

## Northeast Avalon Joint Council Meeting

# MINUTES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.  
Town Hall, Conception Bay South, NL*

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### **ATTENDEES:**

- Mr. Craig Williams, Conception Harbour
- Mr. Pat Doyle, Avondale
- Mr. Steve Tessier, CBS
- Mr. Sam Whalen, Colliers
- Mr. Jim Joy, Holyrood
- Mr. Bert Hickey, LBMCOG
- Mr. Moses Tucker, PC-SP
- Mr. Dan Bobbett, Paradise
- Mr. Sterling Willis, Paradise
- Mr. Joedy Wall, Pouch Cove
- Mr. Bradley Power, Eastern Regional Service Board

### **GUESTS:**

- Fire Commissioner Derek Simmons
- F/C Jerry Peach, St. John's
- F/C Robert Bauer, Holyrood
- F/C Mike McGrath, Torbay
- F/C Fabian St. Croix, Witless Bay
- F/C Richard Murphy, PC-SP
- F/C Fred Hollett, PC-SP

### **PROCEEDINGS:**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Craig T. Williams at 6:36 p.m.
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Wall, seconded by Mr. Whelan, that the Agenda of the NEAJC meeting of January 18, 2017 be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.*

*Ref#: NEAJC2017-001*

3. **DELEGATION**

Provincial Fire Commissioner Derek Simmons was in attendance and delivered a presentation on consumer fireworks. A copy of the presentation and other handouts are contained in Appendix B of this document.

Mr. Simmons took questions/comments after his presentation:

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

- Mr. Murphy asked if municipalities wanted to ban the fireworks, would it be best to approach Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, the Professional Municipal Administrators, and possibly the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association to solicit their support to have the rules changed?
  - Fire Commissioner – Enforcement will be a major issue, and if a ban were put in place by specific communities people would simply buy them in another community. A province-wide approach is most advisable.
- Mr. Hollett asked how many retail permits currently exist.
  - The Fire Commissioner indicated there are hundreds of permits throughout the province.
  - Fire Chief Peach noted that there are 72 in the City of St. John’s, which is down from approximately 113 last year.
  - Mayor Tessier said there are only 3 or 4 in the Town of Conception Bay South.
- Mr. Hollett noted the issue that will be at the forefront is the impact on business surrounding a ban. FES-NL should have a comprehensive list of those holding permits and who might be affected.
  - The Fire Commissioner noted that FES-NL does track permits, but not sales. The federal Department of Natural Resources do some tracking as well. In terms of the sales numbers, it is unlikely the industry will provide that information as it is proprietary as such.
- Mayor Bobbett noted that the Town of Paradise has a restriction under its noise by-law, but provides for an exemption on New Year’s Eve and Canada Day.
- Mayor Wall explained that a town without municipal enforcement will never be able to enforce a fireworks ban. He suggested the NEAJC work with MNL on a resolution for the upcoming conference in the fall.
- Mr. St. Croix asked the Fire Commissioner if he has done any similar presentations throughout the province.
  - The Fire Commissioner responded that he has not. He went on to say that in rural areas, there isn’t the same quantity of fireworks being set off, and there’s more land in those communities to set them off safely without impacting other residents.
- Mr. Hickey asked the group if they are all talking a province-wide ban, or just a ban in some municipalities.
  - The group responded by indicating it would have to be a province-wide ban in order for it to be effective.

- Mr. Willis noted that this issue was brought up at MNL years ago, but a resolution is needed now for the upcoming convention. Once it is brought to the floor at MNL, it needs to get the support of everyone in attendance.
- The Fire Commissioner noted that at the very least it would be advisable for communities to pass a resolution at MNL to make training or public education a priority.
- Mr. Peach noted the only time he'd heard of police getting involved with fireworks was when it was a danger to the public.
- Mr. Hollett noted that the Northeast Avalon Fire Chiefs started a conversation about family fireworks at the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Fire Services Convention and Trade Show in 2016, but it never went anywhere. The resolution was drafted, but it didn't get presented for whatever reason. He indicated the Chiefs will meet again in the near future for further discussion. He suggested the chiefs and the NEAJC work together.

***Mr. Hickey left the meeting at 7:39 p.m.***

- Mayor Tessier suggested the Fire Chiefs send their proposed resolution to the NEAJC and members will bring it back to their respective councils. He indicated it is in everyone's best interest to work together on this file.
- Mr. Hollett indicated that stats are needed for a resolution to have an impact.
- Mayor Tessier said CBS has complaints and petitions on file that can contribute to the case for a ban. Other communities indicated the same.

***The Fire Chiefs left the meeting at 7:44 p.m.***

- Mayor Tucker spoke briefly about the process at MNL and the need for communities to advocate in favour of a ban before the convention starts. He also thinks the Fire Commissioner should do a presentation at MNL. The group agreed.
- Mr. Willis agreed with Mayor Tucker's comments and said he believes communities outside of the Northeast Avalon will not have the same level of support for a ban as those present this evening.
- Mayor Tessier said the Fire Commissioner should speak at the UMC meeting with 20 largest communities at some point in the future.
- The discussion concluded and the Fire Commissioner left the meeting.

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – November 23, 2016**

***MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bobbett, seconded by Mr. Tessier, that the Minutes of the November 23, 2016, meeting be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.***

***Ref#: NEAJC2017-002***

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- a. Update on Action Items:

- i. Mr. Power will continue to reach out the local Members of Parliament for the purpose of having them meet with the NEAJC when the House of Commons closes for Easter Break.
- ii. Mr. Power will continue to monitor the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to determine if they plan to move forward with a licensing system for trout fishing.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

a. Action Plan for Ministerial Follow-up:

- i. The Chair indicated that the issues raised with the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Transportation and Works in the spring of 2016 will be added to an advocacy plan/calendar for the NEAJC moving forward. Each issue will be addressed in the form of a letter to the responsible Minister, and will be complemented with other advocacy, such as calls to Open Line and/or a News Release.
- ii. Members in attendance were asked to prioritize the issues and Mr. Power will bring back a plan/calendar for approval by the Joint Council.

Action Item(s)	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
Develop an Advocacy Calendar	Mr. Power with feedback from the group.	To be distributed for comment at the February meeting.

b. LETTERS FOR REVIEW:

- i. Appeals Board Appointments - A letter regarding the importance of vacancies being filled on the Appeals Board was tabled and discussed. Members agreed to the content of the letter.

***MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Whalen, seconded by Mayor Tessier that the NEAJC send the tabled letter regarding Appeal Board vacancies to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Motion carried.***

***Ref#: NEAJC2017-003***

- ii. Plastic Bag Ban – Members of the Joint Council were asked to report back to Mr. Power regarding their respective councils’ position on a one-use plastic bag ban. If the majority of Joint Council member communities are in favour of a ban, a letter will be drafted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

**7. FINANCIAL REPORT**

- a. Mayor Tessier indicated he will provide a financial report at the next meeting of the Joint Council.
- b. Invoices for 2017 Joint Council Membership Fees will be tabled at the next meeting and will be sent out to all communities in March.

Action Item(s)	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
2017 Membership Invoices	Mayor Tessier and Mr. Power	To be distributed in March 2017

## 8. EASTERN REGIONAL SERVICE BOARD UPDATE

- Mr. Whalen delivered a report on the work of the Eastern Regional Service Board. He noted that the Board did not meet in December, but the next meeting will take place on January 25, 2017.
- He highlighted that the Board is developing a new fire services policy as a result of implementing fire and emergency services recently in the Salmonier Line area. The service has only been in effect for a few weeks, but seems to be working well.
- Mr. Whalen indicated that the Chair of the Eastern Regional Service Board continues to participate in the Provincial Government's Regional Governance Advisory Committee. The committee is tasked with developing a new regional governance model for the province.
- The ERSB recently released 2016 stats and details on recycling. These stats were briefly referenced, and members of the Joint Council were told they can find the stats on the Board's website under meeting minutes.
- Mayor Wall asked whether any communities on the Northeast Avalon have engaged a contractor for commercial recycling. The consensus from the group was that it is typically left to the business owner to coordinate recycling on commercial properties.
- Mayor Tucker asked for details around the recycling process, including cans and paper/cardboard. Mr. Whalen asked Mr. Power to report back to the group on the recycling process at a future meeting.
- Mayor Tucker highlighted the issue of local newspaper and flyer drop-offs being a nuisance. Go-Bags in particular find their way into ditches and are a menace for communities. Mr. Willis suggested that towns could charge the distributors a fee to cover the cost of clean-up.

*Mayor Wall left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.*

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Meeting of all Joint Councils – The group suggested that Mr. Power, through his role providing coordination for other Joint Councils, would put out the idea and solicit feedback. If most groups are in agreement, a recommendation can be made at a future NEAJC meeting on whether or not to proceed.
- b. Strategic Plan – Copies of the NEAJC Strategic Plan were distributed. Mr. Joy suggested the NEAJC should revisit the plan and move ahead with the items contained in it. The group will review the Strategic Plan and bring back comments at the next meeting.
- c. Library Closures – This item was deferred to the next meeting for a discussion about alternatives to closures. Members were asked to bring their ideas forward at that time.

## 10. ROUNDTABLE

- a. Mr. Whalen brought up the issue of the Provincial Government's new snow clearing policy and its impact on small communities. He asked that the NEAJC hold a discussion on this issue in the future.
- b. Mr. Joy noted that the outstanding issues with government need to be pursued. The Chair indicated that advocacy on these issues is ongoing and regular reports will be brought back to the group.
- c. Mayor Bobbett suggested that town staff be invited to future meetings on the NEAJC. The group agreed.

***MOTION: It was moved by Mayor Bobbett, seconded by Mayor Tucker that Town Staff be invited to future Northeast Avalon Joint Council Meetings. Motion carried.***

***Ref#: NEAJC2017-004***

### **11. MEETING REQUESTS**

- a. Mayor Tessier suggested Newfoundland Power be asked to come a NEAJC meeting to discuss their future plans for power deliver/infrastructure development. Mr. Power will follow-up with NF Power.
- b. The Chair noted that a presentation from Save Our People Action Committee (SOPAC) will take place in the coming months. Mr. Power is coordinating with Ms. Lucy Stoyles and Ms. Linda Bishop.

**12. NEXT MEETING** – The next meeting will take place on February 15, 2017 in the Town of Paradise.

### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

***MOTION: It was moved by Mayor Tessier, seconded by Mayor Tucker that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.***

***Ref#: NEAJC2017-005***

***The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.***

## APPENDIX A

### JANUARY RECORD OF DECISIONS (MOTIONS)

MOTION NUMBER (Ref#)	MOTION TYPE	DETAILS
NEAJC2017-001	Agenda	It was moved by Mr. Wall, seconded by Mr. Whelan, that the Agenda of the NEAJC meeting of January 18, 2017 be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.
NEAJC2017-002	Minutes	It was moved by Mr. Bobbett, seconded by Mr. Tessier, that the Minutes of the November 23, 2016, meeting be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.
NEAJC2017-003	Correspondence/Position	It was moved by Mr. Whalen, seconded by Mayor Tessier that the NEAJC send the tabled letter regarding Appeal Board vacancies to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Motion carried.
NEAJC2017-004	Attendance Policy	It was moved by Mayor Bobbett, seconded by Mayor Tucker that Town Staff be invited to future Northeast Avalon Joint Council Meetings. Motion carried.
NEAJC2017-005	Adjournment	It was moved by Mayor Tessier, seconded by Mayor Tucker that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

**APPENDIX B**

**PRESENTATION MATERIALS FROM FIRE  
COMMISSIONER SIMMONS**