

**TOWN OF CHURCHILL  
Special Council Meeting  
Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 12:00 pm in Council Chambers**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mike Ogborn, Omnitrax

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Michael Spence called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by H. Botelho seconded by M. Iwanowsky**

**104/09 RESOLVED THAT** the agenda for Special Meeting be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**3. BUSINESS OF SPECIAL MEETING**

**3.1 Update on Omnitrax Work plan**

Mayor Spence opened the discussion stating that Mike Ogborn is making his rounds to discuss the upcoming 2009 work plan for Omnitrax.

Mr. Ogborn stated that they have consulted with various First Nations communities. He gave the background on the project stating it is a ten year project with the first five years being funded by the Federal Government and Hudson Bay Railway funding other portions of the project over a ten year period. Mr. Ogborn stated that 97 million was needed and they were granted 60 million which is separate from the 8 million that was awarded to the Port of Churchill. He stated they are proceeding with the plan. There was a delay in start up last year. They did not begin the project until August, which made a short construction season at that time. This year the plan is to operate freight trains at night and have work blocks schedules during daylight hours. The project for the 2009 work season is scheduled to begin on May 15, 2009 and estimated to be complete by November 6, 2009. It is divided into work elements including surfacing and ballasting, tie installation and related surfacing, siding extensions and restorations, bridge work, subgrade restoration, and hot box detectors.

There was discussion on how many ties would be installed this year. Mr. Ogborn stated there will be 10,000 installed at Thicket Portage, 54,000 at Hercemer, and some at various sidings and yards. In 2010 there will be fewer ties installed and more ballast work. There was discussion on the areas that will be worked on and whether Omnitrax has identified which ones are most severe. Mr. Ogborn stated there is variation in where the work will take place. This year they are starting in The Pas which is reverse from last year.

There was discussion on how the work will affect the communities and at what point the communities will see an improvement in service. Mr. Ogborn stated that the trains will need to slow down in certain areas, but there will be an improvement of approximately 5 hours due to the work being done at Hercemer. The ideal travel time is 25 miles per hour. The passenger train has been averaging 6 hours late and it would be ideal to be at least within 3 hours especially during bear season. Mr. Ogborn stated it is not coincidental that they are trying to get the work done by November.

There was discussion on the fact that Omnitrax only received half of the funds required for the project. Mr. Ogborn stated they had to cut back on some of the projects they wanted to do this year. They are still meeting with government. Ideally 5 sidings are needed. This year they are panning on putting in switches, but the only revenue coming in is for car storage. The total revenue is down about 30%.

There was discussion on the 400,000 tons that the Canadian Wheat Board has committed for Churchill. Mr. Ogborn stated that the CWB expects a good season; however Omnitrax is

looking to private elevators for other sources of income. They are also looking a purchasing or leasing an ice capable tug to have a longer season. The government does not normally give funds for equipment, but they are in discussions.

**ACTION: Administration to draft a letter of support for the purchase of an ice class tugboat.**

**4. Adjournment**

**Moved by M. Iwanowsky and seconded by H. Botelho**

**105/09** WHEREAS the business of the Special Meeting has now been completed;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council do now adjourn.

**CARRIED**

The meeting concluded at 12:58 p.m.

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Michael Spence  
Mayor

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Albert Meijering  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Recapitulation**

**Motions:**

**Moved by H. Botelho seconded by M. Iwanowsky**

**104/09** RESOLVED THAT the agenda for Special Meeting be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**Moved by M. Iwanowsky and seconded by H. Botelho**

**105/09** WHEREAS the business of the Special Meeting has now been completed;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council do now adjourn.

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