

Town of Channel – Port aux Basques
1824th Regular Meeting
May 19th, 2021

The 1824th Regular Meeting convened via google meet @ 6:00 pm Wednesday, May 19th, 2021 Mayor Spencer presiding. Present were Deputy Mayor Strickland, Councillors Battiste, Blackler, Coffin, Keeping and Lane. Also present were the Town Manager and Town Clerk.

Present from the public were Peggy Savery, Nancy Anderson, Karen Kettle, Loretta Battiste, Wreckhouse Weekly reporters Roselyn Roy and Ryan King, Barb Collier and Joan Chaisson.

Mayor Spencer read two proclamations – one for Municipal Awareness Day for May 17th, 2021 and one for Canadian Public Works Association declaring May 16th – 22nd as Public Works Week.

Mayor Spencer noted that as of midnight tonight we will be back to Level 2.

For the Love of Paws Rescue: Mrs. Peggy Savery was present as a representative for the Love of Paws Rescue to present their plan to purchase a residence at 23A Stadium Road for their animal shelter and for pet boarding. Mrs. Savery said they are looking for Council's support in making this happen. She read off what the group wanted to say. They have had several meetings with Council to start an animal shelter. The problem they are having is with the zoning for animal shelters. As a group they are willing to pay for an amendment. She noted that the Town gave them some areas they could look at but they are not what they wanted. Mrs. Savery said their group have existed for one and a half years and they have raised \$50,000.00 to date which has been put in to care for animals. They'd like to offer programs for youth and seniors plus work with the autism group. They just want to make sure the cats are looked after.

Mrs. Savery stated they are coming to Council with the location of 23B Stadium Road which is a great location as not many house are in the area. They'd like Council to support them and help them move forward. They would also like a notice of intent put in the paper as they need to meet the deadline of this Thursday. If they don't hear from Council it won't meet the deadline. Mrs. Savery said they are asking Council to give them the same courtesy as the other group. They are not asking for you to go outside of the plan but if Council allows them to advertise and occupy the space while waiting for the amendment to go through in this time they can show us that they are sincere. She noted that Council offered other areas but they want to be in town. They are asking that Council allow them to be at this address while we go through the amendment process.

Mayor Spencer said at no point in the last year and a half did you provide Council with a location. Mayor Spencer said we have a process we have to follow that ties our hands. As well we have contacted our planner and Municipal Affairs and this cannot happen in two weeks.

The Town Manager said it was mentioned in a meeting on June 10th, 2020 the rezoning and amendment would be need and it would take time. He said all outlying shelters in other communities are in permitted zoned areas. Mr. MacIsaac read out a number of shelters and the zoning for each.

The Town Manager noted a number of conditions on rezoning were provided to Mrs. Savery for her group. He said it takes eight to twelve months for an amendment to go through. There is a public notice process if Council agrees to proceed. Mr. MacIsaac noted that the process has to be governed by

a Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners (MCIP). He said once the amendment process goes to Municipal Affairs it has to go out to the public again.

Mr. MacIsaac read an email he received from the planner. He noted these are the procedural steps we have to follow. Mr. MacIsaac said the use being requested is not a permitted or discretionary use and a temporary use is not permitted as well. If granted the residents in the area have the right to appeal and the appeal process is timely.

Mrs. Savery said her question in the email sent was very clear. She said I can understand you can't break your own procedures but you allowed the other group to occupy a space for two years. It looks like you pick and choose who you want to help.

Mayor Spencer said he called Municipal Affairs and they advised him we can't go outside of the procedure.

The Town Manager noted the previous location was an industrial building not in a residential home. Mr. MacIsaac asked for clarification of Cow Path Road which is listed as the address on the registry of companies. He also noted that he can't recall being given a copy of their business plan.

Mrs. Savery said the business plan was clearly given out at the second meeting. She said Cow Path Road is at someone's house in McDougall's Gulch temporarily.

Mayor Spencer advised Mrs. Savery Council will discuss this later tonight and will give an answer tomorrow.

Mrs. Savery said what's the difference - why can you do it for one group and not the other?

Mayor Spencer said the other group had a location as well but we couldn't approve it. He said Council had a small space that allowed them temporary occupancy but were asked to move asap because of options to develop the whole building.

Rene Roy re Traffic Intersections In Town: Mr. Roy joined the meeting and asked to speak on the letter he had submitted about the intersection on Water Street West and Main Street because he doesn't feel the stop sign is visible. The other intersection is LeGrow Street, Grand Bay Road and the Grand Bay West Causeway is very confusing and he suggest amending the stop sign and stop line placed at the same location. He said coming off of Charles Street on to Main Street is a blind spot and no one can see coming out. He is suggesting we place a convex mirror on the pole directly across from Charles Street.

Mayor Spencer said the first time he saw a convex mirror it was in Corner Brook.

Deputy Mayor Strickland said there is already a convex mirror when you come out of St. Christopher's on to Caribou Road. Councillor Blackler noted that is no longer there.

It was agreed the Public Works Committee will visit the sites and do an assessment.

100 Caribou Road Request for Road Repairs and Upgrades: The Town Manager said he did investigate the area and looked at the pipe however the culvert was not put there by Council. His investigation further lead to the previous owner had put it there. As well this is on private property.

Department of Municipal & Provincial Affairs re Special Assistance Grant Watermain Break at Water Treatment Plant: The Town Manager advised we received a verbal commitment that we will receive a contribution for this but not the full amount.

Mental Health Awareness: Councillor Blackler noted that the pandemic has created a whole different atmosphere at the High School. The students and teachers are both struggling because of this. Councillor Blackler said he was talking to the Town Clerk about some ways Council could help. He said they are going to be hosting a No Stress Fest in June with activities for students and staff to mix. These activities will take place both inside and out on the ballfield. Councillor Blackler said Western Health is involved with this and he feels along with the Wreckhouse Youth Centre, the School, the Town and various other partners we could put off a good event.

Mayor Spencer said financially we could partner with the Red Cross and Salvation Army and come up with some funds.

The Town Clerk Julia Ingram advised she is part of the KOPE Canada Cyber Group who's mandate is to promote mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Mrs. Ingram said she will be doing up some type of bookmark to distribute out to the High School kids with various links regarding this.

Councillor Blackler said anything we can come up with will be a help i.e. trinkets, gift cards and so on.

Warren's Road: It was noted we are hoping to get a favourable response back from Municipal Affairs.

Vardy's Lane: The Town Manager advised staff will repair this with our asphalt recycler as we move up in the area.

Metal Storage Containers: The Town Manager advised we are currently on the wait list. He said the 20' containers are more accessible than the 40' or 50' ones.

Garbage Storage Boxes: Mayor Spencer said he noticed some garbage boxes are being removed and/or repaired. He thanked the Wreckhouse Weekly for their press coverage on this matter.

Line Painting: The Town Manager advised the tender closed for the line painting and the same company as last year was the successful bid. He noted paint is really in short supply but he is hoping to have this done by the end of June.

Revised CIP: The Town Manager said he has sent the amounts to the Gas Tax Secretariat for both projects.

Councillor Lane noted that some discussion was had on getting someone to sign a contract for paving.

The Town Manager said no paving company is going to sign a contract for anything further than thirty (30) days. He noted this year asphalt is significantly lower than it was last year but he would expect it will go up again same as it did last year.

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

62 Grand Bay Road re Water Runoff & Gravel: Correspondence was received from the owner of 62 Grand Bay Road asking Council to review and fix the ongoing problem she has with gravel runoff during heavy rains.

Mayor Spencer wanted to clarify that the Mr. Spencer referenced in the letter is not him but the former Town Manager.

Councillor Keeping said he did talk to her many years ago. This started when they removed the old garage and the road was up higher and was sloped at one time.

Mayor Spencer said it looks as if it's where the new pavement meets the old there's a gap. He said it should be an easy fix.

It was agreed the Public Works Committee would look at this to see if it's something we can fix.

The Town Manager said in her letter the resident said she was speaking with him but he cannot recall speaking to her. Mr. MacIsaac said he laid out the points of the intersection so we can figure out what we can do there.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities re Partner for Climate Change: Correspondence was received from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) congratulating the Town on achieving Milestone 2-3 for corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

8 Brook Street: An email was received a resident of 8 Brook Street advising of a rodent issue in his area which he feels is coming from the area of the Town's catch basin.

It was agreed the Public Works Committee will look at this.

Make a Wish Canada Run the Rock Tour: Correspondence was received from Make a Wish Canada on behalf of the Run the Rock Crew inviting Council to support the 20 crew members from the Canadian Navy Frigate HMCS St. John's in their Silver Anniversary year of helping grant wishes for critically ill children in our province.

Mayor Spencer asked the Town Clerk what we did in the past. The Town Clerk advised last year we sent them \$250.00 because the run did not happen due to COVID. In previous years we took up a collection amongst staff to present to the runners.

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Deputy Mayor Strickland we donate \$250.00 to this cause. MC Unanimously

Minister of Transport Marine Atlantic Cost Recovery & Rate Increase: An email was received from the Honourable Omar Alhabra, Minister of Transport in response to Mayor Spencer's letters regarding cost recovery and the rate increase for 2021-22.

Mayor Spencer said the issue was the rate increase not cost recovery. He noted he wrote the Minister three times and finally gets this response months later. Mayor Spencer said unfortunately this did not reach the MNL focus for an advocacy issue. Their number one issue was councillor remuneration.

Ronald McDonald House Annual Campaign: Information was received from the Ronald McDonald House regarding their annual fundraising campaign.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Strickland and seconded by Councillor Keeping we donate \$500.00 towards the Ronald McDonald House. MC Unanimously

Gas Tax Secretariat Revised CIP Approval: Correspondence was received from the Director of Finance with the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs approving our Revised Capital Investment Plan from \$300,780.00 to \$710,410.00 for Project Number 45-2019-6927. As well approval was received to reduce the amount of Project Number 45-2019-6660 by \$107,367.00.

Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions Tender Results for 2021 Capital Works: Correspondence was received from Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions advising of the tender results for our 2021 Capital Works Projects. It is their recommendation the tenders be awarded to Marine Contractors Inc. who were the low bidder.

It was moved by Councillor Coffin and seconded by Deputy Mayor Strickland we award the contract to Marine Contractors Inc. for a total cost of \$1,067,596.18 HST included. These awards are for Grand Bay Road Storm Sewer, Cox's Avenue Reconstruction and Carson Crescent Storm Sewer. MC Unanimously

RCMP Local Detachment: The Town Clerk read out some statistics provided by Staff Sgt. Bennet from a Bay St. George District Policing Report.

Mayor Spencer noted we are part of the Bay St. George's Policing District. He said in Port aux Basques we have an average of 2.7 calls a day and 1 criminal code. There have been 110 complaints cleared by criminal charge in Port aux Basques.

Mayor Spencer said this detachment is now down to five (5) members and we no longer have a sergeant here. Of these five (5) members one is a cadet who needs a person to ride along with him. He said he has requested a meeting with Superintendent Cook for next week.

Mayor Spencer noted that the RCMP have eight (8) houses, two (2) have been vacant for the better part of three (3) years and now they are looking at a third vacant house. He said we have many families that can avail of these houses.

Mayor Spencer said we need to send a letter off to Superintendent Cook inviting him in for a meeting for 6:00 pm May 25th. The Town Manager said he will send this off.

The Town Manager said he the meeting with Staff Sgt. Bennett he mentioned that the RCMP budget has remained the same in the past ten (10) years. The RCMP has to deal with rising cost and salaries and are currently in union negotiations.

Mayor Spencer said we need to get a letter of to the Minister of Justice and the MHA to join us through Skype or Zoom.

Provincial Weigh Scales: Councillor Coffin said he knows this is not on the agenda but he wanted to mention that the Weigh Scales were closed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

It was noted that they are still not fully staffed despite the letter we received from the Minister. We will have to monitor this to ensure this service is not cut back.

Economic Development Committee Report: Deputy Mayor Strickland presented the Economic Development Committee Report of May 5th, 2021.

In attendance: Chair, Melvin Keeping, Deputy Mayor, Todd Strickland, Town Manager, Leon MacIsaac, EDO, Shauna Strickland. Regrets: Jerome Battiste.

There was discussion on the proposed ATV route and what roads will be shared by ATVs and Vehicles. A map was presented for further discussion. It was agreed that the shared roads would be in effect from May to October from 7 am to 10 pm and September to November from 7 am to 7pm. The flashing lights will be installed near the Irving station. There was discussion on speed limits and permits and fee structure. Shauna will follow up with the Corner Brook to see how they dealt with this.

There was discussion on a lease agreement with the current tenant at the Industrial facility.

ATV Route - Mayor Spencer said this is a very positive step to moving forward on the ATVs
Councillor Keeping said just to make it clear this is only a pilot project for one year. There will be no fees the first year. Anyone using this must have a valid driver's license and insurance.

Councillor Lane said as a point of information he is not opposed to this, he thinks this is a great idea but it's the same situation as the other group you have to think outside of the box.

Industrial Facility – Mayor Spencer asked if there was any progress we can talk about.

Deputy Mayor Strickland said this is still in negotiations. He said we are waiting on some letters and the Request for Proposals (RFP).

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Blackler the Economic Development Committee Report of May 5th, 2021 be accepted as circulated and discussed. MC Unanimously

Finance and Human Resources Committee Report: Mayor Spencer presented the Finance and Human Resources Committee Report of April 30th, 2021.

A meeting of the Finance & Human Resources Committee convened at 10:30 am Mayor Spencer presiding. Present were Councillor Coffin, the Town Manager and Town Clerk.

Hazmat Response Team: The Committee reviewed the proposal put forth for financial compensation for the hazmat response team plus response calls.

It was noted that all volunteer firefighters are deemed as employees of the Town.

The Committee recommends we go with Council's proposal #1 for the Hazmat Team plus response calls.

On Call Incentive: The Committee agreed that an on call incentive be put in place for those participating in the on call system over the summer months. The Committee said it must be clear if the firefighter does not participate in the on calls during the summer months this incentive will not apply. Discussion followed on issues within the Department for on call sign up. The Committee agreed that recommendation be made to the Fire Chief to make the determination if a firefighter is physically fit to fulfill all the responsibilities of a firefighter. If the Chief feels there are issues the firefighter should be instructed to get a medical done. This will be done at the Town's cost.

Incident/Accident Response Out of Town & Associated Reports: Discussion followed on incident/accident and other associated Fire Department Reports not being submitted in a timely manner.

It was recommended the Town Manager send out of directive to the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief to have all reports brought in in a timely manner.

Public Works Reports: The Town Manager advised the Committee that he has issued report forms to the Works Superintendent to be filled out for every duty they perform. This will go in a master list for reference for the future.

The Town Manager advised that the tenders close today for Cox Avenue, Carson Crescent and Grand Bay Road. The tender results will determine what amount of work this will generate for our public works staff.

Affordable Housing: The Town Manager advises that requests have gone to the Province for additional funds as all funds received to date are federal.

Affordable Housing – The Town Manager said since the inception of this the costs have gone through the roof.

Councillor Keeping said hopefully we'll hear from the Province soon. It is starting to sound good and we should be getting some good news in the next three to four weeks.

Councillor Lane said he'd like to compliment the Gateway Village Corporation for all the work they have put into this project.

Councillor Lane said he'd also like to thank Councillor Blackler for all the work he's put into the Fire Department issues.

Mayor Spencer said you can't forget all the work the staff have put into this as well.

It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Keeping the Finance and Human Resources Committee Report of April 30th, 2021. MC Unanimously

Fire Department Report: Councillor Blackler presented the Fire Department Report of May 5th, 2021.

The following is the key points that came from the departments meeting on May 5th, 2021

Members in Attendance: 30 Members

Councillor(s) In Attendance: 2 Councillors

New Items:

- Nothing new on the Smoke House at this time. Movement expected by the Middle of June
- HAZMAT: Programming seeing some improvements over the last little while. Some new suits and equipment arrived recently
- First Aid Training on par to be finished by the end of May. Eight names on the list as of now.
- Fire 1 Training: moving along well throughout the winter. Plans in place for members to continue through and finish in the near future. Within the next 6-12 months there should be 5-6 members complete
- Driver Operator Course: Mid June is the hope as of now to have this course offered
- FIT Testing: 3-4 need to be FIT tested. Needs filters to get all those needed done. Need to get the newest members done as well. Plans are in place to make it possible for testing
- Social Hall still closed for rentals.
- Discussion on the On Call system took place. Some suggestions were made on behalf of the new On Call Committee. More discussions are needed before a program is implemented.
- The annual JAWS training, public event, is not scheduled at this time. Training for the members will continue but due to the covid restrictions the public event has not yet been planned.
- SOP/SOG: booket is being finalized and will be passed out to the membership once signed off on. Continuing to look into the accountability system to identify who us at a fire screen. Going to try a new sign in system.

Actions/Questions Rising:

- Coverage for members in relation to covid exposure
- Lights for Members personal vehicles

Mayor Spencer said the COVID exposure for the members came up at the last Regional COVID meeting. Our firefighters and the Codroy Valley firefighters came into contact with a COVID incident and they had no knowledge of it. Mayor Spencer said when the reports went in there was no mention of the two fire departments responding. He said this came following an apology that it would not happen again. The normal protocol should have been the same as the RCMP officer go into isolation immediately.

Lights for Members Personal Vehicles - Deputy Mayor Strickland said the lights that were considered were Volv 77 green courtesy lights. Not everyone in Canada uses them but some provinces do. He said there is a big push on by the Firefighters Association but the Provincial Fire Commissioner has not signed off on it.

The Town Manager said the thing about lights on personal vehicles were last discussed in 2018 and at that time it was noted it would require a change to the Highway Traffic Act which would need to be amended to permit this. He said also insurance had to be considered because this could be an issue. The Town Manager said he can certainly follow up with the Minister about this.

Deputy Mayor Strickland said from the last seating of Council five or six years ago this was bought up by the local ambulance service who was hoping to piggy back off the fire department.

Trans Canada Highway: Councillor Battiste said he put this issue on the agenda because he wasn't sure if there were any reports out there of work planned to do the roads from Port aux Basques to South Branch. He said the roads between there is in really bad shape.

The Town Manager said the contract for that was out last year to Farrell's Excavation and Construction but the work didn't get done. He said he has seen a number of their vehicles in this area lately but he can follow up to get an idea of where they are at this point.

Election: Mayor Spencer said he wanted to mention the election is coming up in the fall and he'd like to see some changes as of right now we have a gender imbalance. He would love to see people put their names in the hat.

Adjournment: With no further business it was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Keeping the meeting be adjourned at 8:11 pm. Mc Unanimously



John Spencer
Mayor



Julia Ingram
Town Clerk