

**Town of Channel – Port aux Basques
1813th Regular Meeting
September 23rd, 2020**

The 1813th Regular Meeting of Council convened at 6:00 pm Mayor Spencer presiding. Present were Councillors Blackler, Battiste, Coffin, Lane, Keeping and Deputy Mayor Strickland. Also present were Leon Mac Isaac, the Town Manager and Tracy Beaton, the Acting Town Clerk.

Delegation: Mr. Phillip Boyles of Charles Street presented his concerns to Council. During the winter of 2018 his basement flooded. Phillip contacted a Town employee regarding the four feet of water in his basement. He borrowed a pump from the Town to pump the water out of his basement coming from the culvert. The pump was going all night and during the weekend his basement flooded again. A new culvert was installed from the cove out. Mr. Boyles was told the rocks would be put back to hold the municiplex pipe in place. Rocks are spread all over the cove and have yet to be put back to hold the pipe in place. Mr. Boyles stressed that all he wanted was for the boulders to be put back the way they were it would make a nice break for the sea.

Councillors Keeping, Coffin and Lane all said they looked at it last year and recommended that armour stone be put there. Councillor Lane stated Council should respond to Mr. Boyles in the near future and have a meeting after this.

The Town Manager said Council is aware of the issue and unfortunately delays happen. Some things have to be completed before others.

Mayor Spencer said Council will get on this matter as soon as possible.

The Town Manager said we are trying to solve the problems with the washouts over on the causeway. Knox Avenue and Grand Bay West were reinstated. There are also areas in Channel that have washouts that need to be fixed, so it will take time.

The Mayor said Council will try to get over there as soon as possible.

Deputy Mayor Strickland said Mr. Boyles has brought this issue to Council three or four times.

Mr. Boyles vacated the room at 6:15 pm.

Hiram Billard: Re: Grand Bay West Parking Lot. Mayor Spencer said there was a package dropped off at the Town Office regarding the parking lot at Grand Bay West.

Councillor Lane said someone should have contacted him, he had no idea there was a package at the office. Council will have to look at it tomorrow. Mayor Spencer said we need to do our own due diligence and go look at the package. There were several pictures and a petition.

Deputy Mayor Strickland advised that he did not see the package either; he will look at it on Monday.

Hockey: Councillor Blackler said that Minor Hockey and Figure skating have both agreed to start early.

Councillor Keeping reminded Council that the minutes of the last meeting which he did not attend stipulated that the opening of the Bruce II was contingent on a Financial Report being presented at tonight's meeting which has not been prepared.

The Town Manager replied that the ice will be ready to go on October Second.

Councillor Lane said he gave his consent because the organizations would pick up from October second therefore it was worthy to put the ice on early.

Deputy Mayor Strickland said Minor Hockey requested a meeting with the Recreation Committee. There is a meeting scheduled for September 29th at 6:00 pm. Facility Manager, Ms. Merrigan wanted him to bring forth an issue regarding the dressing rooms not being opened. A letter received by Hockey Newfoundland stated concerns about young players being transported to the Bruce II in full or partial hockey gear. It is safe to assume Hockey Canada will send new guidelines to the provinces with adjustments to some schedules from the user groups to follow Bruce II guidelines. Deputy Mayor Strickland said he may be able to open the dressing rooms and adhere to physical distancing guidelines which will mean an overlapping of groups in the building there by increasing the number of users at any given time. If we have to keep track of the numbers in the lobby and not allow loitering, we should be able to keep it under control. We seek approval from council in order to make this happen.

Councillor Lane said he would assume the Recreation Committee will meet with the people in charge of the association then you will come back with a recommendation.

Deputy Mayor Strickland answered they will be meeting with Minor Hockey.

Councillor Lane said before meeting with Council you may want to look at the guidelines and what is being used at other arenas so you can come back with a decent proposal.

Councillor Blackler said this is what the association is doing now. They are comparing other arenas to see what practices/guidelines they are using.

ATV Trail: Councillor Keeping said there was a meeting today with the Economic Development Committee. Ms. Strickland will talk to the new Minister Derrick Bragg tomorrow to bring him up to speed on the ATV trail.

Wharf Road Removal of Shed for Snow Push off: Mayor Spencer asked the Town Manager if this issue had been resolved.

The Town Manager answered that the resident is currently away working and as soon as he returns it will have be removed.

Cox Avenue-Carson Crescent: Councillor Battiste asked how long Council will have to wait.

The Town Manager advised that the tender documents are being reviewed by Municipal Affairs. The plan is to start construction this year and hopefully get a coat of asphalt down before the plant closes.

Matthews Lane: Councillor Lane said he looked at the Town map and one of the roads on it is Matthews Lane. There are a lot of roads that are not labelled on the map. If the road is listed on the map it is a part of the town.

The Town Manager said just because it's on the map doesn't mean that we own it.

Councillor Lane challenged the Town Manager to name some roads that the Town don't own.

The Town Manager replied, Colliers, Payne and Buttery's.

Councillor Keeping said Councillor Lane is talking about the town's limit of servicing map. Allan's Road, Carters Lane, Leriche's Lane, etc, are streets the Town took over years ago. The only street that is not paved is Matthew's Lane. There is a right of way in there and our trucks go in there to provide municipal services.

Councillor Keeping said he would make a motion to take over Matthew's Lane and Councillor Battiste said he would second it. The other Councillors did not want to vote at that time.

The Town Manager said he did not object to taking over Matthew's Lane, but the proper protocols must be followed. Just because past practice did not involve surveys doesn't make it right. Failure to follow legal processes will leave the Town open to liabilities.

Councillor Lane disagreed because Matthew's Lane has been a part and parcel of the Town's services for over thirty years. If we have been collecting garbage, etc. for all of these years then we own

it. All these surveys do not need to be completed before the road can be paved to make it comfortable for these residents.

Councillor Keeping said the Matthew's family plowed the lane themselves and that is why the Town didn't plow it.

Mayor Spencer said the residents of Matthew's Lane have been paying taxes for years and down the road he didn't object to the Town taking it over. Council must do their due diligence as there are streets such as Warrens Road who have been waiting for asphalt for four years. What would Council say to the residents of Warrens Road if we paved Matthew's Lane and not Warrens Road?

Councillor Lane asked Mayor Spencer how many years has the Town been turned down by the Provincial Government for Warrens Road?

Councillor Keeping said the residents of Warrens Road went in there with the knowledge that they had to pay for all services such as water, sewer and road paving. Over the past few years the Town said they would go through funding as the road is under the Town's services map. These residents went in Warrens Road under Crown Land Grants; it is a totally different issue than Matthew's Lane.

Councillor Blackler said he wanted to know where it sits on the priority list. How much will it cost and if there is any money to do it. If he had the answers to these questions then he would feel good about taking over Matthew's Lane. Council shouldn't tell these people that the road can be paved and then be in the same situation four years down the road and the lane is still not paved. Council needs to have an actual plan of how much it will cost and when it can be done, then he can give his vote.

Councillor Lane spoke directly to Mayor Spencer and asked why a strip of pavement couldn't be put in there as Buttery's Lane is done. Whether the lane belongs to the Town or not, why can't we drop some Class A, flatten it out and run a strip of pavement in there?

Mayor Spencer answered because it is a private area.

Councillor Coffin advised that he would refrain from voting until he knew the exact cost and then there would be no problem with agreeing to the lane being paved.

Councillor Keeping stated that if Council is talking about blasting, major work and now finances are brought up again you are not getting your pavement, it's as simple as that! They are not asking to be connected to Payne's Lane they just want a strip of pavement.

Deputy Mayor Strickland began to read aloud the Minutes of September 8th regarding Matthew's Lane. The cost of the paving would have to be known before he would vote on the project.

Councillor Keeping asked the Town Manager if he had done any costing on the surveys to get a rough idea.

The Town Manager replied no, he wasn't asked to prepare any financials for this lane.

Councillor Blackler asked if the Town Manager could get an estimate of what it would cost for a strip of pavement, not the full blown cost of the project.

Mayor Spencer clarified there needs to be a cost of putting the strip of pavement down and a cost to get the seven surveys done.

Councillor Blackler said some homework needs to be done before the next Council meeting.

Councillor Lane reiterated again that even though Payne's Lane and Buttery's Lane don't belong to the Town these lanes were paved.

The Town Manager advised that there were a number of streets paved in the past that were not ours. If you don't know what was done in the past how can you make a decision on the future.

Mayor Spencer said since plotting several properties the Town Manager has discovered a number of areas that were developed without the proper work being done. As a result sales were held up and development went ahead in places where it shouldn't have.

Newfoundland Power: The Town Manager spoke to the West Coast Representative and they have been on high alert regarding the storm system that's moving in. The gas turbine generator is still on the East Coast, but the other generators are here in town. Once the site is operational all the generators will be here in Port aux Basques and fully operational. The upgrade will allow the power to be transferred to the town as needed.

Traffic Control: The Town Manager said the camera for the mobile sign has now been moved off Bay Street.

Alcohol & Drug Policy: Mayor Spencer stated the Policy was printed and Council should have read through it in preparation for tonight's meeting

It was moved by Councillor Keeping and seconded by Councillor Battiste the Town introduce an Alcohol and Drug Policy. MC Unanimously.

37 Brook Street Request for Sign: The Town Manager advised Council that the resident who requested a Slow Autistic Sign agreed that a Caution Children Playing sign would suffice.

Minister of Fisheries, Forestry & Agriculture re Cold Storage: Mayor Spencer questioned the Town Manager as to if there was any word back yet.

The Town Manager replied there was still no word on agriculture, but he had a response on fish harvesting.

Cost Recovery Marine Atlantic: Mayor Spencer said he will keep up with the campaign. Throughout his research of shipping invoices he noticed fuel surcharges and other rates charged by Marine Atlantic.

The Town Manager responded by saying that most of Avalon has no idea about travelling the island. The people don't realize the impact of the ferry system.

Councillor Blackler said people do not understand that once these trucks come off the ferry they deliver goods all across Newfoundland.

Pavement Millings: Councillor Lane said asphalt should be placed at Grand Bay where the boat docks. Council wanted Grand Bay to be paved first, but Channel received it first. It is time to get it done and the Town Manager has assured me it will be done before year end.

The Town Manager replied that the paving company is currently is Isle aux Morts and we are hoping to get asphalt before the plant closes.

Fire Department Report: Councillor Blackler read the Fire Department Report of September 16th, 2020.

Channel-Port aux Basques Fire Department Meeting Report

Date: *September 16, 2020*

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

Councillor(s) in Attendance: Jerome Battiste, Justin Blackler
Members in Attendance: 21 members

New Items:

- New gloves have been received by all members other than the new hires to the department
- Name tags for shirts have been distributed to the membership
- The Honorarium System continues to be reviewed. Some small changes are coming but will be status quo as of now as COVID is still having an impact on some factors.
- First Aid Training has been hindered by COVID but is slowly getting back on track
- Fire Coverage was discussed and both Liaisons for the Department are suggesting a committee be formed to discuss some possible solutions for issues of low attendance to fire related events. That committee would consist of the two liaisons, Chief and Assistant Chief and three others from the general membership
- Department is in good financial standing
- Correspondence was dealt with and a \$500 donation made to Muscular Dystrophy
- Prank fire calls were discussed and have been actioned by the department.
- HazMat training was discussed and department still finding ways to ensure membership is trained and ready to operate if needed in the area
- Request to have a fire drill from Marine Atlantic
- Purchase of a new light for on site calls has been approved
- Face, Shield Testing is done and all things look good
- Air sample test is complete and all is good
- New fire truck expected by end of October
- New Hydrant Gate Valve and 2 Gated Wynes purchased
- Fit Testing needs to be updated again
- Storage of the generator at the site. Is there a plan in place?
- Fire Prevention Week: Some activities being reviewed but school visits may not be possible this year.

Storage of Generator: Councillor Keeping told the Town Manager that this has to be followed up on. Can you check to see if this has been moved?

Fire Prevention Week: Councillor Blackler put in a request to have the Fire Department do a presentation to each of the Junior High Grades (based on small numbers) and also the kindergarten to grade six classes.

Committee: Councillor Blackler stated the committee of two liaisons, Chief and Assistant Chief and three other members needs to be formed. There have been issues of low attendance to events related to fire, but this happens more than just in the summer time. It can be discussed by both groups and then go back to Council with a resolution.

Councillor Lane was in favour as it would give Council a chance to put their input in, they will be more involved and maybe it would help resolve some issues.

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Councillor Keeping and seconded by Councillor Lane the Fire Department Report of September 16th, 2020 be adopted as circulated and discussed. MC Unanimously.

Public Works Report: Councillor Keeping read the Public Works Report of September 21st, 2020.

The Public Works Committee met on Monday, September 21st, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Present were Councillors Keeping, Coffin, Lane, and the Town Manager. Also Present from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. was Mr. Greg Sheaves. The following items were discussed and sites visited:

1. Mr. Greg Sheaves issue of stop work order regarding the infilling along the stream/brook running through his property in the Grand Bay West Industrial Park – The discussion centered around finding a resolution and plan to move forward with infilling that will result in protection of the streams/brooks from present and future encroachment from imported silt/glandular fill. During discussion Mr. Sheaves provided us with a plan that will satisfy both council and him and protection for the brook/stream. He will provide us with a written plan for this undertaking. Mr. Sheaves would like to start this work a.s.a.p. The committee is satisfied with his plan and recommends we issue a permit, once we are in receipt of his written plan.

2. Grand Bay West Intersection - This is follow-up to discussion in a previous Public Works Meeting. The Town Manager provided a drawing/layout for this intersection. (Copy provided with your agenda) This will provide a proper and safe intersection for motorists entering and exiting the subdivision. Town Manager advises that he is planning to start work on this initiative this fall.

3. M.M.S.B. Funding Initiative - The committee discussed this initiative and recommends we submit a proposal for a pilot project that will help us deal with the rodent problems with certain areas of the town. Deadline for applications is October 2, 2020 and Town Manager will submit the application.

4. Wilderness and Ecological Reserve Advisory Council (WERAC) – Currently WERAC recently release a draft for Protected Area Plan for the Island of Newfoundland. They are looking for feedback from the public. Given Channel-Port aux Basques is currently involved with WERAC – We recommend that Council have staff review our agreement and contact WERAC to determine if there are any proposed changes that will affect our area.

5. Winter Salt/Sand Storage Facility – The Committee discussed this item and with the near completion of the New Town Depot and the upcoming relocation, a New Salt/Sand Storage facility will be required. The committee will submit a plan in a future meeting.

Note: The Committee visited the new facility. It's a state-of-the-art facility and something the Town should be proud of. We suggest that all Councillors visit and view it firsthand.

Grand Bay West Intersection: Deputy Mayor Strickland asked the Town Manager what will be involved with the intersection.

The Town Manager replied that the intersection will be made two meters wider to give buses, etc. ample room to turn.

Councillor Lane said the Town should put a little piece in the Wreck House Weekly titled "Did You Know?" The intersection could be talked about and the speed limit which would help stop accidents and make people aware.

Wilderness & Ecological Reserve Advisory Council (WERAC): Mayor Spencer expressed his interest in WERAC. Council should read it and make sure they are familiar with it.

The Town Manager said the closest protected area is across from Big Pond on the Trans Canada Highway. The area runs from Grand Bay West Beach to Big Pond.

Councillor Keeping said one area of concern were the cabins. The owners needed to have access to the beach and trail to be able to get to their cabins. This issue was dealt with in our present agreement. He questioned if SAM was associated with WERAC and Councillor Battiste answered it is involved in the Stewardship of Municipalities.

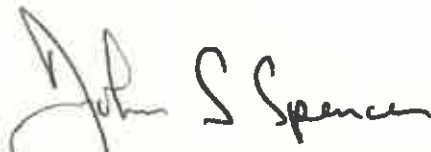
Salt/Sand Storage Facility: Mayor Spencer advised this was a budget item for next year. Another item to look at for 2021 is disassembling the old Town garage.

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Keeping the Public Works Committee Report of September 21st, 2020 be adopted as circulated and discussed. MC Unanimously.

Fire Regulations within Town: Deputy Mayor said this has been a concern for at least eighteen years. A while back it was brought to his attention that backyard fires were not permitted. The Town has nothing in place regarding the size of fires that are permitted in Town. The Fire Department also has nothing in place regarding fires within town. This has come to light due to two calls to the Fire Department about bonfires on Charles Street. The first call received was concerning a bonfire where pieces of a house were being burnt and the second bonfire was involved with a mattress that was on fire. Now would be a good time to put some regulations in place regarding bonfires within town limits. The regulations might also help deter certain businesses who have a barrel out back for fires.

Councillor Lane said he would like to be a part of the committee that the Fire Department forms.

Adjournment: With no further business it was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Deputy Mayor Strickland the meeting be adjourned at 7:30 p.m.


John Spencer
Mayor


Tracy Beaton
Acting Town Clerk