

Town of Channel – Port aux Basques
1830th Regular Meeting
October 26th, 2021

The 1830th Regular Meeting of Council convened at 6:00 pm October 26th, 2021 Mayor Button presiding. Present were Councillors Davis, Ingram, Keeping, Lane and Strickland. Also present were the Town Manager and Town Clerk.

Mayor Button welcomed everyone and said before we begin with our delegation he wanted to Extend congratulations to MP Gudie Hutchings on her appointment as Minister of Rural Economic Development.

Mayor Button also wanted to acknowledge the passing of a long time business person Mr. Walter Strickland at the age of 92. Mayor Button said Mr. Strickland did a lot to promote this area with regards to tourism and on behalf of Council he'd like to pass along our deepest sympathy to his family.

Presentation by Joan Chaisson/AIM Group: Joan Chaisson with the AIMs group was present to say thank you to the Mayor for organizing the motor cycle fundraiser for AIM and present a cheque for the Bruce II. Mrs. Chaisson said this year there were more riders and it is now going to be an annual event. She noted that they raised \$1,600.00 of which \$1,400.00 will go to the Bruce II for the purchase of life jackets for the swimming pool and \$200.00 will be for private swimming lessons for AIM's kids.

Mayor Button thanked Mrs. Chaisson and said it's always a pleasure to be able to do this. This year they didn't know how it was going to work with COVID but it came together very quickly and was a success. Hopefully next year it will be even bigger.

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Ingram the 1829th Regular Minutes of Council be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

After School Program: The Town Clerk advised Councillor Keeping that she was wrong in the response she provided him in the last meeting. Neither of the after school programs went ahead.

ATV Route: It was noted this is in the Public Works Report. Councillor Keeping asked about the date for the end of the season. It was noted that it states end of November on our website.

Breakfast Programs: Mayor Button noted that he presented the cheque to one of the schools as he was there to help serve breakfast to all the kids at the High School. Mayor Button said that the kids did a walk that day to raise funds for the breakfast program.

New Municipal Salt Shed: Councillor Keeping questioned if it was possible to put the tender out this winter so that we can be ready to go in the spring.

The Town Manager said Municipal Affairs told him the tender would be padded very heavily this time of year and they advised him to wait until spring. Mr. Macisaac said it is slated to go to tender in March.

Adoption of Privileged Minutes: Mayor Button noted the following motions were made during the Privileged Meeting of October 19th, 2021.

It was moved by Councillor Keeping and seconded by Councillor Lane we donate \$250.00 towards the 2021 MNL Annual AGM and Convention. MC Unanimously

It was moved by Councillor Ingram and seconded by Deputy Mayor Andrews that the Town of Channel – Port aux Basques adopt the Provincial Policy for the vaccination mandate. MC Unanimously

The Town Manager noted that the Town has to adopt their own policy. He has sent out a sample for all Councillors to review.

A motion was made by Councillor Lane and second by Councillor Keeping that we give managers the same signing bonus as the unionized employees received for 2020 and 1% for 2021 and 2022 above what was negotiated for the unionized employees. MC Unanimously

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Ingram the Privileged Minutes of October 19th, 2021 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

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

Minister of Municipal & Provincial Affairs Letter of Congratulations: Correspondence was received from the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs congratulating the Mayor and Councillors on becoming a member of Council and providing links to the Municipalities Act and the Councillors Handbook. There was also mention made of the training opportunities available to Council and staff.

Mayor Button said he and Councillor Davis attended training last week but it was too much information for a one day session. He noted you need a couple of days or do it in smaller groups to allow for more engagement. Mayor Button said training is very important and noted the news release that just came out saying that training is going to become mandatory.

St. James Regional High Scholarship: Correspondence was received from St. James Regional High thanking Council for their continued support of their annual awards night ceremony. They are requesting we consider making for same donation for this year's ceremony.

It was moved by Councillor Strickland and seconded by Councillor Lane we again make our annual scholarship contribution of \$250.00 MC Unanimously

Public Health Forum: An email was received from a resident of 27 Bay Street congratulating the Mayor and Council on being voted in.

Secondly he is requesting as to the possibility of Council organizing a public health forum on planning for the new regional hospital in Corner Brook. The resident noted several health services that he feels should be housed in the new facility.

Mayor Button said he does agree with a lot that is in the correspondence but first he would like to meet with some health officials to discuss the new facility and the services being offered. Mayor Button noted that he would still like to undertake a public forum at a later date.

Councillor Strickland said this sounds good but he can remember his first year on Council they went to a forum on health care and we are still nowhere with things nine years later. He said he feels we should take an active role in this.

Councillor Lane said in his last conversation with Dr. Rayleigh, VP of Western Health, they were open to a meeting but because of the election it got put back. Councillor Lane said the ground work has already been set for this.

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Dehumidifier Replacement:

Correspondence was received from the Director of Municipal Infrastructure with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure approving the Town's request for an extension for the Dehumidifier Replacement with a new completion date of February 28th, 2023.

The Town Manager said probably by the time we get the unit installed it could be 2023. Mr. MacIsaac said this started to get delayed in 2020 due to lack of building materials. Then when we put out our own RFP for the extension we the price came in at one third of the cost of what the consultant had received so we did it at our own cost. Once this was done the consultant backed out so we had to get a new consultant and a new Prime Client Agreement which is only now just getting done.

Councillor Keeping asked if the previous consultant had the specs done. The Town Manager responded yes.

Councillor Keeping asked where ADC is from. The Town Manager said two former members of Anderson's Engineering formed their own company. He noted there is no reason why this can't proceed with the tender call.

Councillor Keeping asked if we can ask to do two separate tenders that way we can look at the roof in the summer. The Town Manager said when we went out to tender the first time it was \$200,000.00 over budget and that did not include the roof.

Councillor Keeping asked are you saying there's only enough to do one of these projects? The Town Manager said yes the dextron unit along with the mechanical and electrical there may be enough. The Town Manager said he had a west coast company look at the roof and it's over \$1 million to replace it. Mr. MacIsaac said the dextron unit is gone so we have no choice to do this. Councillor Keeping said that's why we need to go with a separate tender for the dextron unit now.

Western Regional Service Board Enforcement Services Program: Information was received from the Western Regional Service Board Enforcement Services Program regarding shared services of a Municipal Enforcement Officer. The cost would be a daily rate of \$300/day plus any overnight expenses.

Mayor Button noted it seems a bit costly. Basically what they are saying is that person can be here for a couple of days then in another community for a couple of days. Mayor Button said given the amount of bylaws we have it could add up.

Councillor Keeping suggested the Public Works Committee review this as he's involved on this through the WRWM Board.

Councillor Strickland said when you talk about cost what about the income you would gain. Mayor Button said that is a good suggestion as you said there may be gains. Mayor Button said right now bylaws are only a piece of paper.

Public Works Committee Report: Councillor Keeping presented the Public Works Committee Report of October 19th, 2021.

The Public Works Committee met on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Present were Councillors Ingram, Keeping, Lane, and the Town Manager. The following items were discussed and sites visited:

1. **14 First Avenue – Issue with runoff in backyard:**

The Committee visited and met with the property owner. The Town experienced heavy rainfall the day before, which contributed to the amount of water there at the time of our visit. However, the homeowner indicated the Town does have a drain system behind their property and the Town Manager will arrange to have staff inspect this system to determine if there are any blockages or damage. Also, we recommend that an extra catch basin be installed in the system behind 14 First Avenue residence.

2. **ATV Signage Near Irving's and ATV Access Trail in the area of the Train Site:**

The committee visited these two sites:

- a.) Signage along T.C.H. next to Irving Gas Station – The signage (red markers) now located along the T.C.H. poses a hazard for ATV users. The Town Manager will take immediate steps to correct this by installing clearer "directional signage".
- b.) ATV Access Trail in area of Train Site: The committee visited and assessed the area, and it is evident that the grass area is being damaged by ATV's and other types of vehicles. It is recommended that the existing trail will be widened and properly marked to identify the trail for ATV users. Also, proper parking lot concrete barriers will be installed to prevent vehicles from accessing the grass area from the parking lot.

3. **Little Bay Park Access Road and Parking Lot** – As follow up to concerns raised regarding the condition of the area the committee visited the area. Given the amount of millings we currently have stored there now, the Town Manager will arrange to have these spread and compacted which will adequately address any concerns.

4. **Land for Construction of New Salt Shed:** The committee had a teleconference with a property owner in the industrial park regarding past discussions on land he currently owns near the Town's property. The outcome of these discussions could be beneficial to the Town.
5. **Grand Bay West Residential subdivision –** The committee had a follow-up discussion on the issue of water pressure in our area of the subdivision. It was recommended that the Town Manager contact our Engineering Firm to arrange a meeting with the Public Works Committee to provide solutions to deal with this issue.
6. The Committee also discussed the old Town Garage and will report on it in a future meeting.
7. The Committee also discussed in town on going issues:
 1. Drainage issues on Clement Crescent
 2. Drainage gutter in area of Ball field. The Town Manager will have these taken care of.
8. Due to time constraints the committee did not visit as planned, the Grand Bay West Beach trailway and land in the industrial park related to the Love of Paw's proposal.

The Meeting adjourned at 12:00 a.m.

14 First Avenue – The Town Manager said the homeowner asked staff to go down and investigate because there is a catch basin system there. Mr. MacIsaac said they traced it 8 to 10 feet and there is weeping tile there which continues upstream. There is sanitary sewer pipe there that connects on Second Avenue. There was no chlorine in the water tested and no drain dug in the area but they can't see any connection for storm water. The Town Manager said if we have to go up there and install a catch basin system for storm water we are going to have to go 30 to 40 feet. The Town Manager said we would have to bring it up through three backyards as well as the noted homeowner's. As well we can't get any equipment back there so it would have to be all dug by hand. There is also a large deck in the way that would have to come off. The Town Manager said he doesn't want to set precedence by doing this. He noted there is only a short section of steel pipe there and some weeping tile.

Councillor Keeping said this is a low area in a valley which is creating water issues for this gentleman. Councillor Keeping said he feels if we speak to the residents whose properties we have to cross they won't have an issue with it as long as we reinstate their properties to what they were before we dug. As to not being able to get the equipment back there it won't be an issue for employees to dig it by hand. Councillor Keeping said years ago we put in a catch basin in the area for other property owners.

Councillor Davis said her only concern is as the Town Manager said we are setting precedence.

Councillor Keeping said we've already have a precedence established because we already have sewer, storm sewer and catch basins in the area.

Councillor Ingram noted the water is not coming from the road.

Councillor Lane said he is in agreement with Councillor Keeping. There is a valley there and we can put in a system to help this person out.

ATV Trail by Railway Heritage Site: Councillor Keeping said he just wanted to clarify the existing path there now used to be a walking path, we just need to widen it for ATV users. Once we get blocks put in and additional signage it should take care of the problem.

Mayor Button noted his concern is if we can widen out the trail and put in the blocks is if the ATVs will still go over the blocks.

Councillor Lane said when we put in markers for the skidoo trail we put them in pipe so there's no reason why we can't put 4' markers on the blocks.

Mayor Button said we need to bear in mind we are trying to keep up this property but if you go across the street and look at it it's becoming an eyesore.

Councillor Ingram said the trail was put there for ATVs now you have side by sides using it which are wider still.

Councillor Strickland said the Chamber is throwing away good money with the bad trying to keep the grounds up.

The Town Manager said behind the train site is no good because it's not safe.

Councillor Lane asked why don't the Public Works Committee look at this again.

The Town Manager said we can use what we have at Andy's Rainbow Park the post and chain. This will look much more attractive and work well.

Everyone agreed this would be a better solution.

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Ingram the Public Works Committee Report of October 19th, 2021 be adopted as presented and discussed. For Councillor Keeping, Councillor Lane, Councillor Ingram and Mayor Button/Against Councillor Davis and Councillor Strickland. Motion Carried

Adjournment: It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Ingram with no further business the meeting be adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Brian Button
Mayor

Julia Ingram
Town Clerk