

Town of Channel – Port aux Basques
1815th Regular Meeting
November 9th, 2020

The 1815th Regular Meeting of Council convened at 6:00 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.

Town of LaScie: Mayor Spencer said he wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the tragic loss of their municipal buildings due to fire. The Mayor noted the Town Clerk will send them our acknowledgement and support.

Claude Matthews: Mr. Matthews was present to speak on the request of the residents of Matthews Lane in regards to Council taking over the road and paving it. Mr. Matthews stated that it has been more than a year that the Town paved George's Road and Payne Street and they feel they should have the same courtesy as they have been in existence there for forty three (43) years. Mr. Matthews said the Town has snow cleared the road and they named the road. The only thing needed is a few loads of Class A and a strip of asphalt. He said Mr. MacIsaac has him confused as he is not asking for private driveways when he said it was a private right of way. Buttery's, LeRiche and Payne Street were all private roads. The Town just paved Wharf Road which should be the same cost for their road. He is respectfully requesting that the Town take over Matthews Road and pave it.

Mayor Spencer said in principle with taking over a road we want the proper route followed and wants it done legally. Mayor Spencer said we could look at doing it through Municipal Capital Works or Gas Tax monies. The Mayor said he does know snow clearing was done there before. He is in agreement with going this route. The Mayor noted that when other private lanes were done residents cost shared the cost of the asphalt.

Councillor Lane said he is in total support of the road being paved. He said his eyes were a little wide on the cost. If we can do it through gas tax or some other means we need to do it.

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Keeping we undertake the task of taking ownership and paving of Matthews Road. The motion was made on the principal provided we get funding. MC Unanimously

Councillor Keeping asked what the cost was of Wharf Road. The Town Manager said we are still waiting on the bill from Marine Contractors. Mr. MacIsaac said Anderson's Lane is 10 metres less than Matthew's and the asphalt alone was \$45,000.00 plus HST. Councillor Keeping said we don't need technicians doing up quotes when we have a new staff member here that could do this. The Town Manager advised this was done in house. Councillor Keeping said there are ways and means to do this in a more cost effective manner.

Councillor Coffin said we've opened a new can of worms. He said he'd like to see Matthews Lane done but with this cost he has issues. He can't see it being done this year, maybe next year through gas tax funds.

Councillor Blackler asked so you're saying it's a private road. The Town Manager said yes. The Town Manager said your comment Mr. Matthews was 99% of the roads are done, however we have to

review what roads are left to be done and what the plans are for all of these. Councillor Blackler said exactly and he is fearful if we pass a motion tonight four years from now we could be sitting down have the same discussions with another request.

Councillor Lane said no one else asked so these people should be priority. The Town Clerk responding saying there have been others in before Mr. Matthews. We've had one particular road on our capital works list for over ten years. Councillor Lane said there's always ways we can look at doing this.

Councillor Battiste said he has no problem with the cost of the surveys which can be put in next year's budget.

Deputy Mayor Strickland said his first comment is on the costing which came in a lot more than he had thought. His fear is it could come in much more for example 15% for excavation. He is in favour that the residents should have the same services but his concern is the costing could come in much more. We should definitely provide snow clearing as we have done in the past. He feels this should be put off for next year's budget.

Mayor Spencer said Minister Bennett announced 23 million to help offset a lot of losses and he has been assured by staff we will be applying for some of these funds.

Deputy Mayor Strickland said he guesses we are going to be getting some monies but his fear is it will be only a drop in the bucket.

Councillor Lane asked if it was possible this year to put some Class A and millings on the lane for now. Mayor Spencer said he and the Town Manager talked about it this morning and we will put some Class A there.

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Deputy Mayor Strickland and seconded by Councillor Battiste the 1814th Regular Meeting of October 13th, 2020 be adopted as circulated and discussed. MC Unanimously

Farmers Market: Deputy Mayor Strickland said I know you said before we direct vendors to the Train Site but what about on weekends. Are these people getting permits? The Town Clerk said we don't have anyone working on weekends, however as soon as a vendor parks that doesn't have a permit we have a letter hand delivered to them which states they have to get a permit. In some cases when they get their letter they pack up and leave.

Mayor Spencer said we don't have an enforcement officer, however maybe we can get the dog catcher to do this on weekends. This would be an advantage of regional governance. Mayor Spencer said the salary would pay for itself in permits. Councillor Battiste said we should ask the coastal communities if they want to share this service. Councillor Lane said we should reach out to them. The Town Clerk advised we did this before and it's always the same answer they have no funds available to put towards shared services.

ATV Trails: Councillor Lane said he talked to the Economic Development Officer about the trails. Manuel's Construction is now clearing brush from the spot that was really dangerous in the Doyles area.

Councillor Keeping said the trail up by Tim Horton's is not a dead issue yet. The Town Manager and Councillor Lane can confirm the discussions they had in the meeting with the four engineers. Councillor Keeping said they made their case and we made our case. With regards to the safety issues they had they've agreed that they will send their engineers out to review it again. Councillor Keeping said we will be doing a few things to help this along. They will also be helping with the job for the Grand Bay Bottom Sanitary Sewer. He said he thinks at the end of the day we will get this done. They realize we won't go away. It was a very good meeting and they didn't say no so hopefully they will cost share it or cost it. The Town Manager noted it will be completed for less than the 1 million they said it would cost.

Cold Storage: Councillor Keeping asked the Town Manager to ask the Economic Development Officer to follow up on this issue. The Town Clerk noted the article in the Wreckhouse Weekly.

Come Home Year: Mayor Spencer said we need to make a decision by Christmas if we're having a Come Home Year in 2021. Councillor Lane said he can't see this happening because of the amount of cases. Councillor Lane said we will need to make a decision by December.

13 Charles Street: Councillor Lane said we had a presentation from Mr. Boyles but he doesn't see anything done there. Mayor Spencer said we did what we promised to do. The Mayor noted the whole area needs a breakwater system.

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

Go Western Newfoundland Request for Financial Contribution: Correspondence was received from Go Western Newfoundland outlining the services they provide and the initiatives they are involved with. They are requesting Council contribute \$1,000.00 annual to help offset their cost. The Town Clerk advised of past practices.

It was agreed to pass this request to the Economic Development Committee for discussion and recommendation.

Federal Restart Program – MNL: A copy of correspondence was received from the President of MNL to the Honourable Derek Bennett, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities requesting an update on the status of the Federal Safe Restart Agreement funding for municipal operations.

It was noted that this has already been announced regarding how much municipalities will receive in a recent public release.

Office of the Prime Minister re Mayor's Correspondence: Correspondence was received from the Office of the Prime Minister acknowledging receipt of Mayor Spencer's correspondence of June 17, 2020.

Mayor Spencer said he is unsure what this is about as it is that long ago and the letter doesn't explain anything.

27 Cox Avenue Request for Backland: Correspondence was received from the residents of 27 Cox Avenue requesting to purchase the parcel of land immediately behind their property to extend it to the waterfront.

It was agreed the Public Works Committee will review this and bring back a recommendation.

68 Grand Bay Road re Water Issues: Correspondence was received from the residents of 68 Grand Bay Road thanking Council for their recent work on Lomond's Lane. They would like to formally request that the Town take a further look at all the culverts/drainage systems in that area to determine if any further upgrades need to be done.

It was agreed that the Public Works Committee will review this and report back to Council.

Wreckhouse Weekly re Changes to the Municipalities Act: An email was received from the Director of Wreckhouse Weekly concerning changes to the Municipalities Act abolishing the requirement of the Act that towns advertise their public notices and tenders in their local papers.

The Town Clerk advised that there were public presentations of the changes in the new Act that allowed for input but these reviews are now all done. Councillor Lane asked if we were at any of these presentations. The Town Clerk advised we did not take part. Councillor Lane asked why. The Town Clerk said she doesn't feel at liberty to state why in a public meeting. The Town Clerk said we will be continuing to use our local paper despite the upcoming changes to the Act in this regard.

Councillor Lane stated he would like to see the Town send a letter to Municipal Affairs opposing this changed in the Municipalities Act.

Public Works Committee Report: Councillor Keeping presented the Public Works Committee Report of October 21st, 2020.

The Committee met on October 21, 2020 at 9:00 am. Present at the meeting were the Town Manager, Councillor Keeping, Councillor Coffin and Councillor Lane. The following items were tabled for discussion.

1. **84A Grand Bay Road - Town retaining wall and access ramp to property in this area.** – As follow-up to correspondence received during Council's last regular meeting the committee visited and met with the Lomond family. Our assessment indicated that there was a ramp, connected to a landing with steps that obviously met the needs of the resident over the past few years. Given the physical conditions of the resident that requires using this ramp it will require some upgrades (extension onto the existing ramp). Also at the location of the steps at the other end of the retaining wall,

we will have to enlarge the concrete pad at the bottom step. Note: The Town Manager will contact the owner of the adjoining property, as the ramp extension will extend onto the wall in front of their property.

2. **88 Main Street** – The committee visited this property with a view of purchasing it for snow clearing and access of Main Street. The Town Manager will contact the owner and if the price is right we recommend proceeding with the purchase.

3. **There were a number of other projects that were tabled for discussion and update.**

a. **Lillington Avenue** – Town Manager advised this asphalt gutter will be installed by Town crews using our own asphalt recycler. Also, he will hold discussion with the property owner regarding the rock boulders and snow clearing.

b. **3 Bragg's Lane** – The Town Manager will follow-up regarding this property and past correspondence sent to the owner by the Town.

c. **Intersection at Old Grand Bay Road/Legrow Street and Grand Bay West Bridge** – This was again discussed as we have received a number of questions and concerns. The Town Manager will take steps to erect signs and install street markings to help clarify and assist motorists moving in this area.

d. **Provincial Weigh Scales** – We have received complaints regarding the number of times the facility is closed. We will follow up on this issue given the important service it provides.

84A Grand Bay Road – The Town Manager said we can put a wooden one in for sure. He said the property owner next door hasn't responded to his email yet.

88 Main Street – Mayor Spencer said he recommends we purchase this for senior housing not only for snow clearing.

Provincial Weigh Scales – Councillor Keeping said when they were in St. John's the MHA arranged a meeting with the official responsible for the scales. From their conversation there are issues trying to get it fully staffed. We will check this out and follow up.

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

Fire Department Report: Councillor Battiste presented the Fire Department Report of November 5th, 2020.

Members in Attendance : 23


Councillor(s) in Attendance : 1 (Battiste)


1. Prank phone calls have stopped. Last one was about 3 weeks ago .
2. Department is in good financial standing
3. 9 Firefighters have been FIT Tested on the SCBA 's .
4. No update on the New Truck since last meeting. It should arrive around Nov 15.
5. The on call committee is now in place.
6. The Santa Clause Parade will not be going ahead because of COVID. Instead they are thinking of driving all around town with Mr. & Mrs. Clause. This way the residents could stay on their street. Councillor Blackler also came up with the idea of having a decorating contest sometime in December. The fire department & council can have judges go around as they would in the parade. This idea was well received.
7. Awareness / ops Training will be done in late November.

Dennis Road: Councillor Lane said there have been a number of close calls. Since the Town opened up the road to a complete circle traffic has increased dramatically. Council Lane said if we could widen up the turn on one side it would help. He said he spoke to the Town Manager who advised we would have to change the grade to widen it up. The Town Manager said the street design guidelines is now 50' centre line and not have a grade of not more than 12%. Council Lane said down by Todd's Auto Repair the turn is wide, people are turning left in the centre. We should have a left turning traffic lane and put markings on the pavement.

The Town Manager said we can probably do some improvements in the short term.

Adjournment: With no further business it was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the meeting be adjourned at 7:00 pm. MC Unanimously


John Spencer
Mayor


Julia Ingram
Town Clerk