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**THE TOWN OF CHURCHILL**  
**Special Council Meeting**  
**Friday, March 20, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers**

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**PRESENT:** Mayor Michael Spence  
Deputy Mayor Heather Botelho  
Councillor Louise Lawrie  
Councillor Mike Iwanowsky  
Albert Meijering, Chief Administrative Officer  
Roxanne Chan, Chief Financial Officer  
Rebecca Allen, Executive Assistant

**ALSO PRESENT:** Rose Preteau  
Penny Rawlings

**REGRETS:** Councillor Terry Stover

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Michael Spence called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Moved by M. Iwanowsky and seconded by L. Lawrie

044/09 RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as read.

**CARRIED**

**3. BUSINESS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING**

**3.1 Meeting with the Chamber of Commerce**

**1. Railway**

Mayor Spence stated that in January of 2009 he had spoken to John Fenton of Omnitrax. At that time Omnitrax was putting together a work plan for 2009 which was supposed to have been prepared by mid-January. To date nothing has been released. Albert attended the Bayline meeting in Thompson and communities were not impressed by Mike Ogborn's claim that they have not received the Federal Government's promise of funds. He did state that the timeline is complete and will be forwarded to the communities. Rose Preteau stated she would like to see a copy of the timeline.

**ACTION: Administration to forward the Churchill Chamber of Commerce a copy of the timeline for work in 2009 once received from Omnitrax.**

**ACTION: Administration to contact Mike Ogborn to request a meeting in Churchill to go over the timeline.**

Mayor Spence stated that the Province has been in discussions with Omnitrax.

The funding that the Government gave Omnitrax is to upgrade the rail line and the Port. Omnitrax is not leveraging their portion. Rose Preteau stated that there are underlying hints that Omnitrax may be strapped for cash. Omnitrax needs to work together with the communities and put up some of their own money. The CAO stated that Omnitrax did indicate that they did not meet the 2008 work requirements. Rose Preteau expressed concern that the work done in 2008 seemed to focus more in the south. The CAO responded that Mike Ogborn stated the work began in Churchill. The CAO stated it was suggested the committee be formed with one representative from each Bayline community to sit on the committee. The representative from Churchill is the CAO, Albert Meijering. The last meeting which was held in November we were not in attendance. Churchill is very busy in November. Rose Preteau stated that people want a solid plan. She stated that the people need to know what to expect. The CAO stated that there was talk of Omnitrax going to one way freight train per week, but after he spoke with Omnitrax, they agreed to maintain the two way freight trains per week. These issues need to be facilitated by an outside source. Rose Preteau stated that she thinks having a mediator is a good idea. Mayor Spence stated that the communities get together and discuss concerns and solutions, and the mediator can get all input and bring the ideas forth.

**2. Waste Management**

Mayor Spence stated that the current decision on Churchill's Waste Management System is moving forward as a combination of a Landfill and Transfer Station. The Old Metal Dump was looked at as a possible location, then the flight that went down in the Hudson River due to hitting a bird, terminated that possibility. An alternative site down the CNSC road close to the MTS repeater site is currently being looked at. Rose Preteau expressed

concern as to whether this site is in public view, primarily tourists that may visit the area. Mayor Spence stated that it may be seen, but it depends on how creative we get in keeping it from the public eye. Councilor Iwanowsky stated that there are rules and regulations. He stated there should not be any bears in the dump and that Council has been looking at storing all garbage in the transfer station during bear season. Mayor Spence added that composting and recycling are also included in Churchill's long term waste management plan. The CAO stated that the town has applied for a permit, an RFP will go out to Environmental Engineering Firms, and Manitoba Hydro will be providing a geological survey of the land.

### **3. Infrastructure**

Mayor Spence stated that an RFP was sent out and approximately five engineering firms have replied with proposals. Councilor Iwanowsky stated that there will be a comprehensive evaluation of all the proposals and once a firm is chosen, council will see a final report by the end of October. Following the final report, administration will need to secure funding for projects to begin in the summer of 2010. The CAO stated that the town can apply at anytime for funding as the deadline does not apply to Churchill. Councilor Iwanowsky stated that there will be emergency items based on the age of Churchill's Infrastructure. Rose Preteau expressed concern on the near drinking water emergencies. The CAO stated that the town has come close to a "boil water advisory", but was able to fix the problem. Rose Preteau questioned if there was another water source that could work. Councilor Iwanowsky stated that that is part of the RFP.

### **4. Vic Toews**

Rose Preteau stated that Minister Toews has to reschedule his visit to Churchill. Once she receives word on the date, the Churchill Chamber of Commerce plans to host a breakfast. The CAO stated that the week of April 4<sup>th</sup> is being looked at as the Minister has an announcement to make regarding possible airport improvements.

### **5. Olympic Torch**

Rose Preteau asked if the Olympic Torch is coming to Churchill. Mayor Spence stated that it is confirmed to be in Churchill on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 as per the website. There is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 12 p.m. and Mayor Spence stated that the Chamber of Commerce is invited to attend along with a representative from the Royal Bank of Canada. Rose Preteau confirmed that she will attend on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce.

### **6. 2010 Homecoming**

Rose Preteau stated that 2010 is Homecoming year for all of Manitoba. She feels this needs to be promoted as a community event. Councilor Lawrie stated that it could be promoted as a year of events focusing on every event within the 2010 year. There are many events scheduled to happen in 2010 and a community meeting needs to be scheduled to get as many people involved in the planning.

**ACTION: Administration to schedule a community meeting to discuss the upcoming 2010 Homecoming Year.**

### **7. Town Square Development**

Rose Preteau questioned what the town has planned for development of the Hudson Square. She stated that Chamber of Commerce was looking into funding for a stage and now she has heard that the Town of Churchill has funding approved to develop the square with a stage. She stated that there needs to be community involvement and that the Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Churchill need to pull together in a joint effort. Mayor Spence stated that administration can arrange a special meeting with the Council and the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the development of the town square.

**ACTION: Administration to arrange a special meeting with Council and the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the development plans of the Town Square.**

### **8. Hydro Mitigation – update and direction**

Rose Preteau requested an update regarding the Hydro Mitigation as she heard that they have agreed to go back to the table. Mayor Spence stated that there is a meeting with Manitoba Hydro scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2009 to start the renegotiation process. Once they have solid information to report, they will advise the community. There are many ideas to be brought forth to the table including the possibility of a Salt Water Marina and road to Deer River. Mayor Spence stated that the Weir is not safe and there are liability issues that need to be dealt with. The Weir is leaking, rocks are exposed and it is not safe for boaters.

**9. Joint venture for freight distribution centre (Northern Stores, Government of Manitoba and the Town of Churchill).**

Rose Preteau stated that the Northwest Company and the Province are both on side of having a facility for freight distribution and now they are waiting to see if the Town of Churchill is on board. Mayor Spence stated he spoke with the Northwest Company and they indicated that they had no interest in a facility for Churchill, they were interested in bringing more dry goods into the community. Rose Preteau stated that Graham Straemer, President of The Manitoba Chamber of Commerce, has indicated to her that all parties are for this facility and she recommended that the Mayor contact him directly to discuss. Rose Preteau also stated there is a company in Winnipeg called BBE that have warehouses in various locations and they may be interested in coming to Churchill to see if a warehouse would be viable for Churchill.

**ACTION: Mayor Spence to contact Graham Straemer, President of the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce, to discuss a freight distribution centre for Churchill.**

**ACTION: Chamber of Commerce to invite BBE to Churchill for a presentation on a distribution centre from Winnipeg to Churchill.**

**10. Snow removal**

Rose Preteau requested that the Chamber of Commerce Information Booth be automatically cleared after a large snowfall. Mayor Spence stated that the town did not want to interfere with any business that might be for private snow clearing companies. Rose Preteau stated that the Chamber Booth is a public access building and it is felt should therefore be cleared by the town. Mayor Spence stated that it can be brought forth to the Community Infrastructure Committee for discussion.

**ACTION: Snow clearing of the Churchill Chamber of Commerce Booth to be brought forward to the Community Infrastructure Committee for discussion to have it added to the town snow removal plan.**

**11. Public Information Updates**

Rose Preteau brought forward the issue of public information updates. She stated that the town used to provide a quarterly newsletter to the residents of Churchill, but this has not been done for a couple of years. Councillor Lawrie stated the notices need to go on the local bulletin boards, local television channel, and the local radio station. Penny Rawlings agreed that communication is a large problem and by advertising on local media venues, it should correct the issue.

**ACTION: Administration to advertise all regular council meetings and committee meetings on local bulletin boards, television channel, and radio station.**

**12. Trades Training**

- Frontier School Division & Town of Churchill

Rose Preteau requested information on the partnership between the Frontier School Division and The Town of Churchill. The CAO stated that there will be trades training in Churchill in conjunction with the Frontier School Division. The courses will begin in September 2009 and run for three months. There will be a new intake every three months. The idea is for students to take their levels and apprentice for three months and then carry on with the next level.

- Ambiente Housing

Mayor Spence stated that he spoke with Malcolm Parrish the designer of these energy efficient homes. They had been in discussion with him approximately six years ago to discuss a deal to have the home showcased in Churchill, but the whole deal ended up being sidetracked by a bureaucrat that did not want Churchill involved. Mayor Spence stated he did attend the open house in Winnipeg in February and that the town is exploring the idea further. Mayor Spence stated that while he was in Winnipeg he met with Minister Swan to discuss the idea of a pre-fab plant. Rose Preteau asked what Churchill's role would be in this project. Mayor Spence stated that there would be CEDA involvement in possibly making Churchill the area where panels for these homes are made. He stated it is currently in the discussion phase only, but as things develop, the town will keep the public informed.

- Local Employment

Rose Preteau stated that the majority of Churchill employment is seasonal and term. She stated that there are many things that can be done to

change the season culture in the community. The Chamber of Commerce is looking to offer the MTEK Training again as they did last year. Councilor Iwanowsky stated that it might be a good idea to train someone local to offer the course year round at any given time. This would be less expense in the long run. Rose Preteau expressed concern that Churchill cannot grow based on seasonal employment. Councilor Iwanowsky stated that it will be difficult to change Churchill as it is a seasonal community. This will be something that needs to be thought through more closely.

#### 4. IN CAMERA

##### 4.1 Council Moved into an In-Camera session at 1:33 p.m.

Moved by M. Iwanowsky and seconded by H. Botelho

045/09 RESOLVED THAT the Council for The Town of Churchill convene into an In-Camera Session.

CARRIED

##### 4.2 Council convened the In-Camera session at 1:58 p.m.

Moved by M. Iwanowsky and seconded by H. Botelho

046/09 RESOLVED THAT Council agrees that all information discussed in the In-Camera Session remain confidential until released for public knowledge by Council as a whole.

CARRIED

#### 5. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by H. Botelho and seconded by L. Lawrie

047/09 WHEREAS the business of this meeting has now been completed;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council do now adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting concluded at 1:59 p.m.

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Michael Spence  
Mayor

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Albert Meijering  
Chief Executive Officer

#### Recapitulation

##### Motions:

Moved by M. Iwanowsky and seconded by L. Lawrie

044/09 RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as read.

CARRIED

Moved by M. Iwanowsky and seconded by H. Botelho

045/09 RESOLVED THAT the Council for The Town of Churchill convene into an In-Camera Session.

CARRIED

Moved by M. Iwanowsky and seconded by H. Botelho

046/09 RESOLVED THAT Council agrees that all information discussed in the In-Camera Session remain confidential until released for public knowledge by Council as a whole.

CARRIED

Moved by H. Botelho and seconded by L. Lawrie

047/09 WHEREAS the business of this meeting has now been completed;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council do now adjourn.

**CARRIED**

The meeting concluded at 1:59 p.m.