

Town of Channel – Port aux Basques
1827th Regular Meeting
August 24th, 2021

The 1827th Regular Meeting of Council convened at 6:00 pm Mayor Spencer presiding. Present were Councillors Battiste, Coffin, Keeping and Lane. Also present were the Town Manager and Town Clerk.

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the 1826th Regular Minutes of July 20th, 2021 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Keeping the Special Minutes of July 20th, 2021 and July 29th, 2021 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

The following motions were made during the Special Minutes:

July 20th, 2021:

Motion #20210721

Moved by Councillor Lane
Seconded by Councillor Battiste

Be it resolved that the Town of Channel – Port aux Basques accepts cost shared funding as outlined in the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure project approval letter dated the 19th day of July, 2021, Project #17-MCW-22-00009 New Municipal Salt Shed with a total project value of \$692,275.00. This Council agrees to provide the Ultimate Recipient share value of \$251,112.00 in funding for this project and authorizes the Mayor and Town Clerk to enter into a funding agreement with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure on behalf of the Town of Channel – Port aux Basques. Motion adopted in favour 6/Opposed 0

Moved by Councillor Keeping/Seconded by Councillor Lane

Be it resolved:

That the Town of Channel – Port aux Basques submit a Capital Investment Plan to the Gas Tax Secretariat for \$251,112.00 for Council's Share of a New Municipal Salt Shed (GST/PST Rebate factored out). Vote for 6/Against 0 Motion Adopted

Be It resolved:

That the Town of Channel – Port aux Basques submit a Capital Investment Plan to the Gas Tax Secretariat for 2021 Street Rehabilitation Program for the total amount of \$348,942.52 (GST/PST Rebate factored out). Vote for 6/Against 0 Motion Adopted.

July 29th, 2021:

Moved by Councillor Battiste/Seconded by Councillor Coffin

Be it resolved that the Town of Channel – Port aux Basques wishes to engage the Engineering Consultant Services of Meridian Engineering Inc. to provide engineering services associated with the New Municipal Salt Shed 17-MCW22-00009. Council feels that the price provided of approximately \$40,826.00 (HST Included) is fair and reasonable as compared to recent work completed of similar nature in our area. Voted for 5/Against 0 Motion Adopted

Carson Crescent/Cox Avenue: Mayor Spencer said the contractor did a fine job on these two streets.

The Town Manager said the contractor had to leave because they have another contract out of town that has penalties levied if they don't start on time. Mr. MacIsaac noted they will be back to finish the remainder of the asphalt that we need done.

ATV Route: The Town Manager said where the lights were purchased five years ago staff had to make modifications. He said the battery was not lithium and our employee had to talk to the company we purchased it from. He said the lights will be installed tomorrow. Mr. MacIsaac also noted the markers will be replaced every year.

Councillor Lane said when you come off the trail by Tim's the route needs to be outlined.

Sods: Councillor Lane asked about the Balrd Street area. The Town Manager said once the work is done this will done.

Facility Update: The Town Manager said the roof is twenty five (25) years old and deteriorated. Mr. MacIsaac said there will be a preliminary report from the contractor for the cost but anything they find that needs immediate repairs will be done. The Town Manager said we have applied to the Green Municipal Building Fund for additional funds because as you can tell by the pictures he presented it needs fairly significant repairs.

Provincial Weigh Scales: The Town Manager said this has been ongoing. He has no further clarification other than the Department saying there are three full time positions there but they are not saying permanent.

Social Hall: The Town Clerk advised that Council's decision through email is that with restrictions lifted somewhat we can go ahead and reopen as long as they follow the guidelines Mayor Spencer noted there is to be no buffets allowed as per the guidelines.

Meeting with Marine Atlantic: The Town Manager said the CEO advised him he is currently busy but when he returns he will make every effort to set up a meeting. The Town Manager said he will follow up.

3 MacDonald Drive Retaining Wall: The Town Manager said he had a local contractor review the wall and he advised him that there are a number of areas that are deteriorated. Mr. MacIsaac said he is currently waiting on a quote.

Stephenville Airport Corporation: Councillor Coffin said the Corporation got a boost from the MP of \$150,000.00 which they seem quite content with however Seamus O'Regan got 11.8 million for the St. John's Airport. Councillor Coffin said there is another meeting tomorrow. He will have an update at the next meeting.

Chas White's Pond: Mayor Spencer thanked the Town Manager for bringing this up in his absence. The Mayor said there is a lot of history associated with this area as well as local connections. He said he feels this is something the Incoming Council can look at to develop.

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

Ultimate Recipient Gas Tax Agreement: Correspondence was received from the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs advising of an increase in the funding for the Federal-Provincial Administrative Agreement on the Federal Gas Tax Fund for 2019-2024. This Amendment letter rescinds and replaces the original letter sent in June 2019.

Moved by Councillor Battiste/Seconded by Councillor Lane

Be it resolved:

That the Town of Channel – Port aux Basques write the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs approving the funding for the 2019-2024 Ultimate Recipient Gas Tax Amendment through the Federal-Provincial Administrative Agreement on the Federal Gas Tax Fund for a total amount of \$1,309,514.00.

Voted for 5/Against 0

Councillor Keeping asked how much we have left in our Gas Tax Funds. The Town Clerk said \$328,000.00.

Resident of 51 Regional Street re Sewer Problems: Correspondence was received from the owner of 51 Regional Street in regards to sewer problems he is having at his residence in the basement.

Mayor Spencer said he visited the home and feels the best strategy is for the Public Works Committee to visit the home and assess the problem

The Town Manager said he has some drawings of the area that they can discuss.

The homeowner was present in Chambers so Councillor Keeping advised him we would call before the Committee visits his property.

Fundamental Inc. re Bruce II Sports Centre and Central Fire Hall Climate Change Projects:

Correspondence was received from Fundamental Inc. advising of the results of the bids for the prime consultancy services for the Bruce II Sports Complex and the Central Fire Hall upgrades as outlined in the Climate Change Challenge Fund (CCCF) awarded funding. Ms. Smith advised that DMG Consulting and Core Engineering submitted a joint proposal with DMG as the prime consultant. They are recommending we accept this proposal.

The Town Manager said this is just a process of keeping us informed of the work Fundamental is carrying out on this project. Mr. MacIsaac noted we received the largest amount of funding for a community and have also applied under the Green Municipal Infrastructure Fund for additional funding.

Councillor Keeping asked if the project is proceeding to which the Town Manager responded yes it is.

The Town Manager noted that Core Engineering is very familiar with fuel switching and sport centres.

Taxpayer Representative, Municipal Assessment Agency: Correspondence was received from the Municipal Assessment Agency advising that the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs have appointed Mr. Timothy Crosbie as the new Taxpayer Representative on the Agency's Board of Directors, effective June 15th, 2021.

Capital Investment Plan Application re Municipal Salt Shed: Correspondence was received from the Director of Municipal Finance, Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs advised the Gas Tax Committee has reviewed the Town's project proposal to utilize Gas Tax Funds to construct a new salt shed. We were advised that the project did not meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in Schedule B of the Town's Ultimate Recipient Gas Tax Agreement, as the construction of a salt shed does not fit within an eligible project category.

The letter also advised that the Town has \$348,928.29 remaining in gas tax funds to March 31st, 2024.

18 LeGrow Street Concerns of Accessibility In Town: Correspondence was received with concerns of the restrictions placed on accessibility and access to areas throughout town.

Mayor Spencer said he would certainly agree we have a long way to go in terms of accessibility. Mayor Spencer noted we could possibly look at if there are any funding opportunities available to have an assessment done on our sidewalks in town.

Councillor Lane said he's disappointed we went through this and said at every opportunity we would continue to try to see gains but we have a long way to go. Councillor Lane said there were a number of areas highlighted previously and we said when repairs were made we would keep this in mind.

The Town Manager said we have applied for funding for 1.5 kms of sidewalks. Unfortunately there is a cost with cutbacks made in the last budget that we had to cut back on repairs.

Councillor Lane asked if the new sidewalks on Carson Crescent and Cox Avenue were sloped. The Town Manager said yes anything on these streets is lowbacks.

Councillor Keeping asked if this was new specs for the width of the sidewalks as he has to agree with Councillor Lane if they are new sidewalks we have to make sure the slope is in.

Councillor Keeping asked the Town Manager if any new sidewalks are sloped as per spec. The Town Manager said the last time this was brought to Council it was addressed. Mr. MacIsaac said with old sidewalks we would have to widen the street or the sidewalk. Councillor Lane said we should have a committee met with the individual to see where we can accommodate.

It was agreed the Public Works Committee would review this.

Newfoundland & Labrador Association of Community Living: Correspondence was received from the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Community Living advising of a new project they have In My Home In My Community. The purpose of this project is to connect with as many communities as possible to increase knowledge, share valuable resources, facilitate community networks and learn how can be of better support to individuals and families with an intellectual disability. The presentation is thirty (30) minutes and can be delivered virtually or in person.

The Town Clerk suggested having a public session for this presentation so more people can attend. The Town Clerk will reach out to the association to see what can be arranged.

For the Love of Paws Rescue: An email was received from the For the Love of Paws Rescue requesting a parcel of land that the Town can either donate or sell to them at a reasonable cost that they can use for their shelter as a non-profit. As well they are willing to pay to have a spot zone done.

Mayor Spencer said this is an excellent idea that we can support possibly over by the new depot.

The Town Manager said this would be the easiest place to put them because of the level of the land and we do own the property right to the end of the street.

The Town Manager noted we haven't heard back from the individual about switching land on Hopedale Avenue.

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Coffin we entertain giving For the Love of Paws Rescue a piece of land. MC Unanimously

RCMP Meeting: Mayor Spencer vacated the chair and Councillor Coffin assumed the chair.

Mayor Spencer said some planning came out of the virtual meet with the RCMP and Council to meet with community leaders from Rose Blanche to South Branch to talk about police services. Mayor Spencer said he feels the police services is inadequate as we only have five (5) officers here now compared to Stephenville's twenty nine (29). The Mayor said traditionally we had nine (9) officers now we have five (5). Mayor Spencer said in the last meeting the RCMP said this is the new reality in Newfoundland that police is the last resort however he feels the RCMP should be the first call. In that meeting council was informed that the bottom line of the changes made was for efficiencies. The overall budget from the province to pay for the RCMP services has not changed in 11 years, yet expenses have increased.

The meeting with community leaders will be held at 7:00 pm September 8th at the Bruce II with representation from the RCMP.

Administrative Position LeGrow Health Centre: Councillor Keeping said it's not only the RCMP who are making cuts. He had a call about the Administrator of Health Services moving to Corner Brook and travelling back and forth. He questioned if this is a start of another position being moved out of here.


Mayor Spencer said he was shocked to hear yesterday that the Sergeant position from here is gone to Stephenville and there is a Corporal in there governing Port aux Basques and we have a Corporal here doing the administration. It just doesn't make sense.

Councillor Lane said he will take care of getting something on the go in relation to the Administrative position. Councillor Lane said he will arrange a meeting with the Mayor and Town Manager to decide on the best approach.

The Town Manager said he believes a number of staff at LeGrow now have to go to Corner Brook to get a decision on leave and vacation.

The Town Clerk said she can provide contacts for the outlying communities regarding this.

Adjournment: With no further business it was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the meeting be adjourned at 7:02 pm MC Unanimously


John Spencer
Mayor


Julia Ingram
Town Clerk