

## Northeast Avalon Joint Council Meeting

# MINUTES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.*

*Paradise Town Hall*

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### **ATTENDEES:**

- Mr. Craig T. Williams, Conception Harbour
- Mr. Allan English, Paradise
- Ms. Mary Thorne-Gosse, Torbay
- Mr. Jim Joy, Holyrood
- Ms. Joanne Whalen, Bauline
- Mr. Patrick Martin, Paradise
- Mr. Jamie Korab, St. John's
- Mr. Bradley Power, Eastern Regional Service Board / LB-MC-OC

### **DELEGATION(S):**

- Mr. Ed Grant, Eastern Regional Service Board

### **REGRETS:**

- Mr. Joedy Wall, Pouch Cove
- Mr. Andrew Boland, LB-MC-OC

### **PROCEEDINGS:**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:15 p.m.

#### **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*MOTION: It was moved by Mr. English, seconded by Ms. Thorne-Gosse, that the Agenda of the NEAJC meeting of November 14 be adopted with the additions. Motion carried.*

*Ref#: NEAJC2017-024*

#### **3. DELEGATION**

- a) **Ed Grant, Chair of the Eastern Regional Service Board:** Mr. Grant requested an opportunity to speak with the joint council about the ongoing work of the service board, and to highlight some ongoing issues related to the selection of a Chair.

Mr. Grant began his presentation by thanking the Chair for the opportunity to speak, and highlighted the strong partnership that has developed in recent years between the joint council and the service board.

Mr. Grant noted the service board has been working with other joint councils and mayors' associations throughout the Eastern Region to advance their priority issues, similar to the support Mr. Power provides to the Northeast Avalon Joint Council. He feels they are having great success and touted the new regional services being explored as a result.

Mr. Grant provided an overview of the legislation that governs service boards throughout the province. He went on to highlight potential changes which were suggested recently by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment. The suggestion was that the Regional Service Board Act be changed to have the Chair of the Board appointed by the Provincial Government. This proposed change is alarming for the boards across the province, especially considering the legislation was changed in 2015 to allow for the Board to appoint its own Chairperson. Allowing the Board to appoint puts control in the hands of municipalities. Mr. Grant felt this would be a very regressive step and would take control of the municipal service delivery arms from those it serves. He encouraged all communities to express their opinion to Minister Joyce in advance of any legislative amendments going forward to the House of Assembly.

***Mr. Korab arrived at 6:24PM***

Mr. English asked Mr. Grant to provide an overview of the current composition of the Board. Mr. Grant noted that elections for the Board were ongoing, but it is legislated to have 20 representatives and a Chairperson. The list of current Board members is available online, and the results of the election in late November will be posted online as well.

Mr. English asked whether the Chair of the Board comes from the 20 elected representatives. Mr. Grant responded that the Chair can be chosen from within or an independent Chair can be selected from outside of the Board.

Mr. English asked what the powers of the Chair were. Mr. Grant said the Chair is engaged in the day-to-day management of the Board, and acts as the spokesperson for the organization. There is no additional legislative authority related to the Chairperson.

Mr. Grant concluded by encouraging everyone to keep a keen eye to this issue. He will be back in touch if the Provincial Government plans to move forward with legislative changes in relation to the selection of a Chairperson.

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

***MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Joy, seconded by Ms. Thorne-Gosse, that the Minutes of the May 24, 2017 and July 29, 2017 meetings be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.***

***Ref#: NEAJC2017-025***

## 5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) **Summer Student for Plastic Bag Research:** Mr. Williams noted the summer student has completed her work and provided a draft briefing note for review. He will work to finalize the material in the coming months so to facilitate a presentation of the findings of the survey to the joint council. The joint council owes the Town of Conception Harbour for the cost of the summer student. This will be taken care of once the new Treasurer is in place after the AGM in December. The overall cost came in below budget.

Mr. Korab noted the City of St. John's passed a motion earlier in the evening to support a ban on one-use plastic bags. He indicated that the vast majority of input from residents pointed toward wide-spread support for a province-wide ban.

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to discuss.

## 7. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Chair delivered a financial report whereas the former Treasurer, Mr. Steve Tessier, is no longer a member of council and therefore no longer serves on the joint council. Mr. Williams also noted that the books will need to be changed over once a new Treasurer is elected in December.

- The bank balance as of October 31 is \$10,958.01.
- Outstanding payables (to the Town of Conception Harbour) equate to \$2,232.29.

***MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Thorne-Gosse, seconded by Mr. English, that the financial report be adopted as delivered. Motion carried.***

***Ref#: NEAJC2017-026***

## 8. EASTERN REGIONAL SERVICE BOARD UPDATE

Mr. Power delivered the ERSB update on behalf of the Board.

The Eastern Regional Service Board last met on Wednesday, September 6. At that meeting, the Board approved its 2018 budget. The budget is consistent with previous years, with no major new expenditures.

Tipping fees at RHB were set at \$67.60/\$20.00 per tonne for 2018, and the transportation charge from Clarendville remains at \$20.00. This means the Board has been able to maintain the same tipping fee for 5 years now. This is a fantastic accomplishment.

At the last Board meeting the ERSB also discussed and approved extensions to waste collection tenders in Bay de Grave and on the Southern Shore.

They also approved making three waste collector positions full-time permanent positions, and created an additional highway equipment operator position for the new grapple truck we purchased earlier in the year.

At the last meeting, the Board was also officially notified that the ERSB is now subject to inquiries by the Office of the Citizen's Representative. The Board welcomes this new level of transparency and will continue to work with Mr. Fleming's office in regard to any complains he may receive about our organization.

Elections for the Board of Directors are now ongoing. Voting forms and the list of nominees were recently distributed. The ERSB encourages all towns to submit their vote as soon as possible. The deadline is Thursday, November 30.

The next meeting of the ERSB will be held on Wednesday, November 29. These meetings are open to the public and everyone is encourage to attend.

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **AGM and Election of Officers:** Mr. Power noted the constitutional requirement to hold an AGM and Election of Officers before the end of the year. The group agreed to hold the AGM in place of the next regularly scheduled meeting, which is to take place in December. A copy of the current constitution will be brought along to the AGM for each member community.
- b) **Advocacy Calendar:** Mr. Williams noted that the joint council will re-visit its advocacy calendar at the next meeting. He suggested everyone put some thought into the issues that affect their communities and the joint council will then look for regional solutions. The advocacy calendar will ensure issues get addressed in a timely fashion moving forward. The previous calendar worked very well, but it is time to update it especially considering the new council members that are now present. Mr. Power will hold the pen on the document and will facilitate the discussion.
- c) **Blasting Regulations:** Mr. English noted the Town of Paradise is having some issues with blasting within its municipal boundaries. His council feels they have no control over it. There are significant impacts from blasting, especially on un-serviced areas. The primary need for blasting stems from industrial development, as opposed to residential construction. Ms. Thorne-Gosse noted the Town of Torbay has similar concerns/issues. Mr. English suggested members seek input from their respective communities on whether or not blasting is an issue for them, and if so, a further discussion should take place at the next regular joint council meeting.

## 10. MEETING REQUESTS

Mr. Power was directed to contact the Chief of Police to determine if he would be available to present at the next meeting. Mr. Power should also try to schedule a representative from the Municipal Assessment Agency once their election is completed.

## 11. ROUNDTABLE

- a) **Limits of Service Agreements:** Mr. Joy inquired about the changes the provincial Government recently made to the Limits of Service Agreements. Mr. Williams noted that government eliminated them. It was announced at the MNL Convention in Corner Brook. Mr. Power was directed to provide the news release to all members at the next meeting.
- b) **Strategic Planning:** Mr. Joy asked that copies of the strategic plans be distributed at the next meeting. He suggested a new strategic plan should be developed as soon as possible in 2018.
- c) **Joint Councils:** Mr. Williams asked Mr. Power, through his work with other joint councils, to explore the possibility of bringing all joint councils together in 2018 for a joint meeting. Mr. Power will report back as soon as possible.

## 12. NEXT MEETING(S)

- The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 6:30PM in the Town of Conception Bay South.**
- The next regular meeting of the joint council will take place on **Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 6:30PM in the City of Mount Pearl.**

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

***MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Joy, seconded by Ms. Whalen that the meeting adjourn.  
Motion carried.***

***Ref#: NEAJC2017-027***

***The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.***