

Town of Channel – Port aux Basques
1776th Regular Minutes
June 12th, 2018

The 1776th Regular Meeting of Council convened at 6:00 pm Mayor Spencer presiding. Present were Deputy Mayor Strickland, Councillors Battiste, Blackler, Coffin, Keeping and Lane. Also present were the Town Manager and Town Clerk.

Emily May re Bus Stop for Charles Street & Area: Emily May, a student at St. James Elementary, was present to discuss her concerns with the safety of her current bus stop and a suggestion as to where a new much safer one could be relocated.

Mayor Spencer discussed the situation and the proposed location with Miss May and advised her that the area where she suggested a new stop be created was not approved by the School Board due to safety concerns. Mayor Spencer also advised that Council is currently looking at two other possible locations to move the bus stop, however the land in question is privately owned therefore we would have to seek permission of the owner to locate the stop there.

Brian Button re Two Tier Registration System at the Bruce II Sports Centre: Brian Button was present to speak with Council on his displeasure with the summer sports registration process and the two tier payment/registration system with other programs at the Bruce II Sports Centre. He outlined his concerns and the reasons why he felt it was unfair and asked Council to rescind their decision regarding same.

Mayor Spencer and Council members each stated the reason for their decision regarding this and all those present firmly stood behind the decision that was made.

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the Minute of the 1775th Regular Meeting held on May 22nd, 2018 and the Special Meeting of June 5th, 2018 be adopted as circulated and discussed. MC Unanimously

Harbour Bottom Cleanup: Mayor Spencer noted that it was a fabulous job carried out by the divers and volunteers of the harbour cleanup.

Circus: Deputy Mayor Strickland noted this event has now been cancelled as there are some ongoing issues with some of the animals.

ATV Route: The Town Manager advised he spoke to the Minister as we are still waiting for staff to come out to discuss this and he advised that they are trying to find time in their busy schedules to allow for time to visit the area.

Grand Bay West Beach Parking Lot: Mayor Spencer asked if we are going to expand the parking lot this summer to allow for large vehicles to turn around. The Town Manager said yes if we can get some surplus materials from the contractor.

DC Ventures Inc.: Mayor Spencer said Mr. Allen is still looking to the Public Works Committee to find out who owns this land they are interested in.

Councillor Lane noted that he and Councillor Coffin sat down with Mr. Allen and discussed this. Councillor Lane said he explained to Mr. Allen that we did not know who owned the land in question.

The Town Manager explained that the land they are looking at does not exist. It is no longer there and what is there is a reserve for the Canadian National Railway.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities: The Town Manager advised that he and the Town Clerk will be working on the application for the climate change position and he is hoping to have it finalized by the end of the week.

33 Charles Street – Snow Clearing/Sewer Issues: Councillor Lane advised that the Public Works Committee needs to visit the site. Councillor Keeping noted that they didn't get time to meet prior to the meeting.

Bus Shelter: Mayor Spencer noted this issue was dealt with earlier. He said the reason the school board turned it down was because of the amount of traffic in that area and the site lines would not have been clear. Mayor Spencer said a suggestion was to go on the other side of the former Sears Building. He said we should contact the private land owner there to see if he would be open to this.

The Town Manager will call the private land owner in question and as well send him correspondence and note to him that this site needs to be cleaned up.

Entrance to Port aux Basques off of the Trans Canada Highway: The Town Manager advised we are just waiting for the weather to warm up as we need to do some work there. Mayor Spencer said there is signage there that needs to be replaced, especially directional signage indicating the TCH route.

Clean Up of Properties: Mayor Spencer indicated that we need to contact Canada Post and ask them about the possibility of removing the chain link fencing they have on the front of the building. He noted that maybe we can put a bench there in front of the building to dress it up. The Town Manager advised that he has already written the Western Regional Manager about the condition of the property.

It was asked if the owner of the former Orange Lodge located on Read Street had been contacted about the condition of the existing fire escape structure. The Town Manager advised he had not sent a letter out in this regard but will do so.

Industrial Park: The Town Manager advised that he had a draft letter done up to send to the business owners in the industrial park. He said himself and Councillor Keeping will review it before sending it out. The Town Manager further advised that we had some information on the fencing that the Town originally sent out. This was dropped off by a former business owner and was dated 1984. Councillor Keeping noted that one owner had their fencing ordered in.

Correspondence: The correspondence was read. It was moved by Deputy Mayor Strickland and seconded by Councillor Lane the correspondence be accepted and dealt with where necessary. MC Unanimously

#24 Regional Street – Safety Issues with Motorists: An email was received from a resident of 24 Regional Street regarding ongoing concerns with the increasing amount of dangerous driving and high speed rates by motorists in his area.

Mayor Spencer noted that he met with the gentleman in question and viewed a video the person took showing the speed motorists were going. Mayor Spencer noted that this can be very dangerous. He said he feels there needs to be more monitoring done by the RCMP.

Mayor Spencer said he contacted the RCMP himself about this and asked that the Town Clerk forward a copy of the letter submitted to them.

Mayor Spencer said the resident talked about the rock face that is blocking his view coming out of his driveway but this would be too precarious to consider to the home that is on top of the rock face.

Councillor Lane said we can ask the RCMP to be more vigilant. Councillor Keeping suggested we ask them in for a meeting to discuss this and several other areas. It was noted that this is a constant campaign. The Town Manager noted the problem is they don't have enough resources to do every street as well as the highway. He said Council members need to be present at the meeting as well.

Deputy Mayor Strickland asked if the digital sign was out. The Town Manager said it is on Regional Street today.

#19 Stadium Road re Fence Construction: Correspondence was received from a resident of 19 Stadium Road regarding the installation of a privacy fence and issues with neighbours not complying with the same regulations as she was provided with.

Mayor Spencer noted it seems to be an ongoing issue in that area.

Councillor Keeping noted years ago the wording 1' inside the boundary line was there so that courtesy prevails so you can reach over and paint or repair your fence if both you and your neighbour followed the same process.

The Town Manager said he won't be making neighbours move their fences that have already been in place.

Charles Street & Area Bus Stop: An email was received from the Manager of Student Transportation for Western Region Newfoundland and Labrador English School District regarding the location of the bus stop for Charles Street and area students advising that the site suggested (former Pike property) was not approved.

Mayor Spencer said in talking to the contractor we have to go further up the street.

Public Works Report: Councillor Keeping advised he had no official written report as there was only one item they dealt with following the meeting on June 5th, 2018.

Councillor Keeping advised in relation to the building permit application to construct a new dwelling at #60 LeGallais Street the Committee visited the site and there is not enough room even if the shed was removed to build. The only way we could approve a permit to construct on the site is if the shed was removed and the structure was attached to the existing dwelling on the site to make it a duplex.

The Town Manager advised the applicant does not want to do this. He noted he spoke to her builder and he also agreed there is just not enough room.

Mayor Spencer noted the applicant was slighted because she wasn't notified about the visit.

It was agreed the Public Works Committee would revisit the site and meet with the applicant while there.

Recreation Committee Report: Deputy Mayor Strickland presented the Recreation Committee Report of May 23rd, 2018.

In attendance: Deputy Mayor, Todd Strickland, Councillor Blacker, Councillor Coffin, Town Manager, Leon MacIsaac, Recreation Director, Shauna Strickland and Facility Manager, Wanda Merrigan.

1) Review minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting were not available.

2) Business Arising from Minutes:

a) Outdoor Program: A four week program will be implemented, involving four trails from within the region. There will be a small fee and up to 12 people can register. Colin Seymour has agreed to guide the tours.

3) New Business:

a) Softball Field: The town will continue to maintain the area. Councillor Blackler will inquire regarding some possible funding.

b) Replacement of Camera Screen: The cameras are still working but the monitor in the office is not. Wanda has been in contact with the company to see if the screen can be replaced.

c) Joe Lane Room: There was discussion on the amount of memorabilia in the room. Wanda will send a letter to all the user groups to inform them that all requests have to go to the recreation committee prior to anything being displayed.

d) Soccer Registration: There was discussion on adding a small fee to help offset the maintenance cost of the fields. It is being recommended that a fee of \$5 would be added to all outside sports that take place on town fields. This will be implemented in 2019.

e) Recreation Month: A draft copy of the June calendar was distributed for discussion.

f) Playground Course: It is being recommended that a town worker participate in this training in 2019.

g) Summer Sports: It is being recommended to increase the registration cost for the summer sports program from \$150 to \$160 and the fee for the second child would increase from \$75 to \$90. There was also discussion on having two registration times. The deadline for applications for the summer councillor position is Friday May 25. Shauna, Wanda and Jenna will conduct the interviews.

h) National Health and Fitness Day: A family beach walk will be planned on June 2 at 10 am.

i) Tidy Town Reboot: There was discussion on the criteria for tidy towns. Shauna will follow up and forward the information to the committee.

j) Ball Field Access Ramp: This was reviewed by the public works committee and the road down to the field will be paved.

k) Splash Pad Update: It was agreed by council to not proceed with the splash pad project at this time.

l) Bowling Alley: It is being recommended that bowling be offered one night a week during the summer months.

m) Staff Schedule: There was discussion on summer scheduling.

n) Fitness Center Position: This position will be reviewed in the fall.

o) Facility Update: Wanda stated that the roof is in need of repairs and there are a few pieces of equipment that need to be looked at. The air condition unit had some ice built up and there was discussion on the cooling system. Leon is hoping to get an energy audit done on the building.

p) Canada Day/Circus: A circus is interested in doing a show on July 2 as part of Canada day celebrations. Details to follow.

4) Other Business

There was discussion on the operators' course and who should attend.

3. a) Softball Field – Councillor Blackler advised he had sent an email off to the school board regarding possible funds for work on the field. The school board will advise him as soon as they see what has been invested this year and what may be left over in dollars and cents.

3. d) Soccer Registration – Councillor Blackler said the Committee talked about all users of the facility which also includes minor sports. This is a small fee to pay towards the maintenance of the field and the recommendation is for it to come in place 2019 so there is time to address it again should Council feel a need to do so.

3. g) Summer Sports – Deputy Mayor Strickland advised that both groups are filled. He noted it took some juggling around but everyone got in.

3. i) Tidy Towns – Deputy Mayor Strickland said they are waiting on some information on Tidy Towns which the Economic Development Officer/Recreation Director is getting. He noted that in other years we did not enter because we didn't feel we were ready for it and we couldn't get the information we wanted as to where we went wrong and what areas we could improve on.

It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Keeping the Recreation Committee Report of May 23rd, 2018 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

Fire Department Report: Councillor Battiste presented the Fire Department Report of June 6th, 2018.

1. The members who attended fire school said it was well attended and they received good training.
2. On call system will be in place for the summer. Firefighters were asked to sign up for the weekends they are available.
3. They will be doing the fireworks on July 2nd for Canada Day.
4. For Astrolabe Days they will be giving rides between 2 and 4.
5. There was information brought in about a Junior Firefighters Program.

This program is about allowing youth to gain insight and interest in becoming members of the emergency services; increasing awareness among youth about volunteering and supporting the fire and emergency services; leadership development for our youth who are tomorrow's leaders.

6. The firefighters convention will be in September.

Councillor Keeping asked if the on call system has been resolved. Deputy Mayor Strickland advised they have it posted now to see who is available.

Junior Firefighters – Councillor Lane noted that sometimes students in high school have to do a prerequisite of 30 volunteer hours. He suggested we ask the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief to go into the schools and do a presentation on the possibility of having junior firefighters.

Deputy Mayor Strickland noted this has been an idea of his for the past six to seven years so he bought some information back to the Department on this. He noted that the bigger centres have it and this to be popping up more and more. Deputy Mayor Strickland said there is quite a bit of research involved in this and one of the firemen is taking an active role in this. He noted it could be a great program.

Mayor Spencer said from his perspective and Marine Atlantic's perspective if there's anything the fire department needs to let them know. All they have to do is advise the VP of Operations in North Sydney.

South West Coast Joint Council Meeting Report: Councillor Battiste presented a report on the South West Coast Joint Council meeting that was held on June 2nd, 2018 in Port aux Basques.

1. A presentation from Newfoundland Power on some programs to help save energy to help cut cost eg. Change to LED lighting. You must ask about the program before work begins or you won't get any rebates. They also explained how net metering works.
2. They talked about renting versus buying new equipment, smaller towns said renting is better because they have no maintenance or insurance cost.
3. The nomination and election of a new executive will take place at the next meeting.
4. The next meeting will take place in Ramea on September 8th, 2018.

Councillor Lane asked the Town Manager if the other company had gotten back to him on coming in regarding wind turbines. The Town Manager replied that he gave them all the information and they still haven't got back to him. The Town Manager further noted that they approached us wanting to come in and give us a presentation and he followed up a couple of times with both companies but neither of them has given us a date.

Emergency Plan: The Mayor said the amended Emergency Plan had to be adopted by Council. He asked the Town Clerk to explain this to Council.

The Town Clerk advised that the plan has been updated with all necessary changes with the exception of the backup Emergency Operations Centre which is currently the hospital as Council have yet to approve an alternate site. The Town Clerk also noted that once the current Coast Guard building moves to their new location we will have to relocate our repeater therefore the communications piece

of the plan will have to be rewritten at that time. The Clerk advised the plan only needs to be adopted now and we can submit changes as they come up.

Councillor Keeping noted the warming centres need to be included in the plan as well. The Town Manager advised we can't include them until we know the power for the Lions Club is switched to the hospital grid and we have the emergency generator installed at the Fire Hall.

Deputy Mayor Strickland said that Council needs to meet on the emergency plan.

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Deputy Mayor Strickland we adopt the Emergency Plan as amended and presented. MC Unanimously

The Town Clerk noted that she had been contacted by Fire & Emergency Services about the Town hosting some emergency measures training in the Fall. She advised that she had responded and informed them that yes we would host and possibly have it at the Fire Hall. The Town Clerk further advised that she has emailed all the outlying communities to gauge their interest and asked that Council members consider this as well as the Fire Departments. It was noted that Deputy Mayor Strickland, the Fire Chief and the Town Clerk have Basic Emergency Measures, Emergency Operations Centre Management and Exercise Design 100. Councillor Keeping also has Basic Emergency Measures and Emergency Operations Centre Management.

CTV News Story on Port aux Basques: Mayor Spencer read an article he had downloaded from CTV News May 25, 2018. He noted he had the office staff photocopy it for everyone. The article which was part of Canadian Community Health and the General Social Surveys was done nationwide and had 400,000 respondents states Channel – Port aux Basques was ranked third in the top three happiest places to live in Canada. Mayor Spencer said he thought this was great given the number of respondents.

Adjournment: With no further business it was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Deputy Mayor Strickland the meeting be adjourned at 7:51 pm.


John Spencer
Mayor


Julia Ingram
Town Clerk