

Northeast Avalon Joint Council Meeting

MINUTES

*Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
Town of Conception Bay South, NL*

ATTENDEES:

- Mr. Craig Williams, Conception Harbour
- Mr. Steve Tessier, CBS
- Mr. Sam Whalen, Colliers
- Mr. Randy Simms, Mount Pearl
- Mr. Joedy Wall, Pouch Cove
- Mr. Joe Butler, PC-SP
- Mr. Moses Tucker, PC-SP
- Mr. Sterling Willis, Paradise
- Mr. Jim Joy, Holyrood
- Ms. Beverly Rowe, CBS
- Mr. Pat Doyle, Avondale
- Ms. Peggy Roche, Torbay
- Mr. Bradley Power, Eastern Regional Service Board

REGRETS:

- Ms. Teresita McCarthy, Wabana
- Mr. Bert Hickey, LB-MC-OC
- Mr. Art Puddister, St. John's
- Mr. Brian Whitty, Torbay

PROCEEDINGS:

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Craig T. Williams at 6:40 p.m.
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Tessier, seconded by Mr. Wall, that the Agenda of the NEAJC meeting of May 24 be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.

Ref#: NEAJC2017-016

3. **DELEGATION**

There was no delegation.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Willis, seconded by Mr. Whalen, that the Minutes of the April 19, 2017 meeting be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.

Ref#: NEAJC2017-017

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) **MNL Plastic Bag Committee:** Mr. Williams noted that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador's plastic bag ban committee will meet on Friday, May 26, and he will fill them in on the proposed plan to hire a summer student on behalf of the NEAJC to do some basic research.

Mr. Power provided a brief update on his work to find funding to pay for the summer student. Unfortunately, SWASP and federal/provincial funding deadlines have passed and the only option might be for the NEAJC to pay for the full cost of the student.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Simms, seconded by Ms. Roche that the NEAJC allocate up to a maximum of \$3,000 to cover the cost of a summer student to undertake research on plastic bags (if the joint council is unsuccessful in attaining a grant). Motion carried.

Ref#: NEAJC2017-018

- b) **Utilities Taxation:** Mr. Simms suggested the Chair meet with the Minister of Municipal Affairs on this issue for the fall sitting of the House of Assembly. He also suggested that Mr. Williams ask Municipalities NL to work with us on this important issue. He concluded by saying the first step should be to meet with Craig, then the Minister, and then the NEAJC can re-assess next steps moving forward.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Advocacy Calendar:** The advocacy calendar was provided for information only. The Chair noted a new calendar will have to be developed in the fall on account of new councils being elected. Mr. Power will ensure this is on the agenda in November.
- b) **Update on Library Closures:** A copy of the EY Report on Public Libraries was distributed for the information of members. Mr. Wall noted that it has been very difficult dealing with Minister Kirby on this issue. He suggests we monitor the issue very closely moving forward to determine any future negative impact on communities as a result of Provincial Government decisions.
- c) **Cost-Sharing Ratios:** A draft letter was presented for discussion regarding the new cost-sharing ratios for municipalities. Members agreed that the letter reflected their position on the new ratios and suggested it be sent immediately.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Whalen, seconded by Mr. Willis that the letter regarding cost-sharing ratios be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment as tabled. Motion carried.

Ref#: NEAJC2017-019

- d) **Municipal Operating Grants:** A draft letter regarding 2017 MOGs from the Provincial Government was presented for discussion.

Mr. Williams noted that the three communities in Conception bay Centre would like to see more funding allocated to MOGs.

Mr. Simms noted that some municipalities depend heavily on MOGs to keep taxes low. He feels that government should be encouraged to increase the funding being allocated to municipalities; however, seeing MOGs stay steady is much better than seeing them decrease.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Tessier provided a financial update to the group. He noted that invoices have been received from the following communities, in no particular order:

- Conception Bay South
- Bauline
- Harbour Main
- Pouch Cove
- Colliers
- Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove
- Witless Bay
- Avondale
- Conception Harbour
- Bay Bulls
- Torbay
- St. John's

Mr. Tessier encouraged all other communities to remit their membership dues as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, the exact NEAJC bank balance was not available for the meeting, but Mr. Tessier noted it is somewhere near \$8,000.

Mr. Tessier also suggested that the NEAJC cancel the post office box it has been renting for a savings of \$186.00 per year. Financial mail can be sent to one of the towns moving forward. The Chair will figure out the appropriate address/location for mail moving forward.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Wall, seconded by Mr. Doyle that the NEAJC adopt the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

Ref#: NEAJC2017-020

8. EASTERN REGIONAL SERVICE BOARD UPDATE

Ms. Roche delivered the following report on behalf of the ERSB:

- The Eastern Regional Service Board met on Thursday, May 11 in St. John's.
- The Board discussed a number of important topics, including the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016.
- The audited statements were in line with what was expected for the year. They are available online for those who wish to read them in detail.
- In addition to reviewing the financial statements, the Board received updates on staff work associated with developing video surveillance guidelines for ERSB facilities, as well as a remote attendance policy for those unable to attend the monthly meetings in person. Mr. Power also provided an update on his work with joint councils and other consultative groups throughout the region. Mr. Power now provides support to the following groups:
 - Northeast Avalon Joint Council
 - Southern Shore Joint Council
 - Conception Bay North Joint Council
 - Trinity-Bay de Vere Mayors' Association
 - Isthmus of the Avalon Regional Committee
- The Board will soon begin deliberations on its budget for 2018. This will take place late summer into the fall. The process is taking place early this year due to the upcoming municipal election.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Visit to Bell Island/Town of Wabana:** Ms. McCarthy sent her regrets for not attending tonight, but indicated that planning is underway for the joint council tour of Bell Island and the Town of Wabana. Additional information about the tour will be sent out in the coming days. All NEAJC members are encouraged to attend.

10. MEETING REQUESTS

The request for NF Power to present to the NEAJC is still outstanding. Mr. Power will follow-up with their representative as soon as possible to determine a new date.

11. ROUNDTABLE

- a) **Family/Consumer Fireworks:** Mr. Joy asked for an update on the work being undertaken by the NEA Fire Chief's Association regarding banning family/consumer fireworks.

Mr. Tessier noted that his council had received a letter from the fire chiefs asking for support for a ban. He was surprised to see the letter whereas we had agreed to work together during the joint meeting which was held a few months ago.

The Chair asked Mr. Power to follow-up with Fire Chief Fred Hollett and report back at the next meeting.

- b) **SOPAC**: Ms. Roche passed along a note of appreciation to all communities for their written support of the Save Our People Action Committee and their application to government for funding. She noted that the group does very important work and it was very nice to see everyone get behind their efforts.
- c) **Mayor of Mount Pearl Retiring**: Mr. Simms will be retiring and not seeking re-election in September. Mr. Doyle paid tribute to Mr. Simms, and everyone thanked the Mayor for his work at the joint council table in particular. The Chair reiterated Mr. Doyle's comments and noted that Mr. Simms and others will receive a certificate of appreciation at the upcoming meeting on Bell Island.

12. NEXT MEETING: The Chair noted that the June meeting will take place at the Town of Wabana (on Bell Island), with a date to be confirmed. He encouraged everyone to attend.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Willis that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Ref#: NEAJC2017-021

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

APPENDIX A

RECORD OF DECISIONS (MOTIONS) FOR MAY 2017

MOTION NUMBER (Ref#)	MOTION TYPE	DETAILS
NEAJC2017-016	Agenda	MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Tessier, seconded by Mr. Wall, that the Agenda of the NEAJC meeting of May 24 be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.
NEAJC2017-017	Minutes	MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Willis, seconded by Mr. Whalen, that the Minutes of the April 19, 2017 meeting be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.
NEAJC2017-018	Summer Student/Financial	MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Simms, seconded by Ms. Roche that the NEAJC allocate up to a maximum of \$3,000 to cover the cost of a summer student to undertake research on plastic bags (if the joint council is unsuccessful in attaining a grant). Motion carried.
NEAJC2017-019	Policy/Position	MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Whalen, seconded by Mr. Willis that the letter regarding cost-sharing ratios be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment as tabled. Motion carried.
NEAJC2017-020	Financial Report	MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Wall, seconded by Mr. Doyle that the NEAJC adopt the financial report as presented. Motion carried.
NEAJC2017-021	Adjournment	MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Willis that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.