

**Town of Channel – Port aux Basques  
1792<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting  
May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

The 1792<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting of Council convened at 7:30 pm Mayor Spencer presiding. Present were Deputy Mayor Strickland, Councillors Battiste, Blackler, Coffin, Keeping and Lane. Also present were the Town Manager and the Town Clerk.

**Mr. Greg Sheaves re New Town Plan & Surplus Equipment:** Mr. Greg Sheaves was present to present some issues he had with the new Town Plan and the recent disposal of surplus equipment.

**Town Plan –** Mr. Sheaves advised that the Planner Paul Boundridge recommended he put all his concerns in writing with all the reasons why he felt the Town should not have an Environmental Protection Zone in the Grand Bay West Industrial Park. He said Mr. Boundridge advised him to submit these concerns to Council which is why he is here tonight. The Town Clerk read Mr. Sheaves correspondence.

Mayor Spencer advised Mr. Sheaves Council we will take your points in to consideration in making a decision but we are committed to the Environmental Protection Zone.

Mr. Sheaves noted everyone failed to do their job on this until 2017. He noted he will be following through with Municipal Affairs on this issue.

Councillor Keeping stated to Mr. Sheaves a lot of the questions you have in your letter you know the reasons for as both you and your father sat on Council when this came up. Councillor Keeping said the brook is still there and has changed over the years and this issue was on the go back when Mr. Sheaves was on Council but now the current Council is trying to correct it.

Councillor Lane said from his perspective we are not accountable for past Councils' decisions. He further stated he is going to do everything he can to protect this as well as try to work with businesses to work things out.

Mr. Sheaves stated we all do things that affect the environment, including the Town. He will be watching for this in regards to Town work.

Mayor Spencer said it will go through the proper procedure and you Mr. Sheaves can take the steps you feel you need to do.

Councillor Blackler said in the beginning, you Mr. Sheaves asked for the zoning line to be moved back, now you are asking for all of it to be removed.

The Town Manager asked Mr. Sheaves before you started backfilling was there a pond next to the brook? Mr. Sheaves said it wasn't a natural pond. The Town Manager said so you acknowledge you knowingly and was fully aware you filled in the pond.

**Surplus Equipment –** The Town Clerk read Mr. Sheaves correspondence wherein he was disagreeing with the Town disposing of assets purchased with taxpayers money and not being given the opportunity to purchase same.

Mr. Sheaves said he didn't get the option to bid on these two items and it should have went to tender. He said the market determines the value of the items and it shouldn't be the Town Manager doing so. This should have been posted on the Town's website.

The Town Manager advised the garbage truck was not the Town's property. It belonged to the South West Coast Waste Management Committee. Mr. Macisaac noted that the green garbage truck wasn't able to be put on the road.

Councillor Keeping said wouldn't it be a bit ironic if Council sold you (Mr. Sheaves) the scrap and you put it back on the site you have been ordered to clean up.

Councillor Lane said this is irrelevant because the Town didn't own it and we are not getting any money for this.

Mr. Sheaves said all he is saying this should go to tender.

Councillor Lane said he doesn't agree because the South West Coast Waste Management pays for all curbside collection and maintenance.

Mr. Sheaves reiterated his desire to see tenders go out on surplus equipment.

It was noted anything valued at less than \$500.00 doesn't have to go to tender.

Mayor Spencer advised Mr. Sheaves he can go to Municipal Affairs if he doesn't agree with it.

Mr. Sheaves left the meeting at 8:00 pm.

**Adoption of Minutes:** It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the 1791<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting of May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

**New Municipal Depot:** The Town Manager advised Council Canam Platforms are still doing site preparation.

**ATV Trail:** The Town Manager advised he is still waiting to hear back from the Minister's office.

**Newfoundland Power re Warming Centre:** The Town Manager said he sent Newfoundland Power a plan for locating the poles on the other side of the road. Councillor Keeping said they have the pegs already in place for this.

**Alliant Meeting:** Mayor Spencer said they met today with the local manager and the engineer and will have another meeting 9:00 am Friday with the CEO regarding cellular service upgrades in the event of a power outage. Alliant will be upgrading their tower at Flagstaff Hill as well as the battery system for Avalon Lane. Mayor Spencer said he advised them that there are some pole clusters that need to be cleaned up and they recognize this. Currently they have an automatic kick in at Flagstaff Hill which in power outages runs for 16 hours; they are hoping to double that.

**22 Pleasant Street:** The Town Manager said if we sold a portion of this land we would lose 9-10 parking spots. Whether or not Council as it currently sits won't lose a lot, however it needs some

excavation. Councillor Keeping asked question where this land is located that the Town Manager referring to as he understood we have a grant for it. Councillor Lane advised on the west side of the building.

Deputy Mayor Strickland asked about if he was right in saying someone else had come in to buy this land. He believes it was the Masonic Lodge who asked and turned down. The Town Clerk will check into this.

It was noted that regardless it would still have to be advertised.

**Property at 122 Caribou Road:** The Town Manager advised the order has gone out. He said they have 14 days to respond. Then we move in to take it down. He is also going to check out the legal ramifications if we do so.

**MP Cheryl Gallant re Bill C-68:** The Town Manager advised that he had asked for a condensed version from MP Gудie Hutchings.

**Mouse Island Slipway:** The Town Manager advised the letter has gone to the gentleman that wrote to Council concerning this. Mayor Spencer said he looked at the legal agreement and it states we need to provide written notice to remove. Councillor Keeping said he thought that last year we wrote to advise we would look at seeking funding and if successful in securing some we would put it back.

Councillor Lane said we have to strongly look at the agreement. Councillor Lane said we had informed them in writing and asked that we check the letter that went out last year.

It was agreed that all of Council needs to read the agreement.

**Municipal Alerting System:** Deputy Mayor Strickland asked about this. Mayor Spencer explained it's an app you can install to get notices out to residents. Mayor Spencer said this company is out of Alberta and it was agreed social media is working fine.

**WRWM:** Councillor Keeping answered Mayor Spencer's question from the last meeting about the \$800,000.00 capital reserve. He said they have to have a reserve each year for equipment replacement.

Councillor Keeping said as you know the Province is doing a Waste Management Strategy at which WRWM will be doing a presentation. Councillor Keeping said the number one item is about going back to the original plan that if we have to have garbage shipped to Central the Province provides a transportation subsidy, this should help with the high tipping fees we pay. If we can't get a transportation subsidy we go with our own lined site on the west coast as was originally planned.

Mayor Spencer asked about unincorporated areas. Councillor Keeping said this would be up to the region, as they are outside the LSDs of Cape Ray and the valley. Therefore they are responsible for their own tipping fees to take waste to the Transfer Site.

Councillor Keeping said the consultant is only going as far as Corner Brook and he feels she should come to this area as well.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Strickland and seconded by Councillor Lane we contact the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment to request the consultant doing the Provincial Waste Management Strategy to come to Port aux Basques to hear the concerns of the South West Coast Communities. MC Unanimously

**National Standing Committee on Transportation:** Mayor Spencer presented a report on the recent presentation to the National Standing Committee on Transportation.

Being invited to appear in Ottawa as witnesses before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Community to present as part of a Town of Port aux Basques lobby effort for an end to cost recovery and a return to affordable rates on the constitutionally guaranteed Gulf service provided by Marine Atlantic Inc. (Transport Canada) connecting Port aux Basques, Newfoundland to the rest of Canada was a tremendous opportunity. Also, on the agenda of Port aux Basques Mayor John Spencer and Councillor Jim Lane on the Ottawa trip was the impact of climate change on the reliability of the Newfoundland Gulf Service and a promise of a new administration building for Port aux Basques to facilitate Marine Atlantic's administration team.

Port aux Basques Council representation before the all-party standing committee was shared with representation from the north shore of Quebec, the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland, Atlantic Chamber of Commerce and the Cape Breton Chamber of Commerce. These shared presentations were following by a question and answer session by the MPs present. The overall theme in the dialogue was the impact of climate change and the need for governments at all levels to seek mediation initiatives to protect the integrity of national transportation corridor.

Mayor Spencer and Councillor Lane entertained questions on infrastructure challenges, climate change, proposed fixed link between Labrador and Newfoundland, cost-recovery and fuel-surcharge on the Gulf ferry, food security, Trans Canada pipeline, and rural development.

The positive from the invitation to Ottawa is the lobby effort by the local town council representatives reached the table at the national level. A concern now though is the time frame for action. It is imperative that the rest of the province needs to voice their opinion to their MHAs and MPs regarding cost-recovery, fuel-surcharge and climate change to ensure planning and initiatives move forward to deal with challenges in a timely manner ensuring a safe, efficient and affordable service is available for travellers and goods and services for the entire province.

A disappointing highlight for the Town of Port aux Basques on the Ottawa trip was a confirmation of a further delay in the construction of a new administration building to house Marine Atlantic's management team within the town. Current employees of Marine Atlantic are working in three buildings in the Port aux Basques area, in three separate locations, within municipal boundaries. However, now that the physical site for a proposed ultra-modern building has been chosen, Council remains optimistic, knowing an announcement on the proposed construction will be made in the not too distant future. Plus, this year's federal budget had the tremendous announcement of a commitment by Transport Canada for a new vessel for the Gulf service. The immediate priority for Marine Atlantic will be the procurement of a new vessel. It is our understanding that Marine Atlantic will

continue to work with the Government of Canada to complete all the due diligence activities and seek final approval to proceed with the new administration facility.

The Town Manager noted that they did not have much opportunity to speak on the National Trade Corridor. Councillor Lane said they were limited to five minutes so they didn't have much time.

Mayor Spencer said there are no tolls on the 7.2 Billion bridge in Montreal and Via Rail cost 738 Million however we are the only people that have cost recovery. He noted Bernadette Jordan is the new person to deal with and he has already emailed her.

Mayor Spencer said fares have gone up by 107% since 2017 however the cost of living only went up by 19.6%. They made a campaign promise in 2015 and are now using this to justify other projects but not us. He also noted they have a four week window to do the procurement for a new vessel.

Councillor Lane said we need to push the media on this and involve other communities as well for support. We also need to get MNL on board.

Mayor Spencer noted that the Chunnel concept is very real.

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

**St. James Regional High Social Justice Team re Pride Week:** Correspondence was received from the St. James Regional High Social Justice Team asking the town to sanction June 1-7, 2019 as LGBTQ2S week and asking for funds from the town to help them with the cost of their events.

Councillor Lane said he is not in favour of a financial donation however would support a bbq. It was agreed we pass this along to the Recreation Committee to coordinate an event with them.

**CPAA NL Branch re Closure of Grand Bay Post Office:** Information was received from CPAA NL Branch President on the possible closure of the Grand Bay Post Office. Facts were provided on the cost provided to house a post office. They are asking that Council put the word out to see if anyone in the community would be interested in taking this on.

Councillor Blackler noted there was a survey out on this asking if you felt you would miss this service if it was gone. Councillor Keeping suggested maybe this is something the Chamber could take on.

**C & C Enterprise Inc. re Water Issues at the Transfer Shed:** Correspondence was received from C & C Enterprises about water problems due to run off from High Street. Councillor Keeping noted they looked at this before. It was agreed the Public Works Committee visit the site to review the issue and bring a report back to the next meeting.

**Race to the Sea Sponsorship:** Correspondence was received from the Race to the Sea Committee requesting Council's financial support for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighthouse Relay Race to the Sea.

Mayor Spencer asked the Town Clerk what we have done in the past. The Town Clerk responded that we have donated \$500.00 in previous years for this event.

It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Deputy Mayor Strickland we donate \$500.00 again this year. MC Unanimously

**Recreation Committee Report:** Deputy Mayor Strickland presented the Recreation Committee Report of May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

In attendance: Deputy Mayor, Todd Strickland, Councillor Coffin, Town Manager, Leon McIsaac, Facility Manager, Wanda Merrigan, Recreation Director-EDO, Shauna Strickland.

- 1) Review minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the March 14 meeting were adopted at the March 26 council meeting.
- 2) Business Arising from Minutes:
  - a) Mariners Update: There was a discussion on the contract with the Mariners.
  - b) Zamboni: It was agreed to contact the business who is interested in sponsoring the Zamboni paint job. This project can start at any time.
  - c) Recreation Conference: The conference is taking place May 23 to 26. Shauna, Wanda, Chester and Jerome are registered.
- 3) New Business
  - a) Summer Sports Update: The application for summer students was approved and 15 students will be hired. It was agreed that the summer sport registration cost will remain the same: \$150 for the first child and \$75 for the second child.
  - b) Supervisor - Summer Sports: The supervisor position has been filled.
  - c) Mental Health Training: Funding has been approved to conduct mental health training with the Bruce II staff. There will be 20 participants who can avail of this training.
  - d) Running Program: A nine week running program started on April 29. There were 30 + participants who signed up.
  - e) Mascot: It was agreed that a mascot will be purchased and we will ask the elementary school students to name the mascot.
  - f) Ball Hockey: There was discussion on the ball hockey schedule. Slots are being booked.



g) Room Rental: There was discussion on an inquiring to use the Joe Lane room for programming.

h) Community Garden Application: An application was submitted to access funds to purchase topsoil for the new garden beds.

i) Wellness Session May 15: Western Health will be hosting a one day wellness session. Shauna and Wanda will be attending.

j) JCP Proposal: A JCP proposal was submitted to hire individuals to carry out work around the Bruce II, i.e. build new shelving for the ball field shed, do some exterior painting around the building, as well as interior painting.

k) Elementary School Request: There was discussion on helping the school with the concrete pad they are constructing.

l) Cell Service at the Bruce II: There was discussion on the lack of service in the building. Wanda will look into the cost to get Fibre opt for the building.

4) Other Business:

There was discussion on getting some new screens, a smart board, etc for the Joe Lane Room.

There was discussion on getting new signs for the ball field stating no animals on the field.

There was also a request to donate softballs to the league again this year.

3. e) Mascot – Councillor Keeping asked what this is for. Deputy Mayor Strickland explained it's just a mascot for events at our building. The Committee are looking at animals of Canada or Newfoundland.

3. j) JCP Proposal – Councillor Keeping said there was some suggestion we paint the concrete in the seating area. He noted he is strongly opposed to this because the concrete has a special sealant on it. He said we should just clean it with a pressure washer. If we painted them it would be slippery.

3. l) Cell Service at the Bruce II – the Town Clerk noted that there are times there is no cell phone service in the building. Councillor Blackler noted a booster is required. Right now sometimes there is no Wifi as well. If we can't get cell service or Wifi we are not going to get people to book for meetings. With this small investment we could draw people in.

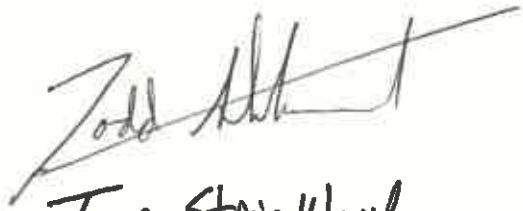
It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Battiste the Recreation Committee Report of May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

**Town Plan:** The Town Manager advised there was a copy of the Meeting Notes from the May 6<sup>th</sup> public consultation/drop in meeting at the Bruce II Sports Centre (copy attached) for everyone's review. If Council is okay with it we will need a motion to appoint Paul Boundridge to act on Council's behalf with the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment, and to adopt the draft in principle.

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Battiste the Town of Channel – Port aux Basques adopt in principle the Draft Municipal Plan and the draft Development Regulations. MC Unanimously

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Strickland and seconded by Councillor Lane the Town of Channel – Port aux Basques hereby authorize Paul Boundridge to act on their behalf to confer with the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment to request a review of the proposed draft Town of Channel – Port aux Basques Municipal Plan 2019-2029 and a draft Town of Channel – Port aux Basques Development Regulations 2019-2029 against Provincial Policies and Interests and to obtain a release from further review by the Province. MC Unanimously

**Adjournment:** With no further business it was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Deputy Mayor Strickland the meeting e adjourned at 9:16 pm



Todd Strickland

John Spencer

Deputy Mayor



Julia Ingram

Town Clerk