

**TOWN OF CHURCHILL
Special Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 5:00 pm in Council Chambers**

PRESENT: Mayor Michael Spence
Deputy Mayor Heather Botelho
Councilor Louise Lawrie
Councilor Terry Stover
Chief Administrative Office, Albert Meijering
Chief Financial Officer, Roxanne Chan
Executive Assistant, Rebecca Allen

ALSO PRESENT: Darrell Cockerill, Manitoba Hydro
Ginger Arnold, Manitoba Hydro
Rod McKenzie

REGRETS: Mike Iwanowsky

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Michael Spence called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by L. Lawrie and seconded by T. Stover
05/09 RESOLVED THAT the agenda for Special Meeting be accepted.

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS OF SPECIAL MEETING

3.1 Update on Manitoba Hydro Open House

Mayor Spence opened the discussion stating that Ginger Arnold would begin with a power point presentation on the findings of the open house and Darrell would answer any questions and address the concerns that Mayor and Council may have.

Ginger Arnold presented a power point summarizing the open house held in Churchill in October 2008. She noted that the affiliates involved are the Town of Churchill, Residents of Churchill, North South Consultants, and Manitoba Hydro. She stated that she laid out the power point the same as the draft of the original report. She began with community input on the Weir, Marina, Tower and the Mitigation Trust Fund. She stated there were 30 responses from the community. 29 were comment cards and 1 was an email. The comments were organized and then analyzed. The results were based on responses from both the facilitators and residents. 80% were not satisfied, 0% were very satisfied, 13% were somewhat satisfied, and 7% were mostly satisfied. The comments were analyzed and placed into 3 categories: Legitimate, misconception, and generalization. Many of comments were based on the weir not functioning properly, and therefore lack of recreation in the area. No water, no fish, no fun+. The suggested fixes by the community were cabins, access to Deer River via ATV trails, or to start the project over. The Facilitators suggested a Salt Water Marina which would result in an ATV trail and possibly docks below the water. After extensive analyzing of the comments, the negative responses determined to be focused around the Weir and the Compensation Fund.

Ginger Arnold continued and identified the 10 key issues. The question that continues to come up is did Hydro do what they said they would do? The majority opinion of the community seems to be that they have not. The Weir is not working as it was intended and said would work. What the community was promised has not been delivered. The community continues to want to be able to place cabins in the area, access to Deer River, the possibility of a Salt Water Marina, and a solution to the town's utility and infrastructure issues.

Mayor Spence stated that the community is not happy and things need to be resolved. Churchill needs to move forward and Manitoba Hydro needs to make good on the promises made to the community. Darrell Cockerill stated that there are things that Manitoba Hydro can do on the short term, and he is prepared to move forward and get those things done. At this stage, the focus needs to be on things that are doable at this time. He suggested another survey. He commented on the situation with the road to CR30. This needs to be done right away as it is a safety issue. Councilor Lawrie stated that the people are jaded with open houses and presentations. The people want to know when projects are set to begin and end. Darrell Cockerill stated that Manitoba Hydro is aware that people want to know and agrees that they have a right to know. He stated that there is money for some improvements and that Manitoba Hydro has to do things that the public can see. Mayor Spence commented that the overall big picture needs to be looked at. Councilor Stover stated that there are different perceptions on the Weir. Nobody's expectations have been met. He stated that the 30 people that came to the open house represented the majority of the community. The question that needs to be answered is do we proceed with fixing or scrapping the Weir? Mayor Spence stated that the water levels structure was to accommodate is not there. The marina was put up to ensure safe boating, but we do not have safe boating. The structure is leaking and there are no safe water levels. He stated a lot of money went into the Weir. There are major issues at hand. Manitoba Hydro may need to look at other projects to satisfy the community. Serious damage has been done. The problem needs to be dealt with. Rod McKenzie stated that Brennan needs to be involved in the discussions; otherwise nothing will ever be resolved. Darrell Cockerill stated that he feels it would be reasonable to have study on Short term on how the Weir is operating. Mayor Spence stated that that has to come from Council. Darrell Cockerill stated that he is not an engineer, but he has asked the questions, and that is why he feels an assessment is needed on the Weir's performance. Mayor Spence stated that Council is exhausted. The structure is not working; therefore we need to move on. Darrell Cockerill asked how much have the water levels increased. He wants an evaluation short of design, short of expectation. Councilor Lawrie stated she does not want another generation to miss out on opportunities. Mayor Spence stated that all are in agreement with the requirements and we now need to move forward. Rod McKenzie suggested that a presentation be made to the higher ups at Manitoba Hydro. Darrell stated that they are aware, and he will take back the information. Ginger Arnold suggested some communication ideas. Radio, television, and the possibility of a coffee talk newsletter. The newsletter would have updates, summarize projects, list various information sites, provide the opportunity to volunteer or work, an events section and an idea or comment sections. Mayor Spence stated that the town can do this. CAO, Albert Meijering stated that we can't just send a letter out. We need concrete information and he feels that the Churchill Mitigation Trust Fund should be separate and therefore addressed separately. Mayor Spence and Councilor Stover stated they do not have a problem with the Mitigation Fund and that it was not the intention of the Open House. Darrell Cockerill stated that he will pass all the information discussed today to the bosses at Manitoba Hydro. He will see what can be done within his normal budget for enhancements. Manitoba Hydro will provide the template to the town for the newsletter. Rod McKenzie stated that this needs to be taken to the next level. Mayor Spence stated that a letter or phone call needs to be made regarding the discussion and the community needs to be updated.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by T. Stover and seconded by L. Lawrie

051/09 WHEREAS the business of the Special Meeting has now been completed;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council do now adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting concluded at 6:21 p.m.

Mayor
Michael Spence

Chief Administrative Officer
Albert Meijering

Recapitulation

Motions:

Moved by L. Lawrie and seconded by T. Stover

050/09 RESOLVED THAT the agenda for Special Meeting be accepted.

CARRIED

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