



Minutes of Special Public Council Meeting January 6, 2026 at 7:00PM

A Special Meeting of Council was held via ZOOM on the above date with the following in attendance:

Councilor's Present:

Mayor Andrew Shea
Councilor Ryan Holmes
Councilor Lary Roebbotham

Deputy Mayor Damian Roebbotham
Councilor David McKenna (Entered the meeting at 7:15pm)
Councilor Carol Warren

Staff:

Pauline Payne, Chief Administrative Officer Daphne Coles, Deputy Town Clerk

Absent:

Councilor Holly Payne

A. Call to Order:

- Mayor Shea welcomed everyone that was viewing the meeting on the ZOOM Platform and reviewed the agenda. Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

B. Adoption of Agenda

2026-001

D. Roebbotham/Holmes

Resolved the agenda be adopted as presented.

Resolution Carried. In favour – 5. Mayor Shea, Deputy Mayor Roebbotham, Councilor McKenna, Councilor Payne, and Councilor Roebbotham. Against - 0.

C. Snowstorm/Power Outage Protocol

- Councilor Holmes received many complaints from residents during the recent back-to-back snowstorms and felt that the Town was not prepared and took way too long to get the town roads clear, with some roads not being cleared before 2 days causing some to miss work, especially essential workers. Many negative comments on Facebook. It took way too long to call in outside Contractors, needs a better plan in place before we have another big storm.
- CAO and Public Works Superintendent were working diligently to reach Contractors; however, they had their own contracts to fulfill before they could help the town.
- Many were calling the Town Emergency Phone; however, they could not get an answer. Superintendent was responsible for the emergency phone however he was either busy with snow clearing or out of the service area. Council inquired if another member of staff could be responsible for the Emergency Phone and forward the information to the Public Works Superintendent or CAO.
- During the power outages, residents of Seldom were without water for an extended period of time. Superintendent did contact the Contractor, and he could not provide generator assistance for the pump house, they were on the way to supply fuel to gas stations that were out of gas.
- Council suggested having a Standing Agreement with the Contractor for generator assistance for Seldom Pump House during power outages. Council also instructed Staff to put out a public notice to determine if any residents or businesses have big generators that the town can avail off if needed to add to the Town Emergency Plan. Information to be provided to Council at the next meeting.
- Some residents were using propane and butane for cooking and sources of heat; this can be very dangerous for carbon monoxide poisoning. Two residents were seriously affected. Council requested that Staff put a notice on our social media to warn residents of the dangerous fumes that come from these items and the serious effects it can have on your body.

D. Seldom Pump House – Chlorine

- After the last power outage residents of Seldom from the pump house down toward Burnt Point experienced high amounts of Chlorine in their water after it was restored. Some residents

experienced severe skin reactions and itching after showering. Several complaints were also received from residents who had new clothes spoiled from washing in the water.

- Public Works Staff checked the chlorine levels and reports were normal, however they cannot determine what could have happened at the pump house once the power was restored and a high volume of water was going back to the community. Could possibly be Soda Ash, not chlorine.
- Council suggested that in the future residents should be made aware to avoid using the water for a period of time after long power outages if this should happen again, and that Staff should contact Engineers to determine the cause.

E. Stadium Maintenance Position – Report

- Position has been filled and Worker is expected to begin work January 12th.

F. Emergency Meeting Protocol

- Currently the town does not have an emergency meeting protocol, only what is listed in the Rules of Procedure for a Special Meeting.
- During the power outage 2 Council members requested an emergency meeting to discuss concerns for Fire Services, however due to no cell service, CAO or Clerk did not receive the message.
- This was a big concern for Council and instructed Staff to develop an Emergency Meeting Policy to bring forth at the next council meeting.

G. Councillor Email Addresses

- Councilor Holmes inquired if they are allowed to connect their councilor email address to their personal cell phone. This would allow them to access their council email when they are at work or away from home. Having their email only on the iPad limits their response time to some emails, especially if a response is needed quickly.
- Staff will check the Policy and if there are no issues, email passwords will be emailed to Councilors

H. Fire Dept Members Applications

- Councilor Holmes inquired if Station 1 was capped at a limit of 25 members, no new applications are allowed. CAO said this was not the case, Bylaws state 108 members. Station 1 have new applications on file and will submit them to the office.

I. Temporary Warming Centre

- Discussion about having a plan for a Warming Centre in place before the next meeting.
- Visitor Information Centre is already equipped, only need a generator.
- Council requested that Staff take a portable generator to the Visitor Information Centre for use in the case of another extended power outage until the town can get a generator suitable to run the electricity needed for the building. Directed staff to get pricing and purchase a generator for the Visitor Information Centre.
- Council also requested that Shorefast also be contacted to use the Fogo Island Inn as a Warming Centre as a temporary solution if needed.

J. Adjournment:

2026-002

L. Roebbotham/Warren

Resolved the special public council meeting of January 6, 2026 be adjourned at 8:33PM.

Resolution Carried. In favour – 7. Mayor Shea, Deputy Mayor Roebbotham, Councilor Holmes, Councilor McKenna, Councilor Payne, Councilor Roebbotham and Councilor Warren. Against - 0.

Pauline Payne
CAO



Andrew Shea
Mayor

