

Town of Channel – Port aux Basques
1835th Regular Meeting
February 15th, 2022

The 1835th Regular Meeting of Council convened at 6:00 pm February 15th, 2022 Mayor Button presiding. Present were Councillors Davis, Ingram, Keeping, Lane and Strickland. Also present were the Town Manager, Recreation Director, Town Clerk and Incoming Town Clerk.

Mayor Button advised that Deputy Mayor Andrews will not be joining the meeting this evening.

Mayor Button acknowledged the passing of long-time resident Calvin Tilley, sending condolences to the Tilley family. The Mayor also acknowledged the passing of long-time resident Albert Marshall, sending condolences to the Marshall family. The Mayor spoke on both of their contributions to the community.

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Strickland the 1834th Regular Minutes of Council be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

Business Arising from Minutes:

Lighting on the Grand Bay West Causeway: The Town Manager spoke with NL Power yesterday and they advised they are rerouting some of the 3 phase line system with some of the poles needing to be replaced as well. NL Power will provide an update when completed.

Grand Bay West Gabion Cages: The Mayor advised all the damages in this location will be included in the report on storm damages that will be sent to the Province.

Rain Storm: The Town Manager advised he has the Storm Damages Site Plan ready to review with Council.

Letter from resident of 27 Bay Street: The Town Manager advised we received a response from the MHA and a response from the Department of Transport on the Fixed Link, but the responses were brief. The matter was referred to other government offices that will respond in the near future. Councillor Lane said he thought there was funding announced from the Province for the Fixed Link, but the Mayor and Councillor Strickland clarified that the funds were for another project.

Caribou Road Issues with Speeding: The Town Manager advised the signs are ordered.

Honourable Gerry Byrne, Minister of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills re “Across the Cabot Strait; The Impact of a Rise in Ferry Service Fees on Newfoundland and Labrador’s Economy: The Mayor agreed with other Councillors that the information is dated and much of it has already been seen by Council. The report was prepared in 2020 but the figures and data are only up to 2017. Councillor Lane said this information would have been good to have when he and the former Mayor

tabled this issue with Ottawa. The Mayor said the report is another piece to add to our presentations and letters of trying to get the rest of the Province to agree with our efforts. The information in the report that worries the Mayor is on the reference to not having a competitor for this service to keep the prices down. However, this is a constitutional piece for Newfoundland and Labrador, it is our transportation link and it should be affordable. Councillor Keeping's understanding from Minister Parsons letter is he wants to meet with other ministers and the Federal MP along with Council. If the meeting can't be with all of Council we should at least have a representative from Council. The Mayor advised he is attending a virtual meeting this weekend with the Urban Municipalities and he has asked for this topic to be added to the agenda for discussion.

Tax Write Offs: The Mayor said he was asked about this since the last meeting and stated again, so that everyone is clear, that these write offs were not accumulated from a one-year period, the write offs were from a long period of time.

Property Auctions due to Tax Arrears: The Town Clerk advised that letters were sent by registered mail yesterday and today. If these residents do not collect the registered mail then we will contact the Sheriff for delivery.

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

MHA Andrew Parsons Correspondence to the Federal Minister of Transport re Marine Atlantic Cost Recovery: A copy of correspondence sent to the Honourable Omar Alghabra by MHA Andrew Parsons was received for Council's information. Contained in the letter was a request for Mr. Parsons to discuss with Minister Alghabra Marine Atlantic Inc., a crown corporation under their purview and the federal cost recover policy in place for them.

The Mayor said this is another piece of talking about cost recovery for the ferry system. The Mayor often hears in the tourism sector of how much it cost to get to Newfoundland and many people decide to travel the routes in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick instead. The Mayor will ask the MHA for Council to be part of these meetings.

MHA Andrew Parsons Correspondence to RCMP re Staffing Complement: A copy of correspondence sent to RCMP Superintendent Pat Cahill by MHA Andrew Parsons in regard to the current staffing complement for both the Burgeo and Channel – Port aux Basques RCMP detachments was received for Council's information. The Mayor reassured that this is an ongoing item that Council has been heavily involved with. There were recent discussions with Minister Hogan and the MP as well. This will also be on the agenda once we are able to arrange a full meeting with the MP and Council.

Royal Canadian Legion 22nd Veteran's Service Recognition Book: Correspondence was received from the Royal Canadian Legion requesting Council's support and appreciation for our Veterans by purchasing an advertisement in the 22nd edition of the Annual Veteran's Service Recognition Book. This remembrance publication includes past and present-day Veteran's biographies and photographs.

It was moved by Councillor Strickland and seconded by Councillor Lane we purchase a ¼ page black/white ad in this recognition book at a cost of \$350.00. MC Unanimously

Local Youth Regarding Local Basketball Court on Bay Street: Correspondence was received from a local youth regarding the condition of the local basketball court on Bay Street. In his correspondence the young man listed the various components of the court that needs repairs and/or replacement.

This is included in the Recreation Report. The Mayor commented that he appreciated that a youth did write a letter to Council about our recreation facilities.

15 Kettle's Lane re Water Runoff Issues: Correspondence was received from the owner of 15 Kettle's Lane outlining concerns he has with a drain coming from Sunset Drive that drains right across and over his property. He is also requesting the Town to locate his water stop.

Public Works Committee will review and report back on this issue.

Request to Repair Access Road to Former Transfer Shed: Correspondence was received from the owner of the former Transfer Shed requesting Council repair the access road leading to his property.

Public Works Committee will review and report back on this issue.

Office of the Prime Minister Response to Council re Marine Atlantic Cost Recovery: An email was received from the Office of the Prime Minister in response to Council's correspondence regarding the Marine Atlantic Inc. Cost Recovery Operation Mandate.

The Town Manager noted that our letter referenced cost recovery but the staff person who received it may not have read the full letter. This letter should not have gone to Intergovernmental Affairs, it should have been referred to the Minister of Transport. The Town Manager will follow up to make sure the correct person received the letter.

Recreation Committee Report: Councillor Strickland presented the Recreation Committee Report of February 10th, 2022.

In attendance: Deputy Mayor, Mark Andrews, Councillor Strickland, Councillor Davis, Town Manager, Leon MacIsaac, and Recreation Director, Shauna Strickland.

Absent: Operations Supervisor, Tony Tulk.

1) Review minutes of the last meeting: Minutes were attached.

2) Business arising from minutes:

a) Full Time Evening Guard: A proposal was submitted to discuss the pool operations and ways it can run more effectively. This will be discussed at the next finance meeting.

b) Gym Program: A grant was received from Recreation NL to host a introduction to the gym for youth 13-15. There was discussion on if there is an age limit for the gym and if this would impact the program. Shauna will gather some information from other fitness centers. Typically it's 16, and under that age would require a letter from a guardian.

c) Canada Day Application: A proposal was submitted to access funds for Canada Day celebrations.

d) Summer Student Application: An application for funding to hire summer students was submitted.

e) Allergy Alerts: A letter was received from a parent regarding allergy alerts.

f) Age Friendly Grant: A proposal was submitted for funding to host a senior wellness fair on the rink at the Bruce II, similar to the business expo but targeting senior wellness.

g) Rec Time Contract: There was discussion on the booking system which cost over \$3000 annually. The town is using Google accounts and Google calendar is available at no cost. The Rec Time contract is up and it is recommended that the contract not be renewed.

h) Broadcast Booth - A letter was received to name the broadcasting booth after Hedley Clark. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

i) Correspondence Bay Street Park: A letter was received from a youth asking if seating can be included in the park, to install a new basketball net, and to remove the beat-up pavement and replace it as it is a safety concern. Shauna put the letter in the park and rec file.

J) Honouring Mrs. Sheaves: There was discussion on honouring Mrs. Sheaves at the arena. This will be discussed with the correspondence re Hedley Clark.

k) Sledge Skating: A funding application was approved to host an inclusive public skate and have sledges available to rent.

l) Podcast - Wreck House Weekly: There was discussion on the podcast, it was agreed that this may be something the Come Home Year committee can avail off. The coordinator will make contact with the paper.

4) Other Business

There was discussion on Fireworks and how some communities are developing policies to prevent them from going off at all hours. The concern is for seniors, people with PTSD, children with autism and animals. Shauna will follow up with other communities to see what they are doing.

There was discussion on the lights at the stadium and if that was going to be a component of the green proposal and it was stated that yes it will be.

There was discussion on Kick sleds. Shauna will discuss with Joan Chaisson.

Councillor Lane asked about the letter from the youth regarding the basketball court in Mouse Island. The Recreation Director elaborated that the letter was put with her recreation file and the items

needed for that location was added to an inventory list for the spring as the Recreation Committee recommends to move forward with the updates to this recreation site. A letter of response will be sent to the youth outlining the recommendations for the spring.

The Mayor asked what the allergy alert was about. The Recreation Director advised a parent was concerned about peanut products on the premises at the Bruce II. The canteen does sell peanut products but it is always clearly advertised. There were some comments about the staff eating peanut products at their desk. It was essentially an information piece on nut allergies followed by conversations with the staff and canteen operator to better accommodate allergy concerns. Follow up was done with the parent and while she did not expect the facility to be peanut free, she appreciates the staff cooperation going forward.

Councillor Keeping asked about the discussions around honouring Hedley Clark & Mrs. Sheaves. The Recreation Director advised that the recreation committee agrees to honour these people but they need to have more discussions around the whole honouring system at the Bruce II.

It was moved by Councillor Ingram and seconded by Councillor Lane the Recreation Committee Report of February 10th, 2022 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

Rescind Motion to Borrow: The Town Clerk advised when she obtained two new motions at the January 19th, 2022 meeting for our 2020/2021 Municipal Capital Works Projects she should have also requested a motion to rescind the original motion that was made on November 9th, 2021.

Resolution No. 02152022

Moved by Councillor Lane /Seconded by Councillor Strickland

Be it Resolved the following motion of November 9th, 2021 be rescinded.

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Strickland we award the loan to BMO at a rate of 2.52% for the 2020/2021 Municipal Capital Works Projects for a total amount of \$322,510.93.

Voted for 6 /Against 0

Adjournment: With no further business it was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Davis the meeting be adjourned at 7:52pm. MC Unanimously

Brian Button
Mayor

Nadine Osmond
Income Town Clerk

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