) burns logging debris where and when it is required, as the TFL is exempt from the Burning Bylaw 2975-1996.

This type of burning is not considered common practice in most of our neighbouring communities. Some of the other LMT affected communities like Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, and Pitt Meadows do not allow any land clearing burning within their municipal boundaries, however, Coquitlam has allowed an open burning permit to allow for Flatiron-Graham to burn the piles as it is considered a known fire hazard and feel it’s better to dispose of the pile in a controlled environment using professional foresters. Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows have strictly enforced their bylaw and will not allow burning of the piles.

It should also be mentioned that Mission Fire/Rescue Service attended to six slash pile burning complaints in the areas of Stave Lake Hydro Dam LMT in the winter months of 2013.

SIGN-OFFS:

Larry Watkinson, Fire Chief
APPENDIX – A

Burning Permit to Flatiron-Graham
APPENDIX - B
Resolution of Amendments to Burning Bylaw 2975-1996

Amendments to Open Burning Bylaw 2975-1996

The committee reviewed a report from Frank Ryan, fire chief, dated June 9, 2008 regarding amendments to the District's open burning bylaw.

Moved by Mayor Atebe,

RECOMMENDED:

1. That effective July 1, 2008 Section 4.3 (open burning of yard debris) read as follows:
   
   Except during a burn ban, declared or ordered under the provisions of Section 3.1(b) of this bylaw, yard debris may be burned during the entire 30 calendar days of the month of April in each calendar year, and the entire 30 calendar days of the month of November in each calendar year provided only on properties located outside of residential garbage collection area;

2. That Section 4.4 (open burning of land clearing debris) be removed from the open burning bylaw, effective July 1, 2008;

3. That council direct staff to review the current fees, charges, and fines applied under open burning bylaw 2975-1996, and make recommendations to council for change if required; and

4. That council approve the expenditure of $1,500.00 funded from council contingency to advertise the changes to the bylaw.

CARRIED
APPENDIX C

BURNING BYLAW

DISTRICT OF MISSION

BYLAW 2975-1996

A bylaw to regulate open burning in the District of Mission

The Council of the District of Mission, in open meeting assembled, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. TITLE

1.1 This Bylaw may be cited as the "District of Mission Burning Bylaw 2975-1996".

2. INTERPRETATION

2.1 In this Bylaw

"approved" means acceptable to the Fire Chief;
"burn" includes fire and burning;
"air injection techniques" means an approved technique whereby large volume air blowers are used to inject air into burning material to accelerate burning and reduce smoke;
"Fire Chief" means the person appointed by Council as Fire Chief to manage the Fire/Rescue Service or his delegate;

"land clearing debris" means organic material resulting from the clearing of vegetation from land, but does not include yard debris;

"order" means any order or directive, whether written or verbal, given to a person by the Fire Chief;

"permit" means a document issued by the Fire Chief authorizing a person to burn under the terms and conditions specified in the permit;

"yard debris" means leaves, grass clippings and cuttings resulting from the pruning of shrubs and trees.

3. ADMINISTRATION

3.1 The Fire Chief may:

(a) for the purpose of administering and enforcing the provisions of this Bylaw, enter, at all reasonable times, on any real property, and take with them any persons, apparatus or equipment they deem necessary to control or put out a burn;

(b) notwithstanding any other provision of this Bylaw, at any time in their opinion conditions warrant, declare a burning ban or issue an order;
3954-2006
(c) (i) deleted in its entirety and
renumbered
4051-2008-2975(3)
5070-2009

(c) issue a person a permit to:

(i) hold a special occasion or ceremonial burn (2010 and 2011 - no charge);

(ii) Administration Fee for a fire pit registration permit (2010 rate - $20.00 and 2011 rate - $20.00)

(d) revoke a permit if there is a contravention of any of the terms or conditions under which the permit
was issued.

4. APPLICATION

4.1 The provisions of this Bylaw apply to all burns in the District of Mission except:

(a) a burn done under the control of the District of Mission Forestry Department;

(b) a burn done under the control of the District of Mission Fire/Rescue Service;

(c) a burn contained in a fuel burning appliance, stove or fireplace within a building;

(d) a barbecue taking place in an appliance constructed for that purpose;

(e) a burn within a fire pit provided the fire and its use complies with the provisions of Section 4.2 of
this Bylaw.

4.2 Fire pits and their use shall comply with the following:

(a) a fire pit shall be constructed of noncombustible material, enclosed on all sides, and shall have no
linear dimension exceeding 1 meter (3.28 feet) or vertical dimension exceeding 0.60 meters (2 feet);

(b) except for a parcel of land containing a lawful campground use, a fire pit shall not be located closer
than 4.6 meters (15.09 feet) to any building, combustible structure or any type of material or vegetation
that may be subject to combustion;

(c) except for a parcel of land containing a lawful campground use, only one fire pit is permitted on a
parcel of land unless otherwise approved;

(d) except for a parcel of land containing a lawful campground use, a fire pit shall only be permitted on
a parcel of land containing a dwelling unit;

(e) a burn is to be confined to within the fire pit;

(f) only dry wood shall be burned within a fire pit;

(g) An adult person shall be in attendance at the pit, or in close vicinity to the fire pit, at all times during
a burn;
(h) no person shall continue to burn if it is the cause of an unreasonable nuisance to any other person in the neighbourhood because of drifting smoke, ash or an unpleasant odour;

(i) on a parcel of land containing a lawful campground use it shall be the responsibility of the owner of the land or campground to ensure that fire pits are at a safe distance from any building, combustible structure or any type of material or vegetation that may be subject to combustion.

3203-1999-2975(1) 4.3 Except during a burn ban, declared or ordered under the provisions of Section 3.1(b) of this Bylaw, yard debris may be burned during the entire 30 calendar days of the month of April in each calendar year, and the entire 30 calendar days of the month of November in each calendar year provided:

4051-2008-2975(3) (a) the property is located outside of the residential refuse collection area;

(b) an adult person is in attendance at the burn, or in close vicinity to it;

(c) the piles of yard debris to be burned or being burned do not exceed 1 meter (3.28 feet) in diameter and 1 meter (3.28 feet) in height;

(d) a pile of yard debris to be burned or being burned is not located closer than 4.6 meters (15.09 feet) to any building, combustible structure or any type of material or vegetation that may be subject to combustion;

(e) the burn does not cause an unreasonable nuisance to any person in the neighbourhood because of drifting smoke, ash or an unpleasant odour;

(f) the burn is limited to yard debris derived from the parcel of land on which the burn takes place.

(g) the appropriate equipment required to prevent the fire from spreading shall be available on site during a burn.

4.4 deleted in its entirety and renumbered
4051-2008-2975(3)

4.4 The issuance of a permit under this Bylaw shall not in any way relieve a person to whom a permit has been issued from having to comply with any Act or Regulation of the Province pertaining to a burn.

5. PROHIBITIONS

(a) Unless provided for in Section 3.1(c), Section 4.2, Section 4.3 and Section 4.4 of this Bylaw, no person shall burn or allow a burn to take place;

(b) No person shall burn or allow a burn to take place at variance with any terms or conditions specified in a permit;

(c) No person shall burn or allow a burn to take place during a burn ban declared pursuant to Section 3.1(b) of this Bylaw;

(d) No person shall burn or allow the burning of yard debris at variance with any of the requirements contained in Section 4.3 of this Bylaw;
(e) No person shall construct a fire pit, or burn or allow a burn to take place in a fire pit at variance with any of the requirements contained in Section 4.2 of this Bylaw;

(f) No person shall burn or allow a burn to take place at variance with an order;

3537-2002-2975(2)  (g) No person shall interfere with, or obstruct the entry of the Fire Chief while acting in the conduct of administering or enforcement of this Bylaw.

6. PENALTY

(a) Every person who violates any of the provisions of this Bylaw, or who suffers or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention of any provision of this Bylaw, or who neglects to do or refrains from doing anything required to be done by this Bylaw is guilty of an offence, and each day that the violation is caused or allowed to continue shall be constituted a separate offence.

(b) Every person who commits an offence under this Bylaw shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty prescribed in the Offence Act.

7. "District of Mission Fire Prevention Bylaw No. 1292-1983" is hereby repealed.

READ A FIRST TIME this 2nd day of July, 1996

READ A SECOND TIME this 2nd day of July, 1996

READ A THIRD TIME this 2nd day of July, 1996

ADOPTED this 15th day of July, 1996


MAYOR    CLERK
October 15, 2014

Dear Mayor and Council:

I am writing to invite you to participate in a meeting with officials from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure over the next few weeks regarding **B.C. on the Move: A 10-Year Transportation Plan**.

On October 7, 2014, the Honourable Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, announced that the Government of B.C. will be developing **B.C. on the Move: A 10-Year Transportation Plan**. This new plan will build on our transportation successes over the last 10 years by identifying short, medium and longer-term priorities and projects to enhance the transportation network across B.C. British Columbians are being invited to share their ideas for consideration as future improvements to our transportation network are being developed and prioritized. Please see the attached news release regarding the announcement. A Discussion Guide is now available to read online or download at [http://engage.gov.bc.ca/transportationplan/](http://engage.gov.bc.ca/transportationplan/).

Beginning in mid-October, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure officials will be travelling to communities across the province to discuss transportation priorities with First Nations, local governments, transportation authorities and other community and business leaders. Our intention is to meet with all local governments by November 7, 2014.

These meetings are intended to generate informal and constructive discussions about transportation issues of importance to your community and to the region. The input from these discussions will be considered as the 10-year Transportation Plan is developed. To prepare for these discussions, I encourage you to read the Discussion Guide and to identify your top two or three transportation priorities.

This is an opportunity to ensure your priorities get heard and understood by Ministry officials. If you would be interested in attending, please provide the name of your representative to Lisa Santos at [transportationplan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:transportationplan@gov.bc.ca) or by telephone at **1-844-855-4850**. We will be in touch very shortly to discuss details of the meeting location, date and time. Please note that there will be no reimbursement for any travel expenses incurred for this meeting.

The input received during these meetings will be key to shaping discussions as we prioritize transportation issues across the province as part of **B.C. on the Move**, government’s 10-year transportation plan, and we look forward to hearing about what is important to your community.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Pedersen
Executive Project Director
B.C. on the Move
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Province to seek input on transportation priorities

VICTORIA – The Government of B.C. is developing “B.C. on the Move”, its new 10-year provincial transportation plan, and invites British Columbians to share their ideas as it prioritizes future improvements in our transportation network.

For some, a priority may be improvements to rural roads for safer travel between communities. Others may favour expanded cycling networks in their area or improvements to a regional airport. This is an opportunity for all British Columbians to join in the conversation and let government know about their most pressing transportation needs.

A Discussion Guide is now available to read online or download at http://engage.gov.bc.ca/transportationplan. It includes an overview of B.C.’s transportation network, an outline of accomplishments and highlights of strategies moving forward.

More information will be available online when public engagement opens on Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2014. The public can submit feedback online from Oct. 14 through to Dec. 12, 2014, at 4 p.m.

The input gathered from this provincewide engagement will be considered along with technical information and input from key stakeholders. These stakeholder meetings started in early September, as Parliamentary Secretary Jordan Sturdy met with over 70 groups on Vancouver Island, including local governments and First Nations, to hear first-hand the transportation needs of Island communities.

“B.C. on the Move”, the new 10-year transportation plan, will be ready in the new year and will set out a series of short, medium and longer-term priorities for government.

These priorities will focus on growing the economy, moving goods and people safely and reliably, connecting and strengthening communities, and maximizing collaboration and investment with partners including First Nations, the federal government, local governments, and the private sector.

B.C.’s most recent transportation plan, “Opening Up B.C.”, was developed in 2003. The primary goals of that plan have been accomplished. Since 2001, over $16 billion in transportation infrastructure has been invested to improve the quality of life for B.C. families and strengthen the provincial economy.

Quotes:

Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Todd Stone –

“I look forward to hearing from British Columbians as we develop our new 10-year...
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transportation plan. Through this engagement and our meetings with key stakeholders, we can build a new transportation plan that will benefit our province well into the future; one that reflects the transportation priorities of the people of B.C.”

Learn More:

To read the Discussion Guide, visit http://engage.gov.bc.ca/transportationplan

Media Contact:

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect