By-laws to appoint the City Clerks were made under the authority of the Municipal Act which also dictated many responsibilities of the position. Duties of the Clerk included acting as a secretary of Council. In this capacity, the Clerk was required to maintain records of Council and it is likely that the clerk was also responsible for maintaining custody of these agreements, as well.

Signed for the City by the Mayor and Clerk, these agreements cover a variety of legal arrangements such as the sale, purchase or lease of land; the construction of community facilities; union contracts, as well as matters pertaining to telephone operations, hydro electric power, railways, retail merchants, and health care. In many cases, legal agreements were formally adopted by Council through a by-law.

Agreements are arranged numerically and housed in bound volumes. Each volume includes a numeric list of agreements with a description of the subject matter and indicates when agreements are filed with the Fort William By-laws.

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Further accruals are not anticipated.