

**Town of Channel – Port aux Basques
1828th Regular Meeting
September 14th, 2021**

The 1828th Regular Meeting of Council convened at 6:00 pm September 14th, 2021 Mayor Spencer presiding. Present were Deputy Mayor Strickland, Councillors Battiste, Coffin, Keeping and Lane. Also present were the Town Manager, the Recreation Director and Town Clerk.

Mayor Spencer read a proclamation declaring September 12th – 18th, 2021 as Sexual Violence Awareness Week.

Recreation Committee Report: Recreation Director Shauna Strickland presented the Recreation Committee Report of August 31st, 2021.

In attendance: Deputy Mayor, Todd Strickland, Councillor Coffin, Facility Manager, Tony Tulk, Town Manager, Leon Macisaac and Recreation Director, Shauna Strickland.

1) Review minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the May 20 meeting were adopted at the June 15, 2021 council meeting.

2) Business Arising from Minutes:

a) Gateway Village- Student Update: Gateway Village hired 10 students for eight weeks. They oversaw the summer program and completed various jobs throughout the community.

b) Update on Summer Program: There were 14 kids in total, 3 that were enrolled for the entire 7 weeks. Every day the kids would have an hour in the pool and an hour of bowling.

c) Canteen Contract: An expression of interest for the canteen will be advertised in hope of securing a vendor for the 2021-2022 season.

d) Tidy Towns: This program is no longer running. They did ask for some feedback and I suggested doing something on a small scale, like nominate a business for the nicest facade, best green space, etc. There was discussion on the Town implementing its own program for 2022

3) New Business

a) After School Program: It is being proposed by the Rec Director to offer an after school program for grades K to 2 with 20 spots available in the JT Room and 20 spots available for grades 3 to 6 in the Joe Lane Room. The program would run Monday to Friday 3:00 pm to 5:30 at a cost of \$12/day
b) Parks and Playgrounds: There was work completed on the channel playground and at Andy's Rainbow Park. There was a big demand for the softball and the soccer field. There were some minor issues at Scott's Cove.

c) HR Update: The vacant position for the pool has been filled, training is underway.

d) Facility Update: The roof is being looked at and immediate repairs are being completed.

e) Local Group: The local waterfowl group placed baskets and a sign at the Grand Bay West Beach encouraging people to take a basket on their walk and collect garbage along the way.

4) Other Business

The local AIM group made a donation to the pool in the form of new life jackets.

There was discussion on a Spring and Fall Community cleanup and partnering with a business such as Tim Horton's.

Canteen Contract – Councillor Coffin asked if this was advertised and was it for one year. Mrs. Strickland said it will go out after tonight's meeting and yes it is for one year. She said it will be advertised for a few weeks and typically the Committee meet with those interested.

After School Program – Councillor Keeping asked about the proposed start date. Mrs. Strickland said the end of September. Councillor Lane said he reviewed the numbers and it looks good.

Community Garden – Councillor Keeping noted that he had a call last week about the community garden and that it needs to be cleaned up. Mrs. Strickland said she will have this taken care of. Deputy Mayor Strickland asked if we mowed this. Mrs. Strickland said there is not a lot of grass there so a whipper snipper will do. She will have this taken care of as well.

Councillor Keeping asked if all the gabions were done at the trail. Mrs. Strickland said there were three done. Councillor Keeping said this needs to be done before the winter.

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Battiste the Recreation Committee report of August 31st 2021 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

Mrs. Strickland noted the Economic Development Committee had a meeting today with someone interested in the industrial building.

Mayor Spencer said they met with two groups. He noted Big Ridge Mining is keen on getting going. Mrs. Strickland said they met with Matador Mining last week. Mayor Spencer said there are a lot of good things on the go.

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the 1827th Regular Minutes of August 24th, 2021 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the Special Minutes of August 24th, 2021 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

The following motions were made during the Special Meeting.

Motion #20210824

Moved by Councillor Keeping
Seconded by Councillor Lane

Be it resolved that 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 18th day of August, 2021, Project #17-GI-22-00006 Grand Bay Bottom Sanitary Sewer Upgrades – Phase II with a total project value of \$2,666,071.00. This Council agrees to provide the Ultimate Recipient share value of \$533,214.00 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 5/Opposed 0

Motion #20210825

Moved by Councillor Battiste
Seconded by Councillor Coffin

Be it resolved that 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 20th day of August, 2021, Project #17-RNC-22-00009 – Brook Street Storm Sewer Upgrades and Reconstruction with a total project value of \$751,486.00. This Council agrees to provide the Ultimate Recipient share value of \$250,470.00 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 5/Opposed 0

Motion #20210826

Moved by Councillor Lane
Seconded by Council Battiste

Be it resolved that 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 20th day of August, 2021, Project #17-RNC-22-00010 – Warren’s Road/Matthew’s Road Reconstruction with a total project value of \$348,747.00. This Council agrees to provide the Ultimate Recipient share value of \$116,237.00 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 5/Opposed 0

It was moved by Councillor Keeping and seconded by Councillor Lane we purchase a 2018 Chev Silverado 1500 WD from Woodward Motors at a cost of \$38,580.61 (rebate factored out). MC Unanimously

ATV Route: Mrs. Strickland said she's thinking we should have put plywood on the back of the signs as a lot of them are getting plled up. Councillor Keeping asked if the red markers were put out. The Town Manager said there should be a double row there now.

Deputy Mayor Strickland asked if the issues at the Train Site got addressed. Mrs. Strickland said she mentioned it to the Town Manager who said that this is the official route. Mrs. Strickland noted where we are looking to get the community market set up goes through this route. Councillor Lane said we can put markers there to guide ATV users. Deputy Mayor Strickland said when the fence was there you could stop them from going through this area. Deputy Mayor Strickland said the issue he has is they are tearing up the grass and the users should go behind the train.

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

Meeting with Marine Atlantic: Councillor Keeping said there must be some miscommunication because he was speaking to the CEO two nights ago and he advised he's ready to meet whenever we are.

The Town Manager will email him to set a time and date.

Capital Investment Plan Application re Municipal Salt Shed: The Town Manager said he hasn't received a response back from our appeal. Councillor Keeping said we should contact our MHA. The Town Manager advised he already has.

Newfoundland & Labrador Association of Community Living: The Town Clerk advised she reach out to the contact and they are busy at this time, however suggested they do a virtual presentation once the new Council gets in.

For the Love of Paws Rescue: The Town Manager said he has identified a couple of parcels of land that can possibly be used for this purpose. He noted that Council will have to decide if there will be a monetary value on this or if they will donate it. Either way we would have to get the Minister's approval.

The Public Works Committee will look at the parcels identified.

Administrative Position LeGrow Health Centre: Councillor Lane said he contacted the Chair of the Board and the VP Dr. Rashleigh got back to him to advise at this point in time the gentleman currently in the position is taking another job. He will stay until the new person hired is in place. Dr. Rashleigh advised Councillor Lane the job is to stay in Port aux Basques. Councillor Lane noted the CEO is Michelle House. Councillor Lane said he told Dr. Rashleigh we need to sit down to discuss our

concerns when the new Council is in place. Dr. Rashleigh agreed we should sit down more often. Councillor Lane said he'd also like to discuss the issues with parking with them.

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

Citizens Crime Prevention Association of NL: A request was received from the Citizens Crime Prevention Association of NL asking Council to advertise in their Family Violence Awareness Handbook. Mayor Spencer asked what we have done in the past. The Town Clerk said we purchased a quarter page ad.

It was moved by Councillor Keeping and seconded by Councillor Lane we purchase a black & white quarter page ad. MC Unanimously

Gale's Septic Cleaning Ltd.: A letter was received from Gale's Septic Cleaning Ltd. thanking Council for their continued support for their Biosolids Facility.

7A LeRiche Street Request for Reimbursement: Correspondence was received from the owner of 7A LeRiche Street asking Council to reimburse him the cost of his son's basketball net of \$399.99 plus tax due to our workers inadvertently taking it throughout Cleanup Week.

Councillor Keeping said he thought this was put to bed. Someone asked the age of the net. The Town Clerk said he advised her he bought it last year for his son's graduation gift. Deputy Mayor Strickland said he was told by the resident's neighbour that it was much older than that. The Town Clerk said the staff in question advised her they thought it was dilapidated and put out for pickup.

Mayor Spencer said he spoke to him and he wasn't acceptable to getting back half the cost.

It was the general consensus that we pay him half given he can't produce a receipt for the item.

Letter of Appreciation from Tourists for Allowing them to Camp Overnight at Grand Bay West Beach: A letter was received from a tourist who recently camped overnight at Grand Bay West Beach. The gentleman in question thought it was such a nice thing for Council to do as he is a member of a group that follows sites where this is permitted. Mayor Spencer said he thought the letter was very positive.

Councillor Lane said we met with a group of people who were against this and were very upset. He said we as a Council asked them to be very patient as we were working with an individual who was going to open a RV Park. We said we would look at another site. Councillor Lane said he feels we failed representing these people.

Councillor Keeping said he spoke to the gentleman that is planning on developing a RV Park and he told him Council can only wait so long. The gentleman in question assured him it would start next year.

Deputy Mayor Strickland said to Councillor Lane you also discussed developing our own park so we are dealing with it.

Councillor Coffin said you must keep in mind it is not a park.

Public Works Committee Report: Councillor Keeping presented the Public Works Committee Report of September 2nd, 2021.

The Public Works Committee met on Thursday, September 2, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Present were Councillors Keeping, Coffin, Lane, and the Town Manager. The following items were discussed and sites visited:

1. **The Committee Discussed the Concerns Regarding sidewalk accessibility that was presented in Council last regular Meeting:**

It was recommended that a review and assessment be undertaken of the street intersection and crosswalk areas, to determine if they meet the standard for accessibility. A record of these areas will be made, so that during our maintenance and capital works project, the upgrades can be undertaken. This will be over a period of time.

2. **51 Regional Street (Complaint regarding Town Sewer System)** - The committee met with the property owner and assessed the Town's system and his home. The Town's systems are working (sewer and storm sewer). However, he showed us an area underneath his basement that has a wooden floor where he alleges, he's getting a sewer smell. To determine what underneath, he will have to remove a section of the floor. (Which he agreed to do). Once this is done, he will contact the Town Manager and we will have our staff conduct an assessment to determine if its sewer and if so try to determine where it is coming from.
Note - (Town doesn't have a sewer system in this area of the resident home). A report will be presented in a future meeting.

3. **Water Pressure Problems- Regarding Grand Bay West Subdivision** - The Committee discussed the ongoing issue of low water pressure in the Grand Bay West Subdivision (more particular in the homes at the top of the hill). We visited one of the resident's home whose pressure is at 20PSI which compared to homes at the lower part of subdivision is 50 and 60 PSI. We had a conference call with the Town's service and maintenance contractor who is currently investigating our pump House infrastructure to determine if there are ways and means to correct this. He will provide us with a report in the near future.

4. The Committee met with a resident on Clement Crescent to discuss his concern. (No action necessary). Also, while out and about the Town we assessed a number of jobs that were completed.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

2. The Town Manager said when we went there the resident took up the wooden flooring for staff to check. When viewed by the staff it was noted that portion of the house still has black bog mud there. Mr. Macisaac said solids can't go through rock and concrete. The fact that there is unventilated air there is what is creating the smell.

Mayor Spencer said if the resident is convinced it's excrement he can have it tested.

3. The Town Manager said once we hear back from the Town's service and maintenance contractor we will definitely have to do something. Mr. MacIsaac said we have to ensure residents have proper water pressure. The Town Manager said we are going to need a booster pump of some sort and will need some federal/provincial funds to get this done.

Councillor Battiste asked when the paving crew would be back. The Town Manager advised the end of the month.

It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the Public Works Committee Report of September 2nd, 2021 be accepted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

Stephenville Airport Corporation: Councillor Coffin said as you all know the Dymond Group purchased the Stephenville Airport. He said Pascan and Sunwing are part of Dymond Group. Councillor Coffin said he is just finding out the Corporation only had enough money to last to the end of the month. Staff would have been all laid off.

Councillor Coffin said the letter of intent was private. They took a vote of who was in favour to let the airport go and it was 5 to 2. He said after that he got a call about the announcement. Councillor Coffin said when he went to Stephenville for the announcement the first thing Mr. Dymond did was to present \$10,000.00 to the Foodbank, \$10,000.00 to the Search and Rescue Training Centre (SERT), and \$10,000.00 to the St. George's Legion. Councillor Coffin said he feels Council should support our Legion and Lions Club.

Councillor Coffin said this is not only going to affect Stephenville. There will be at least 3,000 jobs associated with Amazon.

Councillor Keeping said in their Economic Development Committee meeting today Mrs. Strickland suggested we write a letter to Mr. Dymond offering our assistance if they so wish it.

Councillor Coffin wished everyone good luck in the upcoming election. He said it hasn't been a good four years but we've done a lot and he wished the Mayor all the best.

Mayor Spencer said he's proud of what this Council has accomplished.

Fire Department Report: Councillor Battiste presented the Fire Department Report of September 8th, 2021.

There were 18 firefighters and 2 councillors in attendance.

1. Smoke house to go ahead soon, Firefighter Strickland to check with a business owner on removing the old buildings on site.
2. There were 5 Hazmat training sessions held in the past few months with good attendance.
3. First aid course will be done soon.
4. The driver /operator course will be done soon.
5. The Numbers for the on-call, for summer months were low after the first four weeks. Some weeks there were only three names.

6. There will be a car wash held on sept.16.
7. Jaws training will be held on sept 18.
8. Fire prevention week is October 03-09.

Fire Prevention Week – Councillor Battiste said the Department are going to try to get out and do some things in the community and schools.

Standard Operating Procedures - Councillor Lane said he obtained a copy of this from Fireperson Reid. Councillor Lane said there are some things not in the document and it needs to be reviewed. He said there are other things in the area of our Department that needs to be reviewed and someone should make sure each member knows the Standard Operating Procedure Guidelines.

Mayor Spencer said he feels this is internal for the Department. Councillor Lane said he will do a report on this.

Smoke House – Councillor Keeping asked Deputy Mayor Strickland for an update. Deputy Mayor Strickland said he contacted the business owner again and he is going to do it in the next couple of days.

Councillor Keeping asked if we have the seacans yet. The Town Manager said no we are still on the wait list.

Councillor Lane asked how fast can we have this site ready. The Town Manager said it will coincide with when we can get the seacans.

The Town Clerk asked why Newco wasn't contacted about taking the buildings. They would pay for the metal. Councillor Battiste said the business owner is going to place some fill there and clear the area off once he removes the buildings.

Mayor Spencer turned the Chair over to Deputy Mayor Strickland at 7:14 pm.

RCMP Meeting: Mayor Spencer reported on the community meeting with the RCMP. Good turn out of community reps for the session with the RCMP. Present at meeting hosted by PAB Town Council were Fred Billard-Rose Blanche; Damon Organ-Isle aux Mort; Dwayne Vautier- Margaree; Dwayne O'Quinn-Seaston's; Wilf MacIssac-St. Andrews; John Skinner-O'Regans.

Issues of concern: Lack of police presence; speeding; drivers operation of vehicle under suspected drug influence; a need for police to conduct more practical patrols in certain areas; distractive drivers ie cell use. Over and over the common theme was communities never see the police.

A question came relating to if positions will be back filled if for reasons of operations officers in local area not available. Stated by RCMP representatives at meeting Inspector Gerard Webb, Corner Brook, Staff Sgt. Troy Bennett, Stephenville and Sgt. Terry Alexander, Stephenville was an empathic yes.

Overall a good meet. To sum things up borrowing thoughts from one community representative. There is a lack of police presence in their community. Not asking for every day but more of a presence. But, if

we want to have things change our community attitudes have to change. If there are concerns and want action communities need to report the concerns.

That same message of reporting incidents was given over and over by RCMP representation at the meeting. Inspector Webb-Corner Brook; Staff Sgt. Troy Bennett- Stephenville and Sgt. Terry Alexander- Stephenville stood strong on the District Policing Model. Areas of concern need to be targeted for change.

It is all driven by statistics. In relation to the PAB Detachment any vacancies will be replaced. At the moment there are six positions tied to the detachment.

Mayor Spencer said moving the Sergeant from here and having a corporal appointed in Stephenville to oversee Port aux Basques according to Commissioner Hall was a matter of efficiencies.

Mayor Spencer said there was a suggestion to switch up patrols but in reality there is only one car so the emphasis has to be at the largest location. He said the RCMP said people need to report but people are not comfortable with reporting. Mayor Spencer said we are stuck with 6 officers because #7 wasn't replaced and he feels we need to lobby for more officers. He said the Province's budget for policing the last eleven (11) years has been 70 million. Mayor Spencer said if we don't keep our foot on the pedal it won't change.

Councillor Lane said one problem he has as a Council member is in Stephenville we have twenty nine (29) officers, fifty (50) miles away you have plus twelve in Deer Lake, the highway patrol does from Deer Lake to Rose Blanche, there are eight (8) more plus RNC in Corner Brook and here we are on the West Coast with six (6) to cover from North Branch to Rose Blanche.

Deputy Mayor Strickland said in the meeting at the Bruce II Commander Parsons kept saying it's funding issues and we need to keep the pressure on.

Mayor Spencer said same as Commander Hill said if an officer is off sick they don't get replaced. It's an internal policy that's a problem for him.

Councillor Keeping said with the new development in Stephenville we could very well lose our six (6) officers.

It was agreed to keep the pressure on.

10 Regional Street: Mayor Spencer said he promised this resident to get his driveway fixed up. The Town staff fixed it but it's not in a straight line. He'd like the Public Works Crew to go up and make it nice and straight.

Councillor Lane said this was dealt with in the Public Works Committee Report and left to the Town Manager to ensure it was done.

The Town Manager said it was done but the person is not satisfied with how it looks.

Mayor Spencer resumed Chair of the meeting.

Veterans Appreciation Day: The Town Clerk said she wanted to discuss this with Council because the President of the Legion sent the Town Manager an email asking if it was possible to have the road barricaded in the area around the legion from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm on Saturday, September 18th to host a Veterans Appreciation Day. The Town Clerk said she felt being it's an event for our veterans Council might want to contribute towards the cost of it as the Legion has suffered financially because of COVID.

It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Deputy Mayor Strickland Council donate \$250.00 towards this event. MC Unanimously

The Town Clerk said she's sure the Legion would appreciate it if any Council members wanted to drop by to volunteer their time.

Once Around the Table: Mayor Spencer asked Council members and staff if they'd like to say a few words as this is their last official meeting for this term.

Adjournment: It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane with no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 pm. MC Unanimously



John Spencer
Mayor



Julia Ingram
Deputy Mayor Town Clerk