

Town of Channel – Port aux Basques
1803rd Regular Meeting
January 14th, 2020

The 1803rd 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 Town Clerk.

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Deputy Mayor Strickland the 1802nd Regular Minutes of December 17th, 2019 be adopted as circulated and discussed. MC Unanimously

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Coffin the Privileged Minutes of December 17th, 2019 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

17 Harry's Lane - Water Leak: Councillor Keeping questioned what was meant by having to bring someone in from out of town to assist getting this repaired. Mayor Spencer explained that the lady's father was going to come out to assist but he doesn't want to do it now. Councillor Lane asked what is the time line we are looking at here. The Town Manager said he issued the order and then they asked for an extension due to weather which we granted. The homeowners got an additional thirty (30) day extension from Municipal Affairs and Environment which is up in one week's time.

Councillor Lane said his concern is the buildup of water which is now ice. The Town Manager said this is very shallow and will need insulation on top on the line. Councillor Keeping asked if the homeowners were receptive to the Town digging it up and repairing it. The Town Manager responded no they weren't.

Councillor Lane asked if we can go in after next week and fix it and invoice the owners for same. The Town Manager said yes. It was agreed if it is not fixed by the deadline the Town's work forces will repair it and invoice the homeowners for the work.

Grand Bay Bottom Sanitary Sewer Project: The Town Manager advised the Request for Proposals closed and there were six (6) submissions which were all graded on technical and financial aspects. This has now been awarded to Meridan Engineering. Mr. McIsaac said the Province doesn't give out financial data on this. The Town Manager said the consultant will be out next week for the initial meeting and to get the Prime Consultant Agreement signed. The Town Manager also noted that anywhere we can use our own work forces we will. Mr. McIsaac said this is going to be a multi-phase project and he would think Meridan will be there for all phases.

Councillor Keeping noted he would like to sit in on the meeting with the Consultant. The Town Manager said he will notify all council members when they will be coming out to see who is available to attend.

Come Home Year Committee Update: Councillor Lane said packages have gone out through email and to those addresses submitted. He said the schedule is also on social media. They have another meeting tomorrow night.

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

Piranha Swim Club – Swim for Hope: A letter was received from the Piranha Swim Club seeking financial donations or donations of any kind towards their annual Swim for Hope.

Mayor Spencer asked what we've normally done in the past. The Town Clerk advised she checked with the Facilities Manager and we have provided swim passes and the use of the pool at no charge.

Deputy Mayor Strickland noted he has concerns that Port aux Basques was not mentioned in the letter and none of these monies are being spent here. Both Councillor Lane and Councillor Blackler said there are kids here that use these programs the same as they use the Ronald McDonald House.

It was moved by Councillor Keeping and seconded by Councillor Lane we proceed to do as we have done in the past for the Swim for Hope. MC Unanimously

Minister of Municipal Affairs & Environment re 2019/2020 Fire Protection Vehicle Program: Correspondence was received from the Honourable Derrick Bragg advising that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has increased funding for a total amount of \$379,730.00.

The Town Clerk explained that our original approval for a new fire truck was \$360,000.00 but the tender came in at \$379,730.00 so the Minister approved the additional funds. This funding is on a 70/30 Provincial/Municipal ratio with the Town's share being \$103,305.71.

Minister of Transportation & Works TCH Signage/ATV Trail: Correspondence was received from the Honourable Steve Crocker thanking Council for their correspondence requesting an update on the status of signage on the Trans Canada Highway and some issues with regards to the ATV Trail/T'railway system in Channel – Port aux Basques.

Minister Crocker advised the list of signage for replacement was forwarded to staff in the region and most signage was repaired or replaced during the summer maintenance season. It was also determined that some of the signage on the Town's list did not require replacement during this season and will be evaluated again next year.

With respect to the Town's request for the realignment of the ATV Trail/T'Railway system from High Street to parallel the Trans Canada Highway, engineering staff from their department are investigating.

The Town Manager noted that the Department said they addressed most of the signs but he'd like to see what ones they did.

Councillor Lane said we need to let the Minister know we are not satisfied with his response. Councillor Lane said this is ridiculous we have been 18 months to 2 years on the trail and we're still nowhere.

It was agreed the Town Manager would write the Minister and invite him to a meeting to discuss these issues as well as the tunnel project.

Anonymous Correspondence re MNL and their Financial Status: An anonymous piece of correspondence was received about concerns with the financial status of Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador and the salary being paid to the Executive Director.

Mayor Spencer said if this person had concerns they could have spoken up when the Financial Statement was presented at the MNL convention.

The Town Clerk explained that she had contacted MNL to advise them of this letter but apparently so had many other municipalities. The communications person she spoke to said they are seeking a legal opinion on this as the points in the letter are not valid. MNL also said they were surprised we would table an anonymous piece of correspondence at a public meeting.

It was noted that in the past we have not dealt with anonymous correspondence. Councillor Lane said we can't take action where there is no name attached to it and no substance. Councillor Coffin said we never read out letters with no names. Mayor Spencer said the Province says you have to.

It was suggested we look into the possibility of developing a policy when receiving anonymous correspondence.

Councillor Keeping asked didn't we request MNL to forward a letter out to all municipalities on the cost recovery issue. Mayor Spencer said he wrote the letter requesting contact for municipalities to we could put forth our concerns but he still hasn't received anything. Mayor Spencer noted he did email a lot of communities but so far hasn't received any response other than Stephenville.


ATIPPA – Head of a Public Body: The Town Clerk explained that although she is the ATIPPA Coordinator and the Acting Town Clerk fills that role in her absence, she has been advised by the ATIPPA office that we need a motion of Council to appoint a Head of a Public Body. This is a requirement under the ATIPPA.

It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane we appoint the Town Manager as Head of a Public Body for the purposes of ATIPPA. MC Unanimously

Motion to Borrow for Visa Card: The Town Clerk advised even though we have several Master Cards we have a Visa Card with Scotiabank in the amount of \$40,000.00 which we use mainly for Come Home Year activities especially when it comes to beverage purchases. The Town Clerk said we pay these amounts on the card as soon as they are incurred to avoid interest.

It was moved by Councillor Keeping and seconded by Deputy Mayor Strickland to hereby authorize the Mayor or Deputy Mayor with the Town Clerk to enter into the agreement with Scotiabank for the renewal of our Visa Card not to exceed \$40,000.00 (motion attached). MC Unanimously

Adjournment: With no further business it was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Deputy Mayor Strickland the meeting be adjourned at 8:18 pm. MC Unanimously



John Spencer
Mayor



Julia Ingram
Town Clerk