

Town of Channel – Port aux Basques
1812th Regular Meeting
September 8th, 2020

The 1812th Regular Meeting convened at 6:00 pm Mayor Spencer presiding. Present were Councillors Battiste, Blackler, Coffin and Lane. Also present were the Town Manager, Recreation Director and Town Clerk.

Sexual Violence Awareness Week: Mayor Spencer read the Sexual Violence Awareness Week Proclamation that he signed just before the meeting.

Hiram Billard: Mr. Hiram Billard was present to put forth his concerns about the overnight camping at Grand Bay West Beach parking lot.

Mr. Billard said he lives at 15 Kyle Lane in Grand Bay West and he is here tonight on behalf of the residents of Kyle Lane and Grand Bay West. Mr. Billard said he's very concerned about the length of stay these campers are there; recently there was one there for four nights. As well they are going on private properties to turn around. These tourists have been telling the residents to keep the noise down. Since the campers have been coming there birds are being killed. Mr. Billard said their view is taken away by campers.

Mr. Billard suggested Council put a trailer park off of Hopedale Avenue as there is already water and sewer there. He said you could build a large wooden walkway for access to the ponds and both beaches. He said by providing people with free parking people at the JT Cheeseman Park could lose jobs. Mr. Billard asked if Council had environmental approval as this area is a salt water marsh with as many as forty difference species of birds that visit there.

Mr. Billard said he has a petition signed by a lot of people that don't want camping grounds at Grand Bay West Beach. He noted in the questionnaire that was sent out nowhere did it say you had to provide your signature. He said nine out of ten homeowners in Kyle Lane don't want it. One resident didn't sign because he was harassed before. Mr. Billard showed pictures of years ago where signs were posted and other pictures as well of people turning around in private driveways, two dead birds on the parking lot and so on. He said people come to the beach to see the nature and beauty of the area. He then referenced Councillor Lane's previous comments about developing land there for a trailer park which doesn't make sense.

Mayor Spencer asked Mr. Billard to drop a copy of the photos off to the Town Office.

Councillor Lane said he'd like to clarify that he did not say he was in favour of putting a trailer park on our land at Grand Bay West Beach. Right now it's a band aid effect until the private developer gets his trailer park developed. However he agrees Hopedale Avenue is a good idea. Mayor Spencer said we could see if the commercial owner with the lot at the end of the street wants to donate land to us. The Town Clerk advised this has been bought by a local business and they intend to use it.

Mayor Spencer thanked Mr. Billard for coming in.

Recreation Committee Report: Recreation Director Shauna Strickland presented the Recreation Committee Report of August 25th, 2020.

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

1) Review minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the June 9th meeting were adopted at the June 18th Council Meeting.

2) Business Arising from Minutes:

a) JCP Grant: Four workers were hired to complete minor repairs at the Bruce II Sports Center.

b) Summer Student Update: There are five students working with the town completing various projects throughout the community and assisting with sanitizing the playgrounds.

3) New Business

a) Birthday Party Rentals: It was agreed that the pool would be the only birthday party rental we could accommodate at this time.

b) Financial Update: The committee reviewed the stats from 2019 and 2020 to give an update on the revenue vs expenses.

c) User Group Update

Curling Club: David Thomas provided a written update on their plan to return. It was reviewed and the committee recommended that they proceed.

Hockey: Meetings are on-going with HNL. It is being recommended that children under the age of 9 will come with one parent or caretaker. Children nine and over are not permitted to have a parent or caretaker in the building. The dressing rooms will not be open. Half an hour will be set aside to clean in between each rental. It was agreed that 60 people would be the maximum number of people on the ice at one time.

It is being recommended that registration be completed on-line vs. in the building. The local hockey association will assign someone to keep track of everyone coming into the facility. A copy of the list will be given to the stadium to keep for 14 days. Normally the ice is scheduled to be put down by October 13 however if Andrews Hockey School is going ahead it will be one week earlier. Both hockey and figure skating are willing to start as soon as the ice is ready. Wanda will follow up with Andrew's Hockey School to determine what their plans are.

Skating: This year the local association will not be taking kids that are unable to skate independently. The senior and general skate will continue, no seating out front but chairs will be situated 6 feet apart along the wall.

Bowling: There has been no update from YBC at this point. The senior bowling and sunshine bowling will go ahead with restrictions. There was discussion on hiring the part time position, it was advertised and there are a few resumes. Shauna and Wanda will review.

Swimming: The swim team will focus on competitive swimming only. It was agreed that only private lessons would be offered at this time.

d) **Canteen Services:** The canteen is still under restrictions, and cannot serve food in the building post events so this may change how the canteen can operate. Further follow up will be done with the operator to determine her plans.

e) **Events- Senior Programming:** Looking to start some senior programming in the Fall, it will look different but hopefully we can be successful.

f) **Rate Review 2019:** The rates were reviewed in 2019 for the upcoming 2020 fall season. Those rates were approved and will be effective September 2020.

g) **Softball Tournament:** There was discussion on a softball tournament that took place in town.

4) Other Business

Mrs. Strickland said normally Andrews Hockey School would be October 13th but this year it's a week earlier. She noted both Minor Hockey and Figure Skating are good to start early.

Councillor Blackler asked if there was potential to go on earlier. Mrs. Strickland said yes could go on October 2nd.

Councillor Lane said he has concerns with the cost of putting the ice on earlier versus the regular time. Councillor Blackler said it shouldn't be an issue with two of the biggest user groups committed to going on earlier. Councillor Lane said yes but we would have to look at the cost versus the expenses before making a final decision. Mrs. Strickland said the Facilities Manager said we can't afford not to open. Councillor Lane said he has serious concerns as we already subsidize the facility to the tune of almost ½ million dollars. The Town Clerk reminded everyone this is a discussion for after the regular meeting.

Councillor Blackler said he agrees it's a huge financial loss but to not have it will have a huge impact on the community.

Mayor Spencer said the Federal Government announced there is funding available but right now it's sitting in the province's hands. He asked the Town Manager to follow up with Municipal Affairs on this.

Councillor Coffin said we can't be compared to bigger centres like St. John's.

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Battiste the Recreation Committee Report of August 25th, 2020 be adopted as circulated with the stipulation the opening of the Bruce II Sports Centre be contingent on financial data being provided at a meeting next week. MC Unanimously

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Battiste the 1811th Regular Minutes of August 18th, 2020 be adopted as circulated and discussed. MC Unanimously

It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the Special Minutes of August 18th, 2020 be adopted as circulated and discussed. MC Unanimously

Mayor Spencer said he wanted to clarification there is an error in the Regular Minutes he did not say he supports the crosswalk by the 50+ Club due to sight lines but he did support the one by the Paint Shop.

Signs at Grand Bay West Beach Area: Mayor Spencer said we can't have signs of this type put up by private individuals.

Councillor Coffin said if we keep allowing this you'll have resident taxpayers losing their jobs so he doesn't think we should entertain allowing this. Councillor's Coffin said he doesn't think there should be any overnight parking allowed there. He would like to put a motion to the floor that we not entertain parking overnight but would rather wait for all of Council to be here.

Councillor Lane said you are of a misunderstanding Councillor Coffin we never advertised overnight parking. The intent was to try to accommodate the overnights getting off the boat late. As a Public Works Committee we agreed to see about getting a walkway on Hopedale Avenue. He said he doesn't think we should create a parking lot.

It was moved by Councillor Coffin that we put No Parking signs up at Grand Bay West Beach. There was no seconder therefore the motion did not move forward. Mayor Spencer said we can introduce the motion again at the next regular meeting.

New Town Plan: The Town Manager said once the Plan is registered with the Department of Municipal Affairs & Environment it has to be published in the NL Gazette.

ATV Trail: The Town Manager said he contacted two Ministers and our Minister but has received no response to date.

Wharf Road Removal of Shed for Snow Push Off: The Town Manager said the property owner wants to wait until he gets off the boat and back from moose hunting before we move any of his stuff.

Cox Avenue – Carson Crescent: The Town Manager said the tender documents will be out this week. We will be able to get a base course this year and the top coat will have to be done next year.

Matthew's Lane: The Town Manager said our solicitor didn't have time to provide us with a written response. The Town Manager said he reviewed all the documents Claude Matthews gave to us and he searched the deeds for these properties on line. Mr. MacIsaac said from what he researched Mr. Gilbert Matthews subdivided nine (9) lots for his children; two right-of-ways in common are not public right-of-ways. The deed of conveyance Mr. Matthews referenced between his father and the Town is not a deed of conveyance but rather an affidavit of value that a former Town Manager signed swearing to the value of the land. Mr. MacIsaac said if the Town wishes to take this over they would have to do a full legal survey for all the properties and quieting of titles if they wish to take over the lane.

Councillor Blackler asked for clarification. Councillor Lane explained the request to him.

Councillor Lane said he would like to see it opened up on both ends so you can go right around.

Councillor Battiste asked about the cost of us doing this. The Town Manager advised we would need to have seven legal surveys in total, quieting of titles, legal cost plus the cost of materials.

Councillor Lane said we've done this type of thing before so why do we have to go through all that. He said he would like to make a motion.

Councillor Blackler said before a motion is made he would like to have more information and ask that it be tabled for the next meeting.

Farmers Market: Councillor Blackler asked if this is an option for people or something we are going to do at the Train Site or Community Garden. The Town Clerk said this is what Deputy Mayor Strickland suggested we look at. She said we are now telling people that are coming in to get permits for roadside vendors to go to the train site to set up.

Garbage Boxes & Rodent Issues: Councillor Lane advised of the following. The Public Works Committee met on September 1st, 2020 at 10.30 am.

In attendance were Councillors Keeping and Lane along with the Town Manager. Councillor Coffin was unable to attend.

This was a special meeting to discuss the issues raised regarding the excessive amount of rodents around town.

Based on evidence presented by Mayor Spencer and the committee's observations in the past weeks, it is believed that there are a number of factors causing this.

Storm surges and construction are disturbing the rodents' habitat being somewhat a part of this issue however, the main cause being the amount of unprotected garbage which is providing constant food source.

At present the committee is looking a number of ideas to combat this and we feel we need more time to explore these options before making a presentation to Council for approval.

NL Power: The Town Manager read a report he received from Jo Parsons, Executive Assistant with NL Power. Mr. Parsons said NL Power's commitment on the Mobile Generation at Grand Bay Substation has not changed. Part of the refurbishment they are doing is to place the mobile units on concrete pads and install new fuel tanks, lines, control wiring and associated systems. The Mobile Gas Turbine (MGT) and the Mobile Diesel #3 (MD3) still have Grand Bay Substation as their home base. They are mobile units and will remain for use on planned projects and unplanned outages across the island but will be schedule to be returned when their temporary work is finished.

Presently, they are in the middle of construction at the substation. MGT has been relocated within the yard and connected to the distribution feeder. The unit is available when necessary and is on a test run schedule. Response to energize critical system loads, Dr. Charles LeGrow Hospital, has not changed. They will have to disconnect and move the MGT once more as part of this project and this will happen after work on its final location is completed. During that movement, PAB-G10, located at their Port aux Basques Substation will be their generator for these same critical loads.

MD3 has been removed from the Grand Bay Substation and is presently being used to prevent customer outages during planned maintenance work in the Twillingate/Summerford area of the Island and then scheduled as part of planned work in the Dunville area. The present schedule has the MD3 returning to Grand Bay Substation at the end of October. They expect that work at the substation will have progressed to the point that the unit can be placed and connected in her final location.

The Town Manager noted that the work they are doing at the Grand Bay Substation is 1.3 million.

Mayor Spencer said the backup power was bought up at the COVID meeting on Friday. The Town Clerk said she had sent Mick Ellsworth a text about the Lions Club and he said the work will be done before the winter sets in.

Traffic Control: The Town Manager said he checked into getting a camera for our mobile sign and we can get an adhoc camera at approximately \$20,000.00. The installation would have to be hard wired in and we can't issue tickets of any sort because we don't have the authority.

Alcohol and Drug Policy: Mayor Spencer asked if everyone had a chance to look at the policy. He said right now we are researching the testing aspect.

The Town Manager said he spoke with the CEO of Marine Atlantic who passed him on to the people that does theirs and they did commit to reach out to him to see how we can resolve this.

It was agreed we vote on this at our next regular meeting.

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

37 Brook Street Request for Slow Autistic Sign: Correspondence was received from a resident of 37 Brook Street requesting a sign for motorists to slow down because she has an autistic child who has no understanding of safety and is considered a flight risk.

The Town Manager said this should not be a problem. We will order a sign and he will write the individual back advising of same.

Fire Commissioner re Application for Funding: Correspondence was received from Fire Commissioner Derek Simmons advising that they are unable to provide financial assistance as we had requested.

The Town Clerk noted this was for two additional sets of bunker gear.

Request to Name Grand Bay West Trail: Correspondence was received from a parent asking Council's consideration to name the Grand Bay West Beach Trailway after her son, who worked on the construction of this and was tragically killed on his way home from work.

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Coffin we name the trail in honour of the young man that died. MC Unanimously

Mayor Spencer said the Town Clerk and Recreation Director will coordinate this.

Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture re Cold Storage: Correspondence was received from the Honourable Elvis Loveless, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture thanking Council regarding the live holding/cold storage feasibility study, a partnership initiative between the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture and the province's seafood industry.

The Economic Development Officer said she has been in contact with Sean Barry with that Department and he will provide her with updates on timelines.

Mayor Spencer vacated the chair.

Cost Recovery Marine Atlantic: Mayor Spencer said as you all know our cause is considered Category C which means there will not be any advocacy at the MNL Convention. He said he feels MNL has not taken up this cause at all. Mayor Spencer said he spoke to the new Premier and he passed it off to another Minister. He also heard from our MP on this today. As well he received a letter today from Minister Bernie Davis on this issue.

Mayor Spencer said we need to start with Minister Garneau, the Minister of Transport, not Marine Atlantic who are being told what to do by the Minister of Transport. Mayor Spencer said he offered himself as a resource person because obviously they are missing the education piece. He asked should we go back to MNL and asks to be placed in Category A.

Councillor Blackler asked what does Category A mean, what are the criteria so we can look to provide what we need to bring us up there.

Mayor Spencer said the categories are selected by the Executive Director and the MNL Board.

Mayor Spencer said we need to take time to go across this province to education people. He noted himself and Councillor Lane will be attending the MNL Virtual Convention.

26 Main Street: The Town Manager advised the property owner came forward wanting to construct a shed but unfortunately once he looked at the survey for the current property only half of what they own is on their own property. The deed only covers half the area the building has taken up.

It was suggested the Public Works Committee look at this to see what additional land is there.

Pavement Millings: Councillor Lane asked about the millings. He said Grand Bay West, Grand Bay and down Channel was supposed to be done first but some is being done at the High School.

The Town Manager said he wouldn't expect Council to have opposition to us giving a few loads to the high school.

Councillor Lane said this will be going up before Council if these three areas aren't being done this year.

Adjournment: With no further business it was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the meeting be adjourned at 7:34 pm.


John Spencer
Mayor


for
Julia Ingram
Town Clerk