

**Town of Channel – Port aux Basques
1836th Regular Meeting
March 1st, 2022**

The 1836th Regular Meeting of Council convened at 6:00 pm March 1st, 2022 Mayor Button presiding. Present were Deputy Mayor Andrews, Councillor Ingram, Keeping, Lane and Strickland. Also present were the Town Manager and Incoming Town Clerk. Councillor Davis joined by Google Meet.

The Mayor spoke on the crisis happening in Ukraine passing along our thoughts and prayers in an unnecessary war. We have ordered a Ukrainian flag that will be flown with the Town's flags.

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Strickland the 1835th Regular Minutes of Council be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

Business Arising from Minutes:

Grand Bay West Gablon Cages & Rain Storm: Applications are now available from the provincial government to apply for funding for repairs from the storm damages. The Town Manager will submit the application for funding on behalf of the Town.

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: Mayor Button advised that he attended a roundtable discussion with the MP Gudie Hutchings with other Town representatives in which he spoke on this cost recovery issue in attempts to inform everyone on the impact of this across the province. Mayor Button has also been speaking to the MP's office about arranging a meeting with Council so hopefully that will happen very soon.

Office of the Prime Minister Response to Council re Marine Atlantic Cost Recovery: The Mayor asked if the Town Manager followed up with the distribution of this email. The Town Manager advised that when the original correspondence was emailed it was copied to the Department of Environment, the Department of Transport and the MP Gudie Hitchings. Mayor Button said this is the time for MPs to look at the cost recovery with everyone trying to recover from the pandemic and a Come Home Year announced for the whole province. It would be a good time for the federal government to pass along some savings by addressing the cost recovery.

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

Correspondence from Municipal & Provincial Affairs regarding the Municipal Come Home Year Celebration Grant: A letter was received from the Honourable Krista Lynn Howell, Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs advising of our approval for a one-time fund of \$2000.00 for the Municipal Come

Home Year 2022 Celebration Grant. The funds will be released by March 31, 2022 and requires a final report due by August 31, 2022.

Correspondence from Municipal & Provincial Affairs regarding our Capital Investment Plan Application for a garbage truck: A letter was received from Municipal & Provincial Affairs stating that our application for a split-body waste collection vehicle was not eligible under the Canada Community Building Fund as part of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy.

Councillor Keeping, as the council representative on the WRWM board, advised this correspondence was discussed in St. John's with the minister. The board was disappointed as they thought they made a good case to get funding for the vehicle. There was another discussion with the MHA since then and he is trying to get the decision reversed. This application was an effort to try to improve waste management in our area and with the provincial minister speaking of regionalization, all the groups from the communities from South Branch to Rose Blanche thought they would be ahead of the game with this application. It was a cost shared project in the application; we did not ask for total funding. Councillor Keeping advised we are still working on this. Our region has been successful in the last few years working with the MHA in getting other equipment for this particular project.

Mayor Button agreed that it was disappointing as the waste management is always done as a regional concept and we are trying to be reliable in offering this service to our region. The Town Manager advised that the application was submitted on behalf of the Marine and Mountain Zone Waste Management Committee representing 21 municipalities so hopefully the Department of Municipal Affairs will realize it was a regional initiative and not a town initiative.

Correspondence from the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Association requesting the Town to advertise in their 32nd Anniversary Community Guide: A letter was received from The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Association requesting sponsorship for their 32nd Anniversary Community Guide focusing on senior abuse awareness.

After some discussion Council decided not to purchase an advertisement in this guide and focus more on efforts in our own community.

Correspondence from a resident at 40 Dennis Road inquiring about additional land: A letter was received from a resident at 40 Dennis Road asking if there is a possibility to purchase additional land on the back of their property to extend their back yard.

The Public Works Committee will review this and report back to Council.

Correspondence from the Lions Club seeking the Town's support for their Multiple District Spring Convention in May: A letter was received from the Lion's Club requesting prize donations, items for the hospitality bags or purchase of an ad in the program booklet for their Multiple District Spring Convention.

This convention would bring many visitors into our Town and local businesses would benefit financially. We can contribute to the hospitality bags with Town pins and purchase an ad for the program booklet.

It was moved by Councilor Strickland and seconded by Deputy Mayor Andrews to purchase a full page ad in the Lion's Club Convention program booklet. MC Unanimously

Economic Development Committee Report: The Town Manager presented the Economic Development Committee Report of February 23rd, 2022.

In attendance: Mayor Brian Button, Councilor Keeping, Shauna Strickland, Economic Development Officer, Town Manager, Leon McIsaac. Absent: Todd Strickland, Councilor.

1) Minutes of last meeting: Minutes of last meeting were adopted by council.

2) Business Arising from minutes:

a) **Grand Bay West Trail:** Work was completed on various sections of trail that were damaged and washed out. Five gabion cages were installed in one area to protect a section of trail. More will be installed in the spring/summer. The JCP grant was completed in November.

b) **Community Market Proposal:** There was discussion on the community market proposal. Waiting on funding approval. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss how the site will look.

3) New Business

a) **MMSB Proposal - Refillable water station:** A funding proposal was submitted for an outdoor refillable water station for the Grand Bay West Beach.

b) **CHY Committee:** The committee is proceeding ahead, a coordinator will begin on Monday, February 28. The first priority will be to confirm entertainment.

c) **Regional Trails Meeting:** Things are progressing, the town will be the proponent of the funding application to hire a consultant to complete a trail assessment from Rose Blanche to Cape Anguille.

d) **Strategic Planning Session:** A funding application was submitted to hire a facilitator to complete a strategic planning session with the town and key stakeholders. This will lead to the development of an updated strategic economic plan for the town.

e) **Community Revitalization Project- Downtown:** Shauna has been on various calls with the funding agencies and expect a decision will be made soon. This project will involve major upgrades to the performance space at Scott's Cove Park and improved seating and lighting.

f) **Astrolabe Day Application:** A funding application was prepared for the annual astrolabe day celebrations.

g) Multicultural Grant: A funding application was submitted to host a community multicultural event at the railway heritage museum.

h) MMSB Community Clean-Up: An application was submitted and approved to do a clean up at the railway heritage museum.

i) Adopt a Spot: An expression of interest will be developed and there will be 12 plus sites available for adoption. The town will supply the flowers and the business or community group would maintain the area during the summer months.

j) CEEP Grant: There were 14 people hired to complete work on the trail and to construct sections of boardwalk that will be installed in the new section near Hopedale Avenue.

k) Municipal Come Home Year: A grant was approved for flower baskets and banner flags for the downtown area.

l) Come Home Year- Infrastructure Program: A funding application was submitted to complete repairs to the Railway Heritage Museum roof.

m) Come Home Year - Cultural Fund: A funding application was submitted for information panels that will be placed throughout the community and different historic sites and attractions.

n) Meeting with College of the North Atlantic: The economic development committee met with Jan Peddle and discussed future partnerships and community support for the college.

o) Former ASIL Building: Leon will arrange a conference call with the owner of the former ASIL building to discuss future plans.

p) Year of the Garden: There is a request for municipalities to promote green spaces, community gardens and beautification. A request for signs to distribute to residents who make improvements to their homes was submitted. A funding request was submitted to Scott's Gro to make improvements to the green space entering the community.

q) Down Home Magazine: It was recommended to continue with the annual advertising in the booklet. It was agreed that the come home year dates would be included in the ad.

4) Other Business:

There was discussion on the town website and giving it a complete revamp. The pictures are very dated. Shauna will make contact with Nicor to discuss their collection of photos.

There was discussion on repainting Martin's corner. The area needs some work especially with the vacant building and green space.

There was discussion on the foot cleaning station at grand bay west beach and ways it can be improved for this summer.

There was discussion on installing a 'Thank you for visiting' sign on the highway.

There was discussion on the business owner who is interested in establishing a RV Park. Shauna will follow up to see if this is still the plan.

There was discussion on the annual community clean up and organizing it before the grass grows up. There was discussion on Edna's road and putting a few garbage cans out there to see if that will cut down on some of the garbage that is left behind.

There was discussion on a new mural Aubrey Wells is doing for the downtown.

Community Market Proposal: The Town Manager advised that the Provincial portion of the funding is approved but we are waiting on approval of the Federal portion.

CHY Committee: The Mayor advised that the Coordinator that was hired decided to not accept this position so we will need further discussions on how to proceed filling the position quickly.

Regional Trails Meeting: The Town Manager advised there is a new funding initiative available for regional trails systems that the Economic Development Officer is reviewing.

Former ASIL Building: The Town Manger advised he is waiting to hear from Mr. Fitzpatrick.

Year of the Garden: Councillor Keeping said when we work on planting flowers for the summer we need to include the meridian located by Irving's gas station.

The Mayor advised there was sufficient discussion on the Year of the Garden, Adopt a Spot and community clean-ups especially for this year being Come Home Year. We need to do a bang up job to get things ready for the summer.

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Deputy Mayor Andrews the Economic Development Committee Report of February 23rd, 2022 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

Public Works Committee Report: Councillor Keeping presented the Public Works Committee Report from Thursday, February 24th, 2022 at 1:00pm. Present were Councillors Ingram, Keeping and Lane. Also present was the Town Manager.

The following items were tabled for discussion and sites visited.

#1. Proposal for Overhead Amber Light at Intersection of Martin's Corner: The Committee again thoroughly discussed this matter and also visited the site. Before making a recommendation the Town Manager will seek the cost for the light and any related equipment and structures that may be required.

#2. Little Bay Park – Upgrades to Basketball/Ball Hockey Court: The Committee visited the location and determined the following repairs are required.

- A.) Some poles and rails need to be replaced on the fencing.
- B.) 10' of the galvanized wire is in good shape but needs to be refastened and secured.
- C.) The wire dividing the fence between the two surfaces needs to be replaced and secured.
- D.) Basketball frames and nets need to be replaced.
- E.) A review of the asphalt will be undertaken in the spring to determine what needs to be replaced.

#3. Transfer Shed Road: The Committee visited this area to determine what drainage systems are in place in this area and the condition of the asphalt. Given the amount of snow and ice in the area we could not undertake an assessment. We will again revisit the area in the spring.

We wish to note that only a part of the road is the responsibility of the Town. The Town Manager will write the owner advising him that we will revisit.

#4. #15 Kettle's Lane Complaints regarding an open ditch and problems the resident is experiencing because of water runoff: The Committee visited the property and again due to snow and ice conditions we were unable to carry out a proper assessment. We did determine that there was an open drain but couldn't determine where it is connected to the Town's drainage system in the area. We will revisit again in the spring.

The Town Manager will write the property owner and advise him of same.

#5. Newfoundland Power Submission to Relocate Poles & Lighting on the Grand Bay West Causeway: The Committee recommends approving this proposal on the condition that in the area where they propose to infill, the poles shall be 4 metres from the edge of the asphalt surface. (Explain reason why)

#6. Old Municipal Depot: The Committee recommends we put out a Request for Proposals as soon as possible for the dismantling and removal of this structure before Come Home Year begins.

The Town Manager will prepare this proposal and present it to Council before being advertised.

#7. Proposed New Salt Shed: The Committee held a lengthy discussion on the proposed location for this building taking into consideration the timeframe to call tenders; another possible location and costs. After discussion and debate the majority of the Committee recommends we proceed with the tender as presented by the Town Manager.

#8. The Committee also discussed the Love of Paws proposal and the armour stone/blasting proposal. We will report back to Council once we have more information on these two proposals.

Newfoundland Power Submission to Relocate Poles & Lighting on the Grand Bay West Causeway: Councillor Keeping explained that there has been past discussions on connecting the trail way by the subdivision to the trail way on Kyle Lane along Grand Bay West Road so in case there are sidewalks installed in the future the light poles will not interfere.

Proposed New Salt Shed: Councillor Keeping advised he would not be voting for this item, as he is not satisfied with the information he has. However, he said that majority rules.

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Strickland for items #1 up to #8 excluding item #7 of the Public Works Committee Report of February 24th, 2022 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Andrews and seconded by Councillor Lane for item #7 of the Public Works Committee Report of February 24th, 2022 be adopted as presented and discussed.

Voting for: (6) Mayor Button, Deputy Mayor Andrews, Councillor Lane, Ingram, Strickland and Davis.

Voting Against: (1) Councillor Keeping
Motion carried.

Human Resources Committee Report: Councillor Davis presented the Human Resources Committee Report from Friday, February 25th, 2022. Present were Mayor Button, Councillors Lane, and Davis and the Town Manager, Leon Macisaac.

1) Business arising from minutes:

a) Probationary Review – Superintendent of Public Works

The performance review was discussed for this position was discussed in detail with an evaluation of the roles and responsibilities and commentary review on performance by the Town Manager. The committee agreed that the employee has progressed well in the position and has developed beyond the required probationary period, which will no longer be required. Annual evaluations will continue, similar to other management positions, to provide feedback on performance and expectations.

b) Report from Recreation Committee on Bruce II pool operations, assignment of staff and requirements for administration office.

Committee reviewed the minutes from the Recreation Committee regarding requirements for operations. It was agreed that the recommendations from the Recreation Committee regarding staff assignments be approved and implemented.

Councillor Lane clarified that we approved for the Human Resources Committee to make a recommendation to Council to offset some of the Issues for making call-ins to have enough staff at the pool. There has been an ongoing issue with getting student staff to work during the weekdays due to school commitments. Councillor Davis also clarified that they needed better coverage for the office hours.

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Strickland the Human Resources Committee Report of February 25th, 2022 be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

Come Home Year: Mayor Button said he has had a lot of request for the dates of Come Home Year and confirmation that it was going ahead.

It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Keeping that Come Home Year 2022 is confirmed for July 28 to August 6, 2022. MC Unanimously

Adjournment: With no further business it was moved by Deputy Mayor Andrews and seconded by Councillor Keeping the meeting be adjourned at 6:50 pm. MC Unanimously



Brian Button
Mayor



Nadine Osmond
Incoming Town Clerk