

## Northeast Avalon Joint Council Meeting

# MINUTES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.  
Paradise Town Hall, 28 McNamara Drive, Paradise, NL*

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### **ATTENDEES:**

- Mr. Craig Williams, Conception Harbour
- Mr. Pat Doyle, Avondale
- Mr. Sam Whalen, Colliers
- Mr. Jim Joy, Holyrood
- Mr. Bert Hickey, LB-MC-OC
- Mr. Joedy Wall, Pouch Cove
- Mr. Joe Butler, PC-SP
- Mr. Art Puddister, St. John's
- Mr. Patrick Martin, Paradise
- Ms. Peggy Roche, Torbay
- Mr. Brian Whitty, Torbay
- Ms. Lucy Stoyles, Mount Pearl
- Ms. Teresita McCarthy, Wabana
- Mr. Ken Kelly, Eastern Regional Service Board

### **REGRETS:**

- Mr. Steve Tessier, CBS
- Mr. Bradley Power, Eastern Regional Service Board
- Mr. Sterling Willis, Paradise

### **GUESTS/DELEGATION:**

- Ms. Linda Bishop, Save Our People Action Committee (SOPAC)

### **PROCEEDINGS:**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Craig T. Williams at 6:38 p.m.

It was noted for the Minutes that the February meeting of the NEAJC was cancelled due to poor weather.

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Joy, seconded by Mr. Hickey, that the Agenda of the NEAJC meeting of March 15, 2017 be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.*

### 3. DELEGATION

The Chair welcomed Ms. Linda Bishop of Save Our People Action Committee who attended the Joint Council meeting at its request to provide an overview of her organization. The result of the meeting was a request for a letter of support from Joint Council members for the ongoing work of SOPAC.

*An information package was handed out to those in attendance -- all documentation is included in Appendix B of this document.*

Ms. Bishop's presentation started with an overview of SOPAC, including its history and mandate. The past and present work of the group was also highlighted, including public awareness and communications initiatives, as well as current work to have the Provincial Government complete moose fencing in Black Duck Siding on the West Coast of the province.

After the formal presentation, the following comments and questions came from the group.

#### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

Ms. Stoyles noted that Municipalities NL has been actively supporting the mandate of SOPAC, specifically through the introduction of a resolution at a convention in 2011. The resolution and a proclamation were sent to all municipalities, and over 75 per cent came back in favour.

Ms. Bishop noted the issue of a spring hunt, which she and Ms. Stoyles noted is not new. The issue of a spring hunt has been around for years.

Mr. Puddister noted that caribou are migratory while moose are not. Moose typically stay in a 40 square kilometre area. Young moose/calves stay in remote areas, but can also be found hanging around populated areas on account of the accessibility of food.

Mr. Puddister suggested that someone should be responsible for taking moose calves out of populated areas. There is no reason why municipalities could not be issued licenses for this purpose, similar to the licenses farmers receive to remove the animals from their properties. He concluded by saying the Northern Peninsula would be an ideal place to pilot this initiative whereas there are many moose in populated areas. They would have to be removed by professionals/trained staff.

Ms. Bishop commented on the use of Telelink for the public to report moose on the highways. This initiative was brought about in 2012, and ran annually from May to late October. The majority of calls used to be in this period, but now they receive calls year-round.

Mr. Whalen asked what the current population of moose throughout the province is. Ms. Bishop explained that according to statistics from 2015, there were 112,069 on the island. She hears from other though that there are more like 60,000-70,000 animals now.

Mr. Whalen then asked what the increase is each year. Ms. Bishop said there could be as many as 25,000 to 40,000 born each year. She also noted there are approximately 700 dead moose going to landfills each year.

Mr. Puddister highlighted that there are no natural predators for moose in Newfoundland.

Ms. McCarthy noted that her husband was involved in a moose-vehicle collision. The moose he struck was burnt orange in colour, and it jumped at the vehicle.

Ms. Bishop noted that dusk and dawn are the worst time for moose-vehicle accidents; however, they happen all throughout the day as well. She also noted that SOPAC will be sending a letter to the Federal Government requesting that they install fences in Terra Nova National Park and Gros Morne. A few years ago, the Federal Government started a cull in Gross Morne.

Ms. Stoyles said that parks have been fenced in many provinces across the country. The community has to put pressure on the Federal Government to do the same here in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Ms. Roche said that a local cabinet minister told her that on the mainland they are trying a new approach of using salt licks in wooded areas to take moose away from the road. This is done while fences are installed. She suggested this might be a good option for our province as well.

Ms. Bishop highlighted the good rapport SOPAC has with the current Provincial Government. She said they are trying to do things to mitigate the issue of moose on our roads and highways, and want to look at new options after the failure of the highway warning lights which were installed years ago and didn't work. She said that fencing costs about \$115,000 per kilometre. Both sides of the roads would have to be completed. SOPAC is asking that this work be done over a five year period.

Ms. Bishop also noted that an expert was brought in to assess the moose issue and he suggested the province invest in highway underpasses and ramps. They have overpasses for animals in British Columbia, and fencing for deer and moose.

Ms. Bishop confirmed that SOPAC did write the Provincial Government requesting that funding be allocated to enhanced moose management initiatives and the Moose Management Plan.

Mr. Williams thanked Ms. Bishop and the other SOPAC Board members in attendance for a great presentation and discussion. He outlined that Joint Council members will bring this issue back to their respective council for direction. Once a majority come back with their

support, the Joint Council will write a letter to the provincial and federal governments advocating for more money for public awareness and for the Moose Management Plan. Mr. Puddister also suggested that members mention the municipal license issue.

Action Item(s)	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
Members to determine level of support for moose management from their respective councils.	All members	To be brought back to a future meeting.

*Ms. Bishop and Ms. Stoyles left the meeting.*

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – January 18, 2017**

***MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Joy, seconded by Mr. Hickey, that the Minutes of the January 18, 2017 meeting be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.***

*Ref#: NEAJC2017-007*

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- a) Recycling: At a recent meeting, Mayor Tucker asked about the recycling process. A video was produced by the City of St. John’s in regard to the recycling process. The video was shown to the group. Mr. Power will send out the video to everyone via e-mail as well.

A discussion followed the video viewing. The group indicated their interest in having a tour of Robin Hood Bay and the Materials Recovery Facility where recycling takes place.

Action Item(s)	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
Send around link for online recycling video.	Mr. Power	Completed
Setup tour of RHB and MRF	Mr. Power and Mr. Kelly	May/June 2017 - Ongoing

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Draft Advocacy Calendar: Mr. Williams noted that the items presented to the Provincial Cabinet Ministers at a Joint Council meeting in 2016 were prioritized and inserted into an advocacy calendar. The draft calendar was distributed to review. The lobbying on each issue will include a letter (requesting a response from the Provincial Government), and the Chair might call open-line or send out a news release to

highlight our efforts as needed. There were no comments on the draft calendar; however, members can bring it up at any meeting in the future if they wish to rearrange the priority of the topics or add to the list.

- b) Plastic Bag Ban Support Letter: Mr. Williams noted that he and Mr. Power have received only three responses from communities represented at the Joint Council on the issue of a plastic bag ban. He explained that we need a majority before we can send a letter.

Ms. McCarthy noted that Wabana passed a motion recently, and will ensure Mr. Williams gets a copy as soon as possible.

Mr. Puddister noted that the City of St. John’s is on record as supporting a ban. The City of St. John’s has written their own letter to provincial Minister Perry Trimper on the topic.

Mr. Williams initiated a discussion recently with the Retail Council of Canada, but they were non-committal on support for a ban.

Action Item(s)	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
Confirm with local municipal council whether or not they support a ban on single-use plastic bags	All	By the next meeting of the NEAJC

- c) Highway/Road Safety Letter: A letter regarding highway/road safety was tabled for review and approval.

***MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Wall, seconded by Ms. Roche, that the letter regarding highway/road safety be approved as tabled. The letter will be sent to Minister Al Hawkins, Department of Transportation and Works. Motion carried.***

***Ref#: NEAJC2017-008***

## 7. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Tessier was unavailable to attend the meeting to provide a financial report. In his absence, the Chair noted that 2017 membership invoices have been prepared and will be distributed to Joint Council member communities in the coming weeks. Any questions should be forwarded to Mr. Tessier directly.

Action Item(s)	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
Distribute 2017 Membership Invoices	Mr. Tessier/Mr. Power	By the next meeting of the NEAJC

## 8. EASTERN REGIONAL SERVICE BOARD UPDATE

- Mr. Whalen delivered a report on the work of the Eastern Regional Service Board. The last meeting of the Eastern Regional Service Board was held on February 22. Detailed minutes from the January meeting are now posted online.
- At the recent meeting, the Board discussed a fire services policy to coincide with the new fire and emergency services being delivered in the Salmonier Line area.
- The Board also discussed video surveillance guidelines for its facilities, including the office on Major's Path and the Waste Recovery Facilities throughout the region. The use of cameras is for the protection of staff and the infrastructure in place. A policy is being developed for further consideration by the Board.
- The group also received a WorkplaceNL and Occupational Health and Safety Report. There was nothing of significance to report on either of these files.
- And, most importantly, at this meeting the 2016 unaudited financial statements of the Board were presented and discussed.
  - From an operational perspective, ERSB came in approximately 15 per cent below budget for expenditures in 2016;
  - With capital added, ERSB is approximately \$400,000 to \$500,000 lower on overall expenditures;
  - Revenue is on target;
  - Maintenance costs for heavy equipment was a challenge in 2016; and,
  - Fuel costs rose significantly in 2016, equating to almost \$8,000 extra per month.
- It was also reported that the Board has investments of approximately \$4.3 million of which \$2.1 million is expected to be used for the Whitbourne Maintenance Depot and landfill closures during 2017.
- While these numbers give us an indication of what happened in 2016, the auditors for the Board are now completing their work. We're looking forward to their final report in the coming weeks.
- The next meeting of the Eastern Regional Service Board is March 29.

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Library Closures (Discussion of Alternative): The Chair noted that members of the Joint Council were asked to consider alternatives to library closures and report back to the group. This agenda item was deferred at the last meeting due to a lack of time to discuss it. The alternatives presented by Joint Council members will become the content of a letter to the Minister of Education. A request will also be sent for the Minister to attend a future meeting of the Joint Council. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Roche and Mr. Whitty noted that the Town of Torbay agreed to pay approximately \$17,000 to pay to keep their local library operational. The town has also encouraged the library to begin fundraising.

Mr. Wall noted that the local libraries need to have a connection to the provincial network or libraries for access to materials, equipment, etc. For this reason, the Town

of Pouch Cove has never changed rent for their local library, on account of the province being only willing to paying salaries. The town has petitioned the Minister of Education to keep the library open and have met with him to discuss the issue. Libraries are an important aspect of a community. They provide access to books and research materials for children and adults alike, and provide access to computers too. A library closure in Pouch Cove would significantly affect seniors in the community. The closest library to Pouch Cove is in Torbay.

Ms. Roche asked Mr. Wall if this issue was ever discussed at the Killick Coast Mayors' meeting. Mr. Wall said it was discussed, and that being part of a provincial network allows for the exchange of information from one library to another. He's reached out to the library board, but they don't seem to be moving on this issue.

Mr. Whitty noted the library board does not want any political involvement in this issue.

Ms. McCarthy noted that the closures don't save much money. She also said that they are important facilities within our communities.

Mr. Wall noted that the money recently spent by the province on a consultant to look at the library situation could have been spent on operations.

Mr. Whitty indicated he feels libraries are just as important as any other service.

Mr. Wall noted that the Pouch Cove library offers after school programs, and children frequently use the computers there for school assignments and research.

Mr. Puddister noted that people are using the internet more commonly than ever before, and library usage is declining.

Mr. Wall responded by saying usage is varied, but there's still a clear demand in his community for a library.

Mr. Williams concluded the discussion by suggesting we write a letter now to the Minister of Education and ask that he meeting with the NEAJC.

<b>Action Item(s)</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Request the Minister of Education meeting with the NEAJC	Mr. Power	For the next NEAJC meeting.

- b) Municipal Infrastructure: A news release from the Provincial Government was presented for information. As part of the NEAJC advocacy, cost-sharing ratio is a topic of importance, and the new ratios are outlined in this release. A discussion ensued on the issue and will inform a letter to be presented at the next meeting in April for approval.

Mr. Williams noted that communities in Conception bay Centre were disappointed to see new cost-sharing ratios specific to recreation infrastructure. His community and others had been working on a recreation plan for the region, but with the new ratios (the community-based contribution having gone from 10% to 40% for recreation specifically), this may prevent the area from moving forward. He noted this is just one example of how the new ratios will hurt municipalities.

Ms. Roche asked about what the impact might be on larger communities. She noted it seems as though their costs will increase significantly as well. A 50/50 cost-share ratio for roads will significantly impede communities from investing.

The Chair noted a letter will be prepared for approval at the next meeting. Councils should discuss the ratios with their respective council beforehand.

Action Item(s)	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
Draft a letter regarding municipal cost-sharing ratios	Mr. Power	For the next NEAJC meeting.

## 10. MEETING REQUESTS

Members of Parliament: The Chair noted that he's heard back from some Members of Parliament. They are receptive to meeting with the NEAJC. He will work on dates for the future and will report back to the group.

Mr. Puddister asked if it might be wise to hold a meeting on a weekend in May.

Mr. Williams indicated he will follow-up with their respective offices on potential dates.

Newfoundland Power: The Chair noted that Mr. Power has put in a request to NF Power on behalf of the NEAJC. We are awaiting a response.

Action Item(s)	Person(s) Responsible	Deadline
Follow-up with MPs	Mr. Williams	Update for the next NEAJC meeting.
Follow-up with NF Power	Mr. Power	Update for the next NEAJC meeting.

## 11. ROUNDTABLE

- a) Mr. Joy asked if there has been any follow-up with the North East Avalon Fire Chief's Association regarding the resolution on **family/consumer fireworks**. Mr. Power was not present at the meeting, but he will be asked to provide an update at the next meeting. The Fire Chiefs were to draft a resolution for the NEAJC to consider. Nothing has been received to-date.

**12. NEXT MEETING** – The next meeting will take place on April 19, 2017 in the City of Mount Pearl.

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

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

*Ref#: NEAJC2017-009*

*The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.*

## APPENDIX A

### MARCH RECORD OF DECISIONS (MOTIONS)

MOTION NUMBER (Ref#)	MOTION TYPE	DETAILS
NEAJC2017-006	Agenda	It was moved by Mr. Joy, seconded by Mr. Hickey, that the Agenda of the NEAJC meeting of March 15, 2017 be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.
NEAJC2017-007	Minutes	It was moved by Mr. Joy, seconded by Mr. Hickey, that the Minutes of the January 18, 2017 meeting be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.
NEAJC2017-008	Correspondence/Position	It was moved by Mr. Wall, seconded by Ms. Roche, that the letter regarding highway/road safety be approved as tabled. The letter will be sent to Minister Al Hawkins, Department of Transportation and Works. Motion carried.
NEAJC2017-009	Adjournment	It was moved by Mr. Whalen, seconded by Mr. Wall that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

**APPENDIX B**

**PRESENTATION MATERIALS FROM SOPAC**