

**Town of Channel – Port aux Basques  
1818<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting  
February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

The 1818<sup>th</sup> 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, Economic Development Office/Recreation Director and the Town Clerk.

**Rene Roy re Street Lighting:** Mr. Rene Roy was present to discuss his concerns about street lighting and safety in the area of Lillington Avenue and LeGallais Street. He advised of several near misses he and his son had over Christmas. He is also requesting more signage in the area warning motorists that there are children in the area.

Councillor Keeping read from the Public Works Report being presented tonight regarding this area. He noted that the request had been sent to NL Power last fall but it is not installed to date. The Town Manager will follow up.

Councillor Lane apologized to Mr. Roy that the Committee didn't go back to follow up to ensure it was done.

Mr. Roy thanked Council for this.

**Adoption of Minutes:** It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Keeping the 1817<sup>th</sup> Regular Minutes of January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

**84A Grand Bay Road – Town Retaining Wall & Access Ramp:** The Town Clerk read a thank you note from the resident of 84A Grand Bay Road thanking Council and the workers for a job well done. Mayor Spencer suggested we get some solar lights to install there. The Town Manager said we will place some low luster ones to put there.

**Provincial Weigh Scales:** The Town Manager said he followed up with an unknown source who advised some of the statements in the letter we received from the Minister are not factual. There are currently two full time and one temporary employee and they are not aware of an advertisement for a fourth one. The person is not in agreement that maintenance is being done as required and gave some examples. All the lights that are out are the responsibility of the Department to repair. The scales have been inspected but are not maintained and recommendations have not been done.

Councillor Lane noted with the lighting out it could be a very dangerous situation and needs to be addressed.

The Town Manager will write the Minister but we may have to wait until after the election for a response.

**Seaview Lane:** It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Coffin that Council cover 50% of the cost incurred by the four residents of Seaview Lane to have their waterlines repaired.

The Town Manager said he wanted to advise members of council prior to voting that we only have one single receipt. Under the Income Tax Act we are required by the auditor to have factual receipts.

Councillor Blackler said this is one of the things that was brought up in our previous meeting.

Councillor Lane said he had thought the Town Clerk was to write the residents and request the receipts. The Town Clerk responded she had thought Councillor Lane was going to obtain them.

Councillor Lane said he also wanted to know what our liability was. The Town Manager said he spoke to legal staff and they advised it would be Council's decision in the end.

The Town Manager will contact the residents and request the factual receipts.

**A.T.V. Trailway in the Area of Tim Hortons:** The Town Manager said our staff will be putting in the guardrail system. This can't be completed until the contractor finishes some work and the easement issue is addressed. Mayor Spencer said the area up behind North Atlantic would be ideal for the trail.

**Waste Management:** The Town Manager said any business can make application to the Town to opt out of collection and we will forward it to the Marine & Mountain Zone Waste Management Committee.

**Dextron Unit:** The Town Manager noted he was off last week but has been trying to get a response from the Minister's office. The stamped drawings they are insisting on for the extension are not required unless the Province is paying for it. The Town Manager said he did receive a call from the Assistant Deputy Minister who did not know anything about it.

Councillor Lane asked the Town Manager if he checked on the roof. The Town Manager said the contractor is waiting on supplies.

Councillor Keeping said he spoke with the contractor and the cement work is done, however he is still waiting on some building materials which he expects to have in within two weeks.

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

**Resident at 40 Smallwood Lane re Lack of Activities for Toddlers:** Correspondence was received from a resident of 40 Smallwood Drive regarding lack of activities for toddlers and asking Council to consider restarting one of these programs or create something new.

Councillor Keeping asked in reference to the kids gym was it because of COVID or cleaning as he knows this was discussed in past meetings. The Recreation Director said we've only had one request from a parent for more days but this was before COVID. We were only getting an average of two children when it was open.

It was suggested to give this to the Recreation Committee. The Recreation Director will write the individual back.

**28 Pleasant Street Request to Purchase Property:** Correspondence was received from the owner of 28 Pleasant Street asking Council to reconsider their previous decision to sell him a parcel of land at 22 Pleasant Street.

It was noted this is in the Public Works Report.

**Stephenville Airport Corporation Expressions of Interest:** Correspondence was received from the Chair of the Stephenville Airport Corporation putting out expressions of interest to join their Board.

Mayor Spencer said this came in at the beginning of their term with Councillor Coffin being nominated to go on the Board but it got lost in the shuffle. Mayor Spencer said he feels it is important to have representation on this Board.

Councillor Coffin agreed to be a representative of Council.

Councillor Lane pointed out the Town has to pick up the expenses.

**Fisheries, Forestry & Agriculture re Crown Land Hardy's Arterial:** An referral was received from Fisheries, Forestry & Agriculture for our recommendation for a Crown Land Grant on Hardy's Arterial.

Mayor Spencer said this application has been in the works forever.

The Town Manager noted he already approved it and has sent it back. Tabling it is just a formality.

**Finance & Human Resources Committee Report:** Deputy Mayor Strickland presented the Finance and Human Resources Committee Report of January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

A meeting of the Finance and Human Resources Committee convened at 10:30 am Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 Mayor Spencer presiding. Present were Deputy Mayor Strickland, Councillor Coffin, the Town Manager and Town Clerk.

1. **Loader Tender** - The Town Manager presented results of the tenders for the new loader. It was recommended after reviewing all comparables including trade in and residual values we award the tender to Brandt Tractor at a total cost of \$315,823.00 plus HST.

2. **Brownsfield Remediation Program re Former Municipal Depot** – The Town Manager advised of the Pilot Capital Project we are doing with Grenfell. By partnering with MUN to remediate the former town garage we can apply through the Brownsfield Program with FCM for a maximum of 2 million.

Our commitment for two years to have a person an intern from MUN is \$24,000.00. The university will be applying for funding through Mitac to cover half of this cost.

Other discussions followed on staffing and the Affordable Housing Project

Councillor Keeping asked what type of tractor this was. The Town Manager said a John Deere.

The Town Manager advised one other company questioned the tender award but he advised them it went by the trade in value and the residual value. He said he advised them if they weren't happy they should have submitted a revised bid before the deadline.

The Town Clerk advised the new loader will be here April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Mayor Spencer said he's not sure if everyone read the Climate Change Plan but it's got a set schedule up to two years and financial backing. Mayor Spencer said it outlines what we can do and the remediation method which will see soil samples put in a lab environment so we can find out what contaminants are there. The Town Manager said the soil analysis looks at soft & hard metals and possible carbon contaminants. The Town Manager said there has been some seventy contaminated soils that have been remediated.

Councillor Lane said he understands the Fire Department has three seacans. Do you think it's possible Mr. Town Manager for the Fire Department to get the wiring and cables from the old depot for this. The Town Manager said he will have an electrician check this out

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Battiste the Finance and Human Resources Committee Report of January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

**Public Works Committee Report:** Councillor Keeping presented the Public Works Committee Report of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

The Public Works Committee met on Monday, February 1, 2021 11th, at 11:00 a.m. Present were Councillors Keeping, Coffin, Lane, and the Town Manager. The following items were discussed and sites visited:

1. **Issues discussed in last Council meeting regarding parking along some areas of Main Street and Caribou Road** – The Committee assessed some of these areas and recommends that before and during street painting this Spring, that changes be made in the problem areas. The committee and Town Manager will review again during this period.
2. **Letter to Council Regarding Street Lighting in the Vicinity of the Intersection of LeGallais Street and Lillington Avenue** – The issue was dealt with in Council last fall with a recommendation to install a new light in this area. It was confirmed that the request was sent to NL Power to install a light. It is not installed to date. The Town Manager will follow up to determine why this hasn't been done.

3. **Request from A Resident for Council to Reconsider our Decision not to sell a parcel of land at 22 Pleasant Street Resident would like to build a garage adjacent to his home** – The Committee discussed this request and considering that Council's plan is to keep all of the property (land) tied to the Fish Plant as an important asset which is necessary for our proposal to sell it for industrial/commercial development. As Council is aware, we are currently dealing with Government on one of these proposals. We recommend not selling this property.
  
4. **The Committee also visited a number of sites to view and discuss** –
  - a. Issue with potholes, sidewalk and paving in front of Main Street Convenience. Town Manager will address during construction season.
  - b. Clement Crescent – on going street drainage system.
  - c. Backroad along Main Street – Discussed a way and means to complete infilling to connect with Lakeshore Drive. This was a result of an Economic Development meeting where it came up about a small section that needs to be filled in for ATV access. We will continue to infill this area.
  - d. 84A Grand Bay Road Access Ramp – Access Ramp is complete and up to standard, Good Job.

#3. Land on Pleasant Street - Councillor Coffin said when this came up before we were presuming this other person was going to use this piece of land and he still hasn't. He asked are we going to keep presuming he might want it. He asked the question if these people don't want it are we going to sell it to this individual.

Councillor Lane said we are not interested in a particular area, we want to hold it for future development and not sell ourselves short.

The Town Manager said if it is valued over \$500.00 we would have to advertise. Mr. MacIsaac said he would think this is the only individual who would be interested in the land.

It was agreed that the Town Manager write the person and advise him we are not selling at this time however should we decide we will in the future this gentleman will be contacted.

It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Blackler the Public Works Committee Report of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 be accepted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

**Recreation Committee Report:** The Recreation Director presented the Recreation Committee Report of January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**In attendance:**

**Deputy Mayor, Todd Strickland, Town Manager, Leon Macisaac, Councillor Blackler, Councillor Coffin, Facility Manager, Wanda Merrigan, and Recreation Director-EDO, Shauna Strickland.**

**1) Review minutes of the last meeting: The last discussion took place on November 24 and it was a general update on the building.**

**2) Business Arising:**

**a) Arena Restart Program- There was a onetime payment received from a grant to assist arena's during the pandemic.**

**3) New Business**

**a) Notice of Retirement: A letter was received regarding notice of retirement.**

**b) Bruce II Staffing: The Town Manager and the Recreation Director will compile a recommendation for discussion at the next meeting.**

**c) Correspondence: Two letters were received asking why parents cannot attend their kids games and why the showers are not open. There was a fair bit of discussion and it was agreed that we would give parents an opportunity to see their children play once a week. It was agreed that the showers will remain closed.**

**d) Outdoor Rink: The outdoor rink will not be installed this winter.**

**e) Andrews Hockey School: There was discussion on running the program during Easter break. At this point if the Atlantic bubble remains closed this will not occur.**

**f) Ice Removal: Ice will be removed the first week in April if no events are scheduled to take place.**

**g) Summer Sports Application: An application was submitted to Canada Summer Jobs in hope that a summer camp can be held in 2021.**

**h) Senior Game Day: A grant was received to host a game day for seniors. This will be coordinated in the Joe Lane room. All safety measures will be followed.**

**i) Grant Applications: An application was submitted for a Gender Equity Grant- Women in Recreation, a new horizon application was submitted in hope of getting beach mats to assist in**

making this location more inclusive and a western regional wellness coalition grant application was submitted to coordinate a running/walking program for youth.

**4) Other Business**

There was discussion on if minor hockey will participate in regional games. I

it was agreed that as long as all rules and regulations are followed this can be supported. The one parent per child will remain in place for any special event.

There was discussion on the digital sign across from Irving's Gas Station and if it should be removed or can we use reuse the structure.

2. c) Showers – Councillor Keeping asked Councillor Blackler if Minor Hockey is satisfied with the showers being shut down. Councillor Blackler said yes every parent is okay with this.

4. Regional Games – Councillor Lane asked how does this tie into things with all the restrictions. Councillor Blackler said the way travel is done now a team is only allowed eleven players so they can run the games and still follow regulations. Councillor Blackler said Minor Hockey can travel now but there is no Easter Tournaments and the Regional Games are not confirmed yet.

Councillor Lane asked about the one parent per child. Ms. Strickland said it's one parent only as well in a two child household. Ms. Strickland said it's about numbers and you have to remember we have a multiuse facility; it's not just the rink. Councillor Lane asked what our numbers were. Ms. Strickland said she's not sure offhand but will check it out and advise accordingly.

It was moved by Councillor Keeping and seconded by Councillor Lane the Recreation Committee Report of January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be accepted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

**Economic Development Committee Report:** Economic Development Officer Shauna Strickland presented the Economic Development Committee Report of January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

In attendance:

Councillor Melvin Keeping, Deputy Mayor, Todd Strickland, Counsellor Battiste and EDO, Shauna Strickland. Absent: Leon McIsaac, Town Manager.

1) Review minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the September 3rd meeting were adopted at a regular council meeting.

2) Business Arising from minutes:



a) Atlantic Canada Certified Site Designation: Work is being completed, and a few final documents need to be submitted.

b) Industrial Building: There was discussion on the building the lease agreement and two projects that were being worked on. One was a partnership between the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture and the seafood industry. This is on-going. The second project was the call for expression of interest re the development of a cooperative vegetable cold storage facility. This project was declined and a co-op group in the Robinson area was approved as well as a community in Labrador.

c) CEEP Grant: The CEEP grant employed 20 people and provided 4189 insurable hours to people in the community.

d) MMSB Grant: The application to purchase rolling bins as a pilot project was declined.

e) JCP Update: This project was a great start to the extension of the grand bay trail. A new section is being developed near Hopedale avenue and will link up to the existing trail. This section will be all boardwalk. The length of the trail is approximately 900 ft. To date there is approximately 470 ft completed and another 250 ft to meet up with the bridge that was installed. After the bridge there will be additional work that will be required. This will be a great addition to the outdoor recreation infrastructure. This will be an ideal location for seniors with mobility issues and parents with new born children using strollers. Additional funding will be required to complete this. Shauna will submit a funding application for this Spring.

f) Farmers Market: There was discussion on having a set location for vendors looking to sell their products in our community. It was agreed that we are not looking to host a farmers market but rather looking for a safe location that people can set up and sell i.e. scallops, mussels, etc. The train site was discussed as a possible location but parking can get congested. Scott's Cove Park, Andy's Rainbow Park, and the harbour front were all discussed as possible locations. This will be discussed further.

### 3) New Business

a) Marine Atlantic: There will be a meeting with representatives from Marine Atlantic on Friday, January 29 at 10 at the town office.

b) ATV Route: A proposed route was discussed as well as which roads would be shared roads. The route is being worked on and once it is defined on a map a copy will be sent to council for discussion.

c) Green Team Proposal: The green team funding application was submitted to hire four students during the summer months.

d) Tourism Southwest Update: A meeting was held in Stephenville on January 20. There has been a lot of work done on the NL Trailway. The board will compile an advertisement to promote the work and the involvement of the tourism southwest board.

### 4) Other Business



It was stated that the cold storage equipment should be checked annually.

There was discussion on people using the industrial facility property as storage.

There was discussion on keeping the wharf gate closed as this can be a liability.

Councillor Lane said now that we have been turned down for the pilot project with MMSB it still compounds the rodent problem. He said one idea of these containers creates a problem for the waste management collectors. He said the Public Works Committee needs to sit down and discuss some alternatives.

The Town Manager said we just have to change some wording on the pilot project application, it's not like we are duplicating a service.

Ms. Strickland said she guess we'd have to look at if the Marine & Mountain Zone Waste Management Committee are on board and committed to a long term plan.

The Town Manager said he requested a quote from a supplier for a lift for the truck which will greatly minimize sick time.

Mayor Spencer said it's very common in small towns out west to hire a contractor. The Mayor said originally the problem was the garbage boxes that are not being maintained.

Councillor Lane asked if it was possible the Town require people to line their garbage boxes or we won't take their garbage.

The Town Manager said the garbage regulations state if your bin is not in good repair we don't have to take the garbage out.

Councillor Keeping said let's not lose sight of what we are trying to do. We made the application and it got turned down but like the Town Manager said we can reword the application. Councillor Keeping said we need to deal with this first.

Ms. Strickland asked if we can initiate the idea of this mesh. She asked can we recommend people consider lining their boxes.

Councillor Keeping said he feels we need to exhaust that funding first. New year means new budget.

It was moved by Councillor Coffin and seconded by Councillor Battiste the Economic Development Committee Report of January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be accepted and presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

**Removal of Old Municipal Depot:** Deputy Mayor Strickland said he had some questions about the take down of the building but he sees in the Minutes we are going to have a meeting to discuss this. He is just wondering about metal for the stairs and railing for the Fire Department's smoke house.

The Town Manager said we will recoup anything we can for use by the Fire Department.

**Adjournment:** With no further business it was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the meeting be adjourned at 7:25 pm. MC Unanimously



John Spencer  
Mayor



Julia Ingram  
Town Manager