

**Town of Channel – Port aux Basques  
1770<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting  
February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

The 1770<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of Council convened at 6:00 p.m. February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Mayor Spencer presiding. Present were Deputy Mayor Strickland, Councillors Battiste, Blackler, Coffin, Keeping and Lane. Also present were the Town Manager and Town Clerk.

**Adoption of Minutes:** It was moved by Deputy Mayor Strickland and seconded by Councillor Coffin the 1769<sup>th</sup> Regular Minutes of Council be adopted as circulated and discussed. MC Unanimously

**Recreation Report – Curling Club Alterations:** Mayor Spencer asked Deputy Mayor Strickland how the meeting with the Curling Association went. Deputy Mayor Strickland stated it went well but there are still some issues that need to be ironed out. Deputy Mayor said they will have to meet again to discuss this.

**Outdoor Recreation Program:** Mayor Spencer noted that the Recreation Director is looking for volunteers to assist with this program.

**Request for Proposals for Senior Housing:** The Town Manager said right now it's just correspondence back and forth, however the proposal will be done by Friday and sent in on time. He said he took a call from Municipal Affairs regarding this and everything has been clarified and they are okay with things.

**Canada Moments:** Deputy Mayor Strickland said there may be some possibilities for this that arose out of the public meeting earlier today.

Mayor Spencer noted that an interesting piece of information he received from the MPs office was that during Canada's 100<sup>th</sup> year the Town received a federal grant in the amount of \$15,700.00 for the old Bruce. This was a grant as part of Canada 100 and the province matched that amount. The Town then borrowed the remainder needed.

**Public Session re Grand Bay West Beach:** Deputy Mayor Strickland noted there was a bit of confusion on the location this morning however it went ahead at the Fire Hall. There were seven (7) people in attendance and some good ideas were brought forward. He is looking forward to the last one and will bring a report back to Council. Deputy Mayor Strickland said Council will need to move on this within the next couple of months in order for things to be in place for the summer.

**Finance Meeting:** Mayor Spencer noted that we need to get a Finance Committee Meeting this week to discuss rates and fees before next year. Seems like a long way off but we need to start now in order to have things done before the budget process.

**Bruce II Two Tier System:** Mayor Spencer advised he is meeting with representatives from the outlying communities and Local Service Districts tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. He had the office send invitations out to everyone. He plans to do a presentation and then open the meeting up for discussion.

The Mayor noted that he has talked to every arena and pool operator in the province and has gathered quite a bit of information that he will put together for Council members.

**School Bus Safety:** Mayor Spencer asked the Town Manager if the letters had gone out regarding this meeting.

The Town Manager advised he had sent one to the contractor requesting him to come in to meet with Council but didn't realize they wanted the concerned parent to attend as well. He will take care of that and send her correspondence tomorrow.

**Greg Sheaves Request for Rezoning:** The Town Manager advised that Mr. Sheaves had wanted some background on how the area in question came to be zoned as Environmental Protection. He said he is compiling some information for Mr. Sheaves and will call him to come in for a meeting once he has it completed.

**Loan for 2017 Snow Plow Truck:** Mayor Spencer asked if this has all been taken care of. The Town Clerk advised yes. Everything has been sent to Municipal Affairs and it has been approved by the Regional Office and now gone to the Minister to be signed off on.

**Correspondence:** It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Coffin the correspondence be accepted and dealt with where necessary. MC Unanimously

**Two Tier System Bruce II:** Two letters were received regarding the controversial issue of the proposed two tier system for the Town operated programs at the Bruce II. One letter was from a resident taxpayer who had previously submitted a letter at our last regular meeting and the other was from an individual from one of the outlying communities.

Mayor Spencer stated as you know the last time he had a gentleman express concerns he called him to discuss it which is why he responded back to him. He then proceeded to read both pieces of correspondence. He noted that both were very well written and well thought out.

Councillor Keeping asked if a letter of acknowledgement will be sent out to the two individuals to which Mayor Spencer replied he will respond to both.

Mayor Spencer noted he likes the non-resident fee that was mentioned in one of the letters. He noted that some communities across Canada that don't have facilities contribute towards the cost of the nearest sports centre. Some pick up 10% and some 45% while others pick up the difference of the non-resident fee and the resident one.

Councillor Lane feels we put the horse before the cart on this issue. He said we probably should have met with the outlying communities first before we made this decision.

**Backyard Composting Program for 2018:** An email was received from MMSB Inquiring if Council wants to participate in their 2018 Backyard Composting Program. Information was attached outlining the two bins and the cost associated with same.

Councillor Lane asked if we had taken part in this before and what was the cost. The Town Clerk advised we purchased some several years ago and most were sold to residents of outlying communities. She noted that Council covered \$5.00 of the cost of every bin and charged back the remainder to persons that purchased them. The Town Clerk said we haven't bought any for several years however we have none left in stock.

It was moved by Councillor Keeping and seconded by Deputy Mayor Strickland we participate in the backyard composting program. MC Unanimously

**Recycle My Cell Newfoundland and Labrador:** Correspondence was received asking that we take part in the initiative for the Recycle My Cell Program. Information on the program was attached.

Deputy Mayor Strickland said he thinks we should participate in this program.

The Town Clerk advised we have participated in the past. We had one bin located here at the Town Office and one at the Bruce II.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Strickland and seconded by Councillor Lane we take part in this and locate the bins at the same location as before. MC Unanimously

**Issues with Water Stop at Stadium Road:** An email we received from the daughter of one our resident taxpayers on Stadium Road outlining concerns she has that her mother is not able to access her water stop which is underneath her neighbour's house. She is asked that the town move her mother's water stop so that this issue can be resolved.

The Town Manager advised that there are two parties involved as well as a number of family members on both sides. They are all antagonizing the situation. He noted that they have been advised they can hire someone to install a new line.

Councillor Keeping suggested if they can't get anyone that we go in and move it and charge the cost back to them.

**Parking Issues Bragg's Lane:** Correspondence was received from a resident of Bragg's Lane complaining about motorist ignoring the "No Parking" signs on their street.

Council asked the Town Manager to contact the RCMP and ask them to monitor the area.

Councillor Blackler asked if the resident could call the RCMP as well.

**Fire Department Report:** Councillor Battiste presented the Fire Department report of February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

A. **Fit Testing:**

- 20 Firefighters have the fit testing completed

**B. New Fire Department Members:**

- Clifford Bateman and Jan Osmond have been selected to join the Fire Department.

**C. New Washing Machine:**

- The new washing machine has been installed and is ready to be used.

**D. Firefighters Banquet:**

- The Firefighters banquet will be held on April 28, 2018.

**E. Regional Pumper Operator Course:**

- Getting information to see if a Regional Pumper Operator Course could be held in this area.

**F. Robo Calls:**

- The RCMP advised that there is nothing that can be done in regards to the Robo calls that the fire department are receiving.

Fit Testing – Deputy Mayor Strickland said this test is done to test the face mask the firefighters wear. You have to ensure that the seal fits the face properly when wearing a SCBA.

Councillor Keeping asked Deputy Mayor Strickland what is a robo call. Deputy Mayor Strickland explained it is telemarketer's calls and while they are continuously calling it interrupts the actual fire calls and their pagers go off every time because of it.

Councillor Lane asked what the other departments are doing to deal with this.

Councillor Battiste noted that most other places they use 911. When you call 911 they can weed out what's actual fire calls as opposed to putting all these robo calls through to the department.

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Coffin the Fire Department Report of February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 be accepted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

**Public Works Committee Report:**

Councillor Keeping presented the Public Works Committee Report of February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The committee met on Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. Present were Councillor Keeping, Councillor Lane and Councillor Coffin. The following sites were visited and items were discussed.

**1. Cecil Sheaves of Nelson Avenue (Exchange of property between Mr. Sheaves and the Town):**

The committee met with Mr. Sheaves to confirm the revised changes that he had requested. After speaking with Mr. Sheaves he was agreeable to the conditions discussed earlier

with the Town Manager and he is in the process of having the legal survey and documents prepared. Committee is in full agreement.

2. **Perry Sheaves- Newtown (Proposal for New Dog Kennel and Modified Dog Pound):**

The committee along with the Public Works Superintendent, Brian Bishop visited the site to try and determine what Mr. Sheaves is actually proposing. It appears that further work has continued after the Stop Work Order was issued. It also appears that the shed is undergoing renovations for a dwelling unit. We recommend that a meeting with Mr. Sheaves be setup as soon as possible to clarify what his plans are.

3. **Former Request for Snowmobile Trail Access off Legion Monument Area and Pentecostal Church:**

The area has been selected and confirmed and the Public Works Superintendent will make necessary arrangements to install markers and a couple of signs in the areas to be kept clear for snowmobile access.

4. **Proposal by Mrs. Lomond to acquire Crown Land around her home in Grand Bay so that she can acquire a legal survey for her property:**

The committee visited the property with the Public Works Superintendent to confirm the location off the culvert system in that area. It appears the culverts are located well away from the home. The committee recommends that the Town Manager meet with the surveyors when they visit the property to note the location of the culverts.

Also while in the area it was noted that the inlet of the culvert system is near the Seniors Cottages. There needs to be "No Snow Dumping" signs posted because of the amount of snow being pushed off in this area.

5. **Fibre Optic Services- Re - New Subdivision Area:**

Committee recommends that Council write Bell Alliant regarding their fiber optic service in Port aux Basques and to request that the service be extended to include the rest of the Town as soon as possible.

6. **Capital Expenditure Items for 2018:**

The committee recommended that tenders and/or request for proposals for the following items of our 2018 Budget be sent out as soon as possible.

- A) Diagnostic Computer Tool
- B) Sewage Pumper, Station Pump
- C) Sewer Camera
- D) Electric Chair Lift for Town Hall
- E) New Backhoe

#2 Dog Kennels on Regional Street – Councillor Blackler asked about the fines we put in place that individuals who failed to obtain a permit before beginning construction be fined four times the cost of their permit.

The Town Manager noted that he had issued a "Stop Work Order" which this person has ignored. Councillor Blackler asked are we ever going to enforce these fines.

It was the general consensus that we ask this resident to come in to discuss this issue and explain to him all the applicable fines.

Fibre Op Services re New Subdivision – It as suggested we invite Bell Allant in for a meeting to discuss the long wait times for obtaining services.

Capital Expenditure Items – the Town Manager said for any of these items under \$10,000.00 doesn't need to go to tender other than the backhoe. We can get quotes for all the other items.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Strickland and seconded by Councillor Battiste the Public Works Committee Report of February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 be accepted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

Newfoundland Power Report: Mayor Spencer presented a report of the meeting he attended with NL Power officials on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

On February 9, 2018 the Port aux Basques Council met with NL Power officials to discuss the power interruption of February 5, 2018 which for a large section of town lasted some 22 hours. The focus of the discussion was the Channel area since before the most recent interruption there were two others on December 13, 2016 and January 24, 2017 lasting some 16 hours for one, and 4 ½ hours in the other. Council wanted to know what NL Power could do to ensure such long periods without power in a section of town would not be repeated in the future.

NL Power felt it was important that Council understood that no two power outages were the same. NL Power had a plan for the energizing critical load in the PAB area. This worked well during the last outing. In the future, if the system conditions are different, such as damages to the distribution system, then the response to how the Town will be energized will be different. In this particular outing, it was a NL Hydro break, out of the hands of NF Power.

It relation to a discussion on the rotation of power that many residents felt should have been done in the last outing, NL Power responded by stating it was important to remember it was difficult to compare generation capabilities of today with 20 / 30 years ago. Many factors affecting generation have changed. Customer's loads have increased. The number of customers has increased. Customers tolerances for voltage / frequency will drop during the initial pick up. Newer electronics can be affected by these swings. The older equipment and electronics found in homes allowed for greater swings, thus was easier to add loads in the older systems. Today's electronic/cyber world has impacted individual demand per household at a higher level than it was 30 years ago.

As stated above, the latest outing saw the critical areas identified by Council and NL Power in an earlier meeting receive power. These were the hospital, water treatment plant, RCMP, communication tower, seniors' home, fuel supply for generators, Lions centre, fire hall and town hall. Council's disappointment was the inability to rotate.

The generation available within our region at that time were the Rose Blanche hydro plant, the Port aux Basques substation, and the Grand Bay substation with its mobile gas and mobile diesel generators. These sources in the immediate zone put total generation capacity on Feb. 5 at 15.5 MW.



Standard industry practice for demand would be 80% to allow for changes in the system. At one point during the interruption it peaked at 13 MW which was above standard ceiling.

Once a system is loaded, adding new sections, or rotating power, can be difficult. When customers, such as the Channel area, were without power for long periods, the demand can be twice as high as normal. In the industry it is known as a Cold Load Pickup. During the Feb. 5 outage the CLP was 88% higher than normal. Using this percentage, it would mean that NF Power would have to take power away from 200 customers in order to energize 100 customers. Channel had 490 customers.

Moving forward, NL Power will complete the planning and necessary work to transfer the Lion's warming centre with the hospital load. NL Power and the Town will look for ways to get power conservation messages out to residents. NL Power will continue the necessary engineering and work to improve the ability to energize the downtown sections on the isolated system. NL Power will discuss the recent outage in the Doyles region with NL Hydro and inquire about any plans for maintenance to avert outages in the area.

The future should bring some relief on a temporary power supply with the acquisition of a generator for the fire hall. This would allow for a second warming centre, plus keep emergency equipment ready to move eliminating a demand on the grid. There is also a generator planned for the water treatment plant. This will also free up the grid for other areas within Town. We must remember, NL Power will energize critical loads as identified by the Town first. NL Power will not target other customers outside of this list but some customers will receive power due to the location in relation to these critical loads and the location of the switches. This results in locations where one side of the street has power while the other does not.

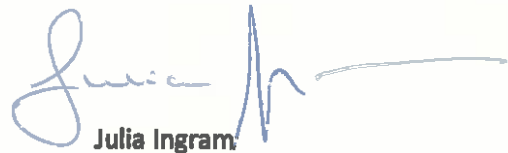
Deputy Mayor Strickland commended the Mayor on his report and the synopsis of the meeting. He noted we need to get the work out on the conservation piece.

Mayor Spencer noted that Newfoundland Power is very receptive to listening on any ideas we may have. He also said that the demand is higher now because of today's world of electronics.

**Adjournment:** With no further business it was moved by Councillor Battiste the meeting be adjourned at 7:08 p.m.



John Spencer  
Mayor



Julia Ingram  
Town Clerk