

TOWN OF CHURCHILL
Special Council Meeting
Monday, November 9, 2009 @ 12:00 pm in Council Chambers

PRESENT: Mayor Michael Spence
Councilor Louise Lawrie
Councilor Mike Iwanowsky
Albert Meijering, Chief Administrative Officer
Roxanne Chan, Chief Financial Officer
Rebecca Allen, Executive Assistant

ALSO PRESENT: Helen Webber
Rose Preteau

REGRETS: Deputy Mayor Heather Botelho
Councilor Terry Stover

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Michael Spence called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by M. Iwanowsky and seconded by L. Lawrie

226/09 RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the Special Meeting be accepted.

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS OF SPECIAL MEETING

3.1 Via Rail Issue

Mayor Spence opened the discussion stating that the proposed in Via Rails Passenger Service to Churchill from 3 days per week to 2 days per week is unacceptable. He stated that Mike Ogborn from Omnitrax said they would find a unit and possibly look at taking over the lost day on their line or lease their unit to Via Rail. This is an option and he will contact Mr. Ogborn and get a formal letter from him indicating this.

There was discussion and Rose Preteau stated that if Omnitrax does have equipment that they would be willing to lease then that invalidates Via's claim that there is no equipment out there for use. Council and the Chamber are in agreement that Mayor Spence needs to have a conversation with Mr. Ogborn regarding the possible solution of a unit that would enable Via to continue operating 3 days per week into Churchill. A letter needs to be received from Mr. Ogborn indicating that Omnitrax is willing to move forward with leasing the unit or taking over the land. A follow up letter also needs to be sent to Minister Robinson's office and Premier Selinger's Office, with both letters cc'd to Paul Cote, CEO of Via Rail.

ACTION: Mayor Spence to speak with Mike Ogborn of Omnitrax with options of Omnitrax either taking over the passenger service to Churchill or leasing unit's to Via so they can maintain 3 day service to Churchill.

ACTION: Administration to draft a letter to Minister Robinson's Office with an update to the decrease in Via Rail's service to Churchill.

ACTION: Administration to draft a letter to Premier Selinger's Office with an update to the decrease in Via Rail's service to Churchill.

3.2 Update on Frontier School Division Property (Old School)

There is potential for the old school property. It was first offered to the Provincial Government and they did not show any interest in obtaining the property. There is an issue with the building as Frontier School Division saw it necessary to remove the students. There would be an incredible amount of renovations that would need to happen and this would be very costly. There was discussion on an assisted living facility/children's center. The Churchill Ladies Club has been in discussions with the CRHA in regards to this. Mayor and Council support an assisted living facility. They would need to meet with the CRHA and Minister Robinson to discuss this possibility further. There was also interest expressed by the Manitoba Housing Association. The old school belongs to the community and we need to see what the community would like to happen with it. If we decide as a town to move forward, we need to explore the options first. All parties interested in the property need to get

together to discuss.

ACTION: Administration to draft a letter to the Frontier School Division indicating the Town of Churchill's interest in the old school property.

ACTION: Administration to arrange a special meeting with all parties of the community to discuss the future use of the old school property.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by L. Lawrie and seconded by M. Iwanowsky

227/09 WHEREAS the business of the Special Meeting has now been completed;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council do now adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting concluded at 12:30 p.m.

Michael Spence
Mayor

Albert Meijering
Chief Administrative Officer

Recapitulation

Motions:

Moved by M. Iwanowsky and seconded by L. Lawrie

226/09 RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the Special Meeting be accepted.

CARRIED

Moved by L. Lawrie and seconded by M. Iwanowsky

227/09 WHEREAS the business of the Special Meeting has now been completed;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council do now adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting concluded at 12:30 p.m.