

Town of Channel – Port aux Basques
1806th Regular Meeting
March 10th, 2020

The 1806th Regular Meeting of Council convened at 6: p.m. Mayor Spencer presiding. Present were Councillors Coffin, Battiste, Lane and Keeping.

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the Regular Minutes of February 16th, 2020 be adopted as circulated and discussed. MC Unanimously.

Dextron Unit: Councillor Lane asked if there were any updates. The Town Manager answered that he was waiting to hear back from Simco.

Come Home Year: Councillor Lane said everything is on track and the next meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on March 11th.

Harrys Lane Water Leak: The Town Manager advised that he is still waiting on Western Regional Appeal Board. The Board meets once a month depending on the availability of the committee members.

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the Regular Minutes of March 10th, 2020 be adopted as circulated and discussed. MC Unanimously.

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

New Firefighters: A letter was received from the Fire Chief advising Council that two new applicants have been interviewed for the position of future firefighters.

FCC Agrispirit Grant: A letter was received from the Channel-Port aux Basques Lions Club requesting Councils assistance in applying for a FCC Agrispirit Grant. The Town Manager stated there are repairs needed to the back of the building. The Lions Club is not looking for funding from Council, the just need to apply in conjunction with a Municipality.

Mayor Spencer stated that the Town will partner with the Lions Club; they are not looking for financial commitment from the Town. Councillor Lane asked the Town Manager to draft a letter in the morning to send with the application.

It was moved by Councillor Keeping and seconded by Councillor Lane that Council support the Lions Club in applying for the FCC Agrispirit Grant. MC Unanimously.

Winter Carnival: Correspondence was received from the Port aux Basques Lions Club requesting a donation from Council to aid with the preparation of Winter Carnival.

It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the Town donate \$250.00 to the Port aux Basques Lions Club to help with the cost of Winter Carnival. MC Unanimously.

Commercial Garbage Pickup: A letter was received from a local business owner in relation to commercial garbage pickup. The owner of the new business was concerned how his taxes were higher and he had to pay for someone to carry the garbage to the transfer site. Mayor Spencer said Council had agreed to pick up garbage from businesses that were already in operation, the businesses would be grandfathered in. Any new businesses would have to take care of their garbage themselves. The business in question has now been opened for approximately fifteen months with no garbage collection being offered or any updates brought forward to them.

Councillor Lane stated that Council had discussed putting a rate on the commercial garbage and businesses could opt in or opt out. Any commercial business old or new could take part in the garbage collection if the rate was agreed upon.

The Town Manager said this only applied to current commercial businesses that we currently collect from. Council agreed that the rates would be given to them and they could go with the new collection system or take their garbage to the transfer site themselves.

Councillor Keeping stated that Council would allow any commercial business to have their garbage collected by the Town in the rate was agreed upon.

Mayor Spencer said this would be discussed after the regular meeting. Council advised that the new commercial rates would be implemented in June 2020. The Town Manager stated the rates would be in place by the first of July 2020.

CNA Donation for Scholarship: A letter was received from Carol Ingram, Campus Manager for CNA. Mrs. Ingram is hopeful she can count on a contribution from Council again this year.

It was moved by Councillor Coffin and seconded by Councillor Keeping that Council donate \$250.00 to aid with the CNA Scholarship Fund.

Water Tax/Vacant Apartments: Correspondence was received from a resident regarding water taxes paid on vacant apartments in the past years. Councillor Lane asked if there was a water line running to the apartments. If there is a water line connected to the apartments then water taxes must be paid.

Mayor Spencer said even if the apartment is vacant the service is still provided. This will be forwarded to the Finance Committee.

Special Assistance Grant: Confirmation of a Special Assistance Grant was received from the Department of Municipal Affairs. This grant will be used to help purchase bunker suits. A total of \$7800.00 will be given to the Fire Department.

Bruce II Upgrades: Correspondence was received from the Department of Municipal Affairs in regards to the Bruce II. The arena has been approved for two grants which will be used for a water station and upgrades to the main entrance. The Town Manager stated that one option was to take out the sliding doors. There are a lot of issues with the automatic opening of the main doors.

Bruce II Upgrades: Mayor Spencer and Councillor Keeping both disagreed with changing the type of doors at the Bruce II. Councillor Keeping said the doors have been in place for twenty years and if there are problems, the doors should be replaced with automatic doors again. Mayor Spencer agreed with Councillor Keeping that the doors should be replaced with new ones of the same type. Kids are entering the arena towing large hockey bags behind them and the automatic doors are better suited.

Councillor Lane said he was in favor of keeping the same type of doors. In the last twenty years these types of doors have improved.

Fire Department Report: Councillor Battiste read the Fire Department Report of February 6th, 2020.

The following is the key points that came from the departments meeting on the date mentioned above:

Members In Attendance:

- 21 firemen and 2 council (Blackler and Battiste)

Minutes of previous meeting:

- Bar fridge is here and installed. Old one needs to be taken away
 - (Leon can we take it away if the scrap yards don't want it)

Gloves being order (20 pairs at \$120 a pair)

Porter tank is here and looking to use it this spring for training

Name tags ordered/will be ordered

Warming center

- (Town has a list out for volunteers for the warming center). Details are still being worked out. Department knows they are not the main source.
- When do the generators start to keep the department open and functional?
(Leon)

Air samples are tested and good on the compressor

Honorarium structure has been updated, not finalized, but provided to the membership.

Open for feedback.

New deadline on the steak dinner for the Feb 15th supper

Financial Report:

- ~\$27,000. Department is in good standing
- ~ \$70,000 in GIC

Correspondence:

- Canadian Firefighter Magazine
- NL Fire Association Calendar: Do the department want to donate \$250 to have a picture in the calendar?

New Business:

New Firemen:

- Discussion was had on the process followed to choose the four firemen
- Jerry informed the membership that he made the decision for the 4 members
- No questions or debate from the membership
- Councillor Blackler informed them that the decision made at the office level was upheld. There was no new decision of council needed

Fire 1 Training and Gas Monitors

- Fire 1 training continues to be a lengthy process. 110 hours of training.
- Plans are being created to complete the program one piece at a time

Record of attendance at fire scene

- Department needs to create some way to track attendance at fire scenes.
- There are many reasons to track this statistic.
- A discussion was held on ways to improve the on scene accountability system (who's there and for how long)

First aid training

- An update was discussed on who is trained and who needs training

FES Fire School

- May 23-29

NLAFS Convention

- October 2-4

Fit Testing

- An update was given on those needed fit testing

Snow Clearing

- A discussion on the need to be better

Councillor Comments:

- No comments at this time

Water Pump: Councillor Keeping asked if the water pump can be relocated. It was a pump given to the Town by Marine Atlantic. If the pump is still able to be used Council should ask the Fire Chief if it can be stored elsewhere.

Councillor Lane asked if the pump could be stored in the old fish plant.

Councillor Battliste said if the fire truck could be started then it could be moved.

On Call System: Councillor Keeping advised that Council did not say or approve any motion that stated the On Call System was to be mandatory during the weekends of the summer. Maybe Mayor Spencer could write the Fire Chief to clarify that Council did not say that the On Call System was to be mandatory.

Mayor Spencer stated that if Council guarantees that there will be eleven weeks of coverage to the community, the business people and Marine Atlantic and there is no coverage in place then Council should be aware of the liability issues. If there is an emergency on Marine Atlantic parking lot and there is nobody to cover the emergency then Council could be liable.

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Coffin the Fire Department Report of February 6th, 2020 be adopted as circulated and discussed. MC Unanimously.

Southwest Coast Joint Council Meeting: Mayor Spencer presented the Southwest Coast Joint Council Report.

Southwest Coast Joint Council Report – Port aux Basques host site.

Presentations:

Waste Management – Josh Carey/Jason King

This group is officially a Regional Services Committee (ie water testing service). Waste management is just one of many services under its umbrella.

Fixed Link – Mayor John Spencer/Councillor Lane

Business:

1. Lights for Indian Head corridor
2. Child Care subsidies to attend MNL & Joint Council Meetings
3. Stephenville Airport – Provincial Government backing line of credit
4. Stephenville Airport – Announcement on closure pending
5. Province Wide Property Tax – BSGS LSD
6. Municipal training for Capital Funding Applications
7. Double lane highway across the entire province (access – Stephenville/Whites Rd. problematic)

Comments from local MHAs Andrew Parsons and Scott Reid

Next meeting in June. Location: Ramea

Other items: MNL Symposium Gander – April 30/May 2

MNL Western Regional Meeting Deer Lake – June 26/27

Child Care Subsidies: Mayor Spencer said a letter should be drafted in support of Child Care Subsidies so more youth can attend MNL and Joint Council meetings.

- Stephenville Airport:** Mayor Spencer listed items from the meeting about the airport.
- Stephenville Airport is looking to increase their line of credit from 1 million to 1.5 million.
 - It costs \$3000.00 for the air ambulance to respond to a call & the Provincial Government reimburses the airport \$80.00.
 - March 13th is the deadline for the airports closure.
 - Stephenville Airport employs 80 people.

Waste Management: Councillor Lane asked Councillor Keeping to elaborate on the waste management issue. Councillor Keeping said in the beginning there were supposed to be four sites Eastern, Central, Western and North. There was supposed to be an engineered lined land fill site here. The Provincial Government decided Port aux Basques would get a transfer site, but not an engineered lined land fill site and our waste would be transferred to Central. Port aux Basques was also supposed to receive a transportation subsidy due to our waste being shipped out, but that didn't get put into place either. It was brought to the Boards attention that we want cost shared funding and a subsidy or we want to have our own transfer site. If we can't have those things we would like to have our own site as was originally promised.

Councillor Lane stated that if there was a site on the west coast managed by the same board it would mean lower rates for the Town. If we had our own site it would keep the tipping fees down.

Public Works Report: Councillor Keeping presented the Public Works Report of March 10th, 2020.

The Public Works Committee met on March 10th, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Present were Councillors: Keeping, Coffin and Lane. Also present was the Town Manager. The following items were discussed and sites visited:

1. Mobile Speed monitoring displaying sign – The Committee discussed this price of equipment and feel we need to make more use of it on different streets throughout the Town. We recommend that this equipment be checked and operational before the spring, summer and fall.
2. Streetlights – During our last regular meeting the issue of the number of street pole lights that are not working was discussed. Councillor Lane has since provided a list of these lights and their locations. We recommend that NL Light & Power be written and request these lights be replaced A.S.A.P.

3. Property off of Gale Street – This property was discussed during our last regular meeting, now that the size and actual location of the land has been defined, the Town Manager will contact the owner regarding cost.
4. Snow Push off Area on Wharf Road in Grand Bay East – Following concerns put forward by residents living in this area. The Committee visited the site to access their concerns. While there we spoke to a number of residents and also determined that the area/space we are using for snow push off is very limited. It was determined that there is a small dilapidated shed next to the push off area, if removed it would solve our problem. In this regard the Town Manager will contact the owner of the property to determine what the plans are for the shed and if he would be interested in selling it. We will report on this matter at our next meeting.
5. St. James Regional High School Issues with Town snow clearing efforts along Hardy's Arterial in the vicinity of the school. The Committee visited the area and discussed ways and means to improve snow clearing after snow storms. We submit the following recommendations.

Note – This will also apply to street in front of the Bruce II Complex and parking lot.

1. Given there are no residents living in this immediate are the loader(s), salt/sand plows, truck operators will be advised to open and push off as much snow on this street as possible. If time and conditions permit, snow along the opposite side of the road from the school will be pushed off to allow for parent parking.
2. Also, given the amount of traffic and for the safety of children immediately following the snow storm the street and sidewalks from the Fire Hall in Grand Bay to the Bruce II Complex will be given priority for cleanup and snow push off.
3. We approached the High School to discuss the possibility of their snow clearing contractor opening the parking lot across from the school if we don't get to it.

Note – We included the Bruce II Complex because this is also of great concern.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 a.m.

Display Sign: Councillor Lane thought that Council should look into purchasing a second sign.


Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Coffin the Public Works Report of March 10th, 2020 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously.

Revised CIP: The Town Manager explained that the funding from gas tax used to make renovations to the Town Hall went over by approximately \$3,000.00. Due to the money going over the original amount Council needs to submit a revised CIP to the Gas Tax Secretariat and that needs to be followed by a motion of Council.

It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane that the Town of Channel - Port aux Basques submit a revised Capital Investment Plan to the Gas Tax Secretariat for Project 45 - 2019-6659 Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Town Hall to change the total Gas Tax Fund allocation from \$89,065.00 to \$93,697.78.

Voted for 6/Against 0

Adjournment: With no further business it was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the meeting adjourn at 7:25 p.m.


John Spencer
Mayor


Tracy Beaton
Acting Town Clerk