

Town of Channel – Port aux Basques
1852nd Regular Meeting, March 28, 2023

The 1852nd Regular Meeting of Council convened at 6:00 pm Mayor Button presiding. Present in Council Chambers were Deputy Mayor Andrews, Councillor Lane, Ingram, Davis, Strickland and Keeping. Also present were Town Manager, Leon MacIsaac and the Town Clerk, Nadine Osmond.

DELEGATIONS:

Rene Roy – Promotion of Chamber Expo: Rene Roy reviewed the new Lifestyle Expo offered by the Port aux Basques and Area Chamber of Commerce. This Expo is a new format with presentations and keynote speakers. This year the keynote speakers are Eddie Scheerr from NTV, Ann Blackmore of Fortescue Future Industries and Linda Massie for Team NL. This Expo presents an opportunity for networking with the local, provincial and regional partners. The Chamber is asking the business community for assistance with the Expo through donations and volunteering their time. Assistance is needed to help with setting up the Expo, to sit on the door or to sell tickets. There are Gold, Silver & Bronze sponsorships which will promote business brands on various printed and media related items. The Expo committee would welcome assistance from Council in the form of time or a monetary donation.

Mayor Button said the guest speakers are impressive and asked how the booking was going. Rene Roy said it is going really well. The Mayor offered the use of our text message software to help spread the word closer to the date of the event and he is sure that Council will be able to offer some time. Councillor Strickland advised that with his involvement with the Chamber he is very excited about the event and said that a lot of work has gone into organizing this event. He hopes that it is a first of many for this new format. Councillor Strickland said that Councillors have volunteered in the past so hopefully Council can give some time for this one. He also thanked Rene Roy and the committee for their time.

Sherry Vardy – Sher Care Pet Sitting, 16 Stadium Road: Mayor Button advised that Sherry was attending because her original business request did not include overnight housing for animals and this is not included in the zoning regulations for that area of town. Sherry explained that she moved back to Port aux Basques last year with her husband who is from here. She has an extensive background in pet care and animal rescues including medical knowledge so she decided to start up this business. She has a few regular clients now that depend on her service. She explained that there is a great need in town for her services for when people go away for work and she expects that there will be a greater need in town later when the new Marine Atlantic facility is complete. The setup she has in her house allows for a bit of freedom inside and she has not had any issues when letting the dogs outside in her yard. The neighbours do not have any issues because she has asked them.

The Town Manager advised that each zone area of town has specific permitted uses and that the extended overnight care for animals is not permitted in the zoning that covers Stadium Road. Sherry is asking Council to consider permission for her business to allow overnight stays for up to three dogs. Sherry clarified that she would not have an outside kennel but was asking to install fencing to keep the animals contained in the front section of her yard.

Mayor Button advised that Council would need to have a discussion in a separate meeting to review all the information presented. He thanked Sherry for coming to the meeting to present the case for her business.

Mayor Button extended congratulations to the Wreckhouse Press on their recent Atlantic Journalism awards. Both Rene and Roslyn won awards pertaining to the coverage of Fiona. The Mayor thought it was great for a local business to be recognized for the work that they do.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: It was moved by Deputy Mayor Andrews and seconded by Councillor Lane the 1851st Regular Meeting of Council, be adopted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

Email received from the Town of New-Wes-Valley: Mayor Button advised that our support letter was sent to the Town Office of New-West-Valley.

Letter received from YBC Bowling: The two bowlers will be in Saskatchewan the first week in May and Council wishes them the best for the competition.

Pot Holes: Mayor Button advised that pot holes will be on the list for repairs as snow clearing is coming to an end. This season has not been as bad as previous winters.

Community Garden: The Garden fencing will be on the schedule to fix very soon as people prepare to get ready to plant gardens.

Trail Consultant Update: Mayor Button advised there was a virtual meeting with the trail consultant and they will be making a trip to Port aux Basques in the near future to review the trail in person with some of the Councillors.

Municipal Plan: The Town Manager advised a public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5th at 6:00 pm. If we do not receive any written comments on the amendment by Monday, April 3 by 5:00pm, 2023 then we will cancel the Public Hearing and prepare documents to be submitted to Municipal Affairs. As of today no written comments have been received.

Amend Town's Contribution to the CCCF – Bruce II Fuel Switching & Energy Refit Project: The Mayor asked if the Town manager followed up with the CCCF Department on this project. The Town Manager advised that an issue has developed on the legal side with the low bidder on this project. They want to implement changes to the contract to which the Town Manager responded with a firm no. The Town Manager consulted with a lawyer to discuss our legal options. The Town Manager received a letter from the bidder as well as a phone call to try to prevent the town from moving forward with our legal options. However, the Town is in control of determining the outcome.

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

Letter received from Western Health: A letter was received with information on Western Health's transition into a Provincial Health Authority. The letter lists a number of strategies that have been implemented to help with recruitment of health care professionals to our region. Mayor Button advised that he spoke with Michelle House today while at the opening of the Pharmacy at the hospital. There has been some positive announcements made from government but there are still a few unknowns. Councillor Keeping asked about the new care services that are supposed to be set up in Port

aux Basques but there has not been any additional information provided. Councillor Lane suggested that Council implement a Medical Committee that was discussed previously since these new announcements have been made public.

Letter from a property owner of Water Street West: A letter was received asking for an update on his application to build a house on Water St West. The Mayor advised that the request to build was not received from this individual but from another resident. The Town Manager advised that permission was given to the person who was interested in building but then Hurricane Fiona happened and the project was put on hold. Now this development may be sitting in a vulnerable zone. The Town Manager will respond advising that the Town can't permit a development in this area until it hears from the provincial government.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dilapidated Buildings: The Public Works committee have previously discussed various dilapidated buildings in town. These buildings are not affected by the hurricane; they have been in rough shape for years. The Town Manager advises that Council issue orders to respond within 14 days with plans to make improvements to the properties or Council will have the properties removed. Some of these property owners have ignored request in the past.

It was moved by Councillor Ingram and seconded by Councillor Strickland to issue compliance letters to property owners to make substantial repairs to their properties or have them removed. MC Unanimously

Mayor Button also asked about our plans for Clean-up Week. The Town Manager advised that it is usually in May after the long weekend. Councillor Keeping suggested it may have to be earlier this year. Public Works will discuss and suggest a date.

The Town Manager also advised that there is a new crew in the area for the harbour cleanup initiative. They met with the Town Manager and the Mayor on the services they are to provide which is specific to ghost gear distributed by the hurricane and not regular debris.

Permit Application: The Town received an application to build an extension on a property on Main St. There may be an issue with proper side yards being maintained. Public Works will visit the site to review.

The Town Manager also gave an update on storm sewer outfall restoration projects related to Fiona. The outfall areas include Cox Avenue, Water St East, Water St West and Lakeshore Road. One tender that recently closed was awarded to Burseys Excavating and another tender will close in two weeks. The tender for armour stone will be advertised soon as well. And with regards to the extension to our subdivision, the draft proposal has to be submitted by April 10th.

Motions:

Code of Conduct – The Town Clerk explained that we made a motion previously on the presented Code of Conduct pending clarification of a couple of items. Once those items were clarified with Council, it was accepted but Municipal Affairs asked for a new motion to be sent.

Motion # 20230328-01

Moved by Councillor Lane / seconded by Councillor Davis

Be it resolved that the Town of Channel-Port aux Basques adopts the Code of Conduct for Municipal Officials and the Code of Conduct for Councillors as presented.

In favour 7 / Against 0 Motion Carried

Land on 33 Dennis Road – The Town Clerk advised that the property owner of 33 Dennis Road met with the Town Manager to discuss the sale of his land to the Town. The Town Manager advised that this land would be incorporated into our subdivision extension.

Motion # 20230328-02

Moved by Councillor Lane / seconded by Councillor Ingram

Be it resolved that the Town of Channel-Port aux Basques accepts Elias Ingram's sale price of \$60,000 for land located at 33 Dennis Road and the Town will pay for the associated legal fees.

In favour 6 / Against 0 Motion Carried.

Note - Councillor Keeping did not vote as he is a relative of the property owner's spouse.

Property Auction at 2 Main St – The Town Clerk advised that a property auction was held on March 23, 2023 for land located at 2 Main St. One person attended the auction. This land was previously advertised for auction that no one attended. It is a very small piece of land that is too small to build on and is surrounded by land owned by another resident. A minimum bid was suggested but it was higher than the bid received. The bidder was advised that because his bid of \$1000.00 was lower than the suggested minimum then it would have to go to Council for approval. Considering the small amount of taxes owing on it and the fact that a resident want to develop the adjacent property then Council agreed to accept the bid.

Motion # 20230328-03

Moved by Councillor Keeping / seconded by Councillor Lane

Be it resolved that the Town of Channel-Port aux Basques accepts the offer of \$1000 for the auction bid for 2 Main Street.

In favour 7 / Against 0 Motion Carried.

Adjournment: It was moved by Councillor Strickland and seconded by Councillor Lane that with no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm. MC Unanimously



Brian Button
Mayor



Nadine Osmond
Town Clerk