

Northeast Avalon Joint Council Meeting

MINUTES

*Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
Paradise Town Hall, 28 McNamara Drive, Paradise, NL*

ATTENDEES:

- Joedy Wall, Pouch Cove (Chair)
- Bill Antle, Mount Pearl (Vice Chair)
- Sam Whalen, Colliers (Treasurer)
- Craig Williams, Conception Harbour
- Bridget Hynes, Colliers
- Sam Stack, Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove
- Owen Mahoney, Avondale
- Mike Doyle, Harbour Main-Chapel's Cove-Lakeview
- Dan Bobbett, Paradise
- Elizabeth Laurie, Paradise
- Jamie Korab, St. John's
- Madonna Sharpe, Portugal Cove-St. Philips
- Michelle Martin, Flatrock
- Corrina Martin, Flatrock
- Bradley Power, Eastern Regional Service Board & Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove

DELEGATION(S):

- Peter Clarke, RCMP Assistant Commissioner (Commanding Officer for Newfoundland and Labrador)
- Arch Thompson, RCMP Superintendent (District Policing Officer – Eastern Region)

REGRETS:

- Joanne Whalen, Bauline
- Patrick Martin, Paradise
- Andrea Power, Mount Pearl
- Steve Kent, Mount Pearl
- Andrew Boland, Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove

PROCEEDINGS:

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joedy Wall at 6:30 p.m. He welcomed everyone and thanked the Town of Paradise for hosting the meeting. He also acknowledged National Volunteer Week and the extensive contribution volunteers make in our communities.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. English, seconded by Mr. Williams, that the agenda be adopted as presented. All in favour. Motion carried.

Ref#: NEAJC2018-005

3. DELEGATION

a) **Royal Canadian Mounted Police:**

Peter Clarke, RCMP Assistant Commissioner (Commanding Officer for Newfoundland and Labrador) and Arch Thompson, RCMP Superintendent (District Policing Officer – Eastern District) joined the group to provide an overview of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on Newfoundland and Labrador.

Assistant Commissioner Clarke is the senior officer for the RCMP in the province. Superintendent Thompson is responsible for the Eastern District. They explained there are approximately 500 RCMP officers throughout the province, including 400 uniformed and 100 plain clothed officers.

The RCMP has three districts in the province – East, West and Labrador. In addition to community policing, the RCMP is active throughout the province in other ways. They participate in many community events, deliver presentations and liaise with municipal and local governments. The RCMP is a big participant in joint councils, too.

Assistant Commissioner Clarke noted all detachment commanders are now working to complete an Annual Performance Plan and Traffic Strategy. These plans are an important guide for police, and will represent priorities from within the community. Towns can expect to hear from their local RMCP detachment as they seek input and feedback on this process. Mr. Clarke noted policing is not just enforcement (arrests and writing tickets). Their focus on prevention and changing behaviors is equally important, if not more so.

Superintendent Thompson is originally from Nova Scotia and has held 11 postings since 1986. He spent time policing in Marystown, Port aux Basque, Forteau and Hopedale before being transferred to St. John's to take on his new role.

Mr. Thompson went on to highlight their plan to have a consultation process for the Annual Performance Plan. This consultation session, which will include 25-30 people, will draw in local experience and input. The RCMP considers this process very important.

Mr. Thompson noted some of the detachment commanders he oversees, including Staff Sgt. Richard Marshall in Holyrood, Staff Sgt. Greg Hicks in Harbour Grace, Sgt. Paul Peddle on Bell Island, and Sgt. Brent Hillier in Bay Roberts. Mr. Power noted that the commanders in Conception Bay North participate regularly at joint council meetings, which is received very positively by the members.

Mr. Clarke noted that he is waiting to hear details of the provincial budget regarding the level of funding available to the RCMP. He said that they are experiencing a general escalation of costs, and future labour code rulings and/or unionization of the RCMP will have significant cost implications moving forward. He does not anticipate any decrease in the level of service no matter how much money they receive through the budget.

Mr. Thompson elaborated on new rules and regulations that impact the RCMP budget in addition to the points raised by Mr. Clarke. For example, officers now must respond to calls for service with a partner. In addition, new equipment is needed to keep up with new policing methods. They will also see a need for new training round the new marijuana laws. The budget will be critical to the service, but they will make it work either way.

Mr. Clarke and Mr. Thompson expressed their pleasure with the strong working relationship that has been developed between the RCMP and the Department of Justice and Public Safety (Minister Andrew Parsons). He hopes this continues.

Mr. Antle asked about marijuana field testing, and whether or not new methods of monitoring and identification are being considered. Mr. Thompson said there will be a need for new tools/instruments that will detect drugs through saliva, blood and breath-related testing. The acquisition process for these tools is ongoing, and training has commenced. He added that while the new laws may seem daunting and a great increase in responsibility for the police, he reminded joint council members that driving under the influence of drugs is already illegal – it is the increased prevalence that they will monitor.

Mr. Clarke noted that the RCMP polices within the province, but they also support National needs. Approximately 10 per cent of all RCMP resources in Newfoundland and Labrador could be called on anytime by the Government of Canada to support National initiatives. One such initiative was the G7 Conference in British Columbia. Officers from Newfoundland and Labrador traveled to support the G7's security needs.

Mr. Thompson said there is a strong relationship between the RCMP and the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary. They train together, work cases together, and deliver public education together. They partner for the CFSCU drug unit, and K9 units work very closely together. In addition to day to day coordination, both Chiefs and management meet regularly too.

Mr. Doyle asked if the Assistant Commissioner feels the RCMP has enough resources in the Conception Bay Centre area to address issues that arise. He also asked what percentage of their work is dedicated to proactive responses versus reactive responses. Mr. Thompson said they could always use more resources but feels they are doing great work with what they have. He said the second question is difficult to answer, especially considering it might be different at each detachment, but he said discretionary patrol time usually constitutes 40 per cent (closer to 20 when practically speaking). He would like to see this increase. It will be dependence on the number of officers available at the detachment, and how many might be on holidays, maternity leave, etc.

Mr. English asked if the contractual arrangement between the RCMP and Provincial government is renewed annually or every few years. Mr. Clarke said the agreement was last signed in 2012. They are typically 20 year agreements.

Seeing no further questions from members, the Chairperson thanked Mr. Clarke and Mr. Thompson for taking the time to visit and provide some very valuable information. Mr. Wall added the RCMP is always welcome at the joint council.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Ms. C. Martin, that the Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2018, be adopted as tabled. All in favour. Motion carried.

Ref#: NEAJC2018-006

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a. Mr. Power distributed information about municipal enforcement and ticketing authority. Mr. Stack also noted his community recently met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment on the issue.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Whalen delivered the financial report:

- The bank account has been changed over to the new signing authorities.
- The current bank balance is approximately \$12,454.
- There is still \$2,232.29 owing to the Town of Conception Harbour for the 2017 Summer Student, which will be paid immediately.

- Invoices have been sent out to all member communities for 2018 membership fees. Five (5) cheques have been received since the last meeting.
- Members are asked to please follow-up with town staff to ensure their invoice was received and that payment is forthcoming.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Whalen, seconded by Ms. M. Martin, that the Treasurer's Report for March 2018 be adopted as tabled. All in favour. Motion carried.

Ref#: NEAJC2018-007

7. EASTERN REGIONAL SERVICE BOARD UPDATE

Mr. Whalen delivered a report on behalf of Eastern Regional Service Board:

- The ERSB met on Wednesday, February 28, in St. John's.
- The Board received an update on waste operations for 2017.
- The Board also received an update on its awareness campaign, specifically the development of the website FairWaste.ca. Mr. Power will provide some further information on this campaign under New Business.
- The Board also received presentations from two individuals at this recent meeting:
 1. Mr. Glenn Perfect – a client with issues related to past waste fees; and,
 2. Ms. Chelzea Avery – an individual who requested the Board implement a mandatory lid closing policy as a result of injuries sustained by her cat allegedly from a lid being left open on her garbage box. The Board approved a motion to have lids closed where possible, but a mandatory closing policy was not implemented.
- Finally, the Board reviewed a large amount of correspondence from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment regarding Seasonal Property waste fees.
- The next meeting of the Eastern Regional Service Board will take place on Wednesday, March 28 at 7PM in St. John's. These meetings are open to the public.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Date for Municipal Assessment Agency Presentation:**
Mr. Power will reach out to Sean Martin at the Municipal Assessment Agency to determine his availability for May. Mr. Martin will provide an update on anticipated impacts municipal assessments in 2018 will have on communities in the Northeast Avalon.

- b) **Date for Regional Joint Council Meeting:**
Mr. Power will seek input on a meeting date from other joint councils during the month of April. He will suggest the most commonly accepted date/period to the NEAJC once he polls all other groups. Mr. Wall suggested early May. Mr. Power will also discuss agenda items. Mr. Korab said the City of St. John's would be willing to host, depending on the date and availability of a meeting room.
- c) **2018 MMSB Backyard Composting Program:**
Mr. Wall noted the MMSB is selling composters as a discounted rate again this year. The cost and details are included in a handout provided at the beginning of the meeting. Anyone interested in purchasing them should reach out directly to the MMSB.
- d) **NL Community Leaders Forum:**
Mr. Power noted a new Facebook Group that has been setup for community leaders to discuss issues of regional or local importance. This group is private and not open to the public. He encouraged everyone to join and to spread the word. He will send invites to all of the e-mails he has for joint council members. He concluded by saying suggestions are always welcome on new ways to engage communities. He feels the Facebook Group is a great start.
- e) **Public Procurement Act:**
Mr. Wall noted that the Public Procurement Act would be coming into effect on March 24, 2018. All communities would have received a letter from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador regarding the new procurement processes and regulations. A news release that the Provincial Government issued on February 22, 2018, which included a very detailed backgrounder and an overview of the regulations that accompany the new legislation, was distributed to joint council members.

9. ROUNDTABLE

- a) **Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove:** Mr. Stack asked about the membership fee increase that has happened over the last couple of years. Mr. Wall clarified that the membership fee has not increased significantly, and the money collected will support the joint council in taking on a project or some public opinion polling in the future.

Mr. Stack also asked what the expectation are for other towns hosting joint council meetings. Mr. Wall noted all meetings are held either in Paradise, CBS or Mount Pearl on a rotating basis. He added these locations are more centralized and easier for members to access.

- b) **City of St. John's:** Mr. Korab noted that he recently had a tour of the city's Riverhead Water Treatment Plant. He added that the City of St. John's is willing to

host a tour over the summer and one of its facilities. He will work with Mr. Power to coordinate on behalf of the joint council.

- c) **Harbour Main-Chapel's Cove-Lakeview**: Mr. Doyle thanked the joint council for allowing him the opportunity to start a discussion about water treatment. As a result, the communities in his area have come together to start their own local discussion. He commended the joint council for providing an environment where communities can work together and collaborate on issues of importance.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 in the Town of Conception Bay South.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Antle, seconded by Ms. Thorne-Gosse that the meeting adjourn. All in favour. Motion carried.

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The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.