

JOINT MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF TRINITY-BAY DE VERDE

MINUTES

**Wednesday, February 20, 2019
New Perlican, NL**

ATTENDANCE:

19 attendees representing 7 communities

PROCEEDINGS:

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Mayor Clayton Branton, at 8:03 p.m. He welcomed everyone and thanked the Town of New Perlican for hosting the meeting.

2. DELEGATION(S)

Staff Sgt. Greg Hicks (Commanding Officer) with the RCMP Detachment in Harbour Grace:

Staff Sgt. Greg Hicks, CO for the local RCMP Detachment, thanked the association for the opportunity to attend once again and provide an update on policing in the area. He also introduced A/Commissioner Ches W. Parsons, Commanding Officer for RCMP-NL.

Staff Sgt. Hicks provided an overview of the number of calls for service in the area. In February 2019, there were 123 calls for service. Approximately 96 were from Harbour Grace and Carbonear, and 27 from the communities on the North Shore. One of the calls for service in the area was an assault complaint, and there were four motor vehicle collisions in February as well. This number of collisions is an anomaly, not the norm.

Staff Sgt. Hicks said that after hearing the concern about the lack of regular patrols in the area recently, he sat with supervisors and impressed on them the

importance of regular traffic patrols in the area. As a result, they have been increase.

There is a new recruit in training for the local RCMP detachment. She was a teacher in Twillingate. As part of her training she will be in the local schools and will be performing a recruitment drive.

The DARE program is having great success in the area. Schools are very supportive and a graduation is coming up soon.

The RCMP bomb disposal unit was in the area recently dealing with blasting caps that were found on a property. There was no risk to the public and the file is now closed.

Assistant Commissioner Ches W. Parsons, Commanding Officer of the RCMP in Newfoundland and Labrador:

Mr. Parsons thanked everyone for the opportunity to sit and discuss issues important to policing in the area. He is making his rounds in the area and believes the joint mayor's association is a very important stop on his provincial tour.

Mr. Parsons said rural policing is becoming a bigger challenge by the day. He is dealing with difficult financial arrangements, and new money is limited. He manages both the provincial policing contract as well as federal requirements in the region. The value of the contract for policing in the province is \$70 million.

Mr. Parsons said the Trinity-Bay de Verde area is like all other areas around the province in terms of the issues present. Thefts, traffic issues and drugs continue to be the biggest issues they deal with.

Mr. Parsons said volunteer support for the RCMP in the area is very high. They are doing some great with the DARE and TYRE programs through their auxiliary officers.

Mr. Parsons said there's an additional Sargent going to join the force in Harbour Grace in the near future. This will be a helpful addition for the region. He acknowledged that the North Shore is a growing area and will require additional resources.

Mr. Burrage asked about the local policing office in Old Perlican and whether or not it gets much use. Staff Sgt. Hicks said officers use it on a weekly basis. There is a log book in the office that municipal officials can check to see the last time police were in the area.

Mr. Burrage asked how communities can help the police. Mr. Parsons said residents should keep an eye on remote properties where possible and report any suspicious activity to the RCMP. He also suggested individuals contact 911 when they observe speeding drivers or distracted drivers.

Mr. Cumby noted that ATM thefts throughout the province recently. He said there's a lot of heavy equipment in the area and local retailers and restaurants with ATMs are at risk. Mr. Parsons suggested that heavy equipment operators secure their assets and report any suspicious activity as quickly as possible.

Mr. Bren Power asked about the new drugs laws and whether there's been any issues in the area. Mr. Parsons said they are not seeing any major issues since the new law came into effect. Staff Sgt. Hicks said there have been many charges, but most have nothing to do with Cannabis.

Mr. Mahoney asked how drugs are coming into the region. Mr. Parsons said most comes in on trucks via Marine Atlantic. Cocaine is a major issue, as well as prescription drugs. There is a K9 issue in Port Aux Basques and they are working very hard to curb the amount of drugs entering the province.

Mr. Parsons and Staff Sgt. Hicks thanked the group for their time. Mr. Parsons said he would be more than happy to visit on a regular basis.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of Wednesday, January 16, 2019 were presented for review and approval.

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Burridge and seconded by Mr. St. George that the minutes of January 16, 2019 be adopted with the revisions. All in favour. Approved.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cell Phone EOI Update: Mr. Power noted that only five communities have submitted letters of support for the Cell Phone EOI application. He will reach out to those that have yet to submit a letter, but members present are encouraged to ask their town staff to complete this request as soon as possible.

Highway Traffic Camera: The Chair read a letter to be send to Minister Crocker requesting a new highway traffic camera be installed on Heart's Content Barrens. The letter was approved. The response from Minister Crocker will be presented at a future meeting.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report was presented by Ms. Coombs. Expenses for the last period totaled \$308.25. There was \$1,500.00 in revenue from membership fees. The current bank balance is \$1,696.21.

MOTION: Moved by Ms. Coombs and seconded by Mr. Bren Power that the financial report be adopted as tabled. All in favour. Approved.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Terms of Reference for Waste Management Review:

Mr. Bradley Power tabled the terms of reference for the ongoing review of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy. He encouraged all communities to participate in the review.

6.2 Job Creation Partnership Program:

The Chair noted the upcoming deadline for JCP projects. A news release on the program was tabled for information.

6.3 Student Summer Employment Programs:

The Chair noted the upcoming deadline for province Student Summer Employment Program. A news release on the program was tabled for information.

6.4 Single Parents Association of NL:

The Chair noted a recent article in The Compass about the Single Parents Association of NL and the lack of public transportation in the region. A brief discussion took place. The group suggested that a representative from SPANL be invited to a future meeting to elaborate on the issue.

6.5 Carbonear Hospital Evening Clinic:

The Chair noted a recent article in The Compass about the Carbonear Hospital evening clinics. The article was tabled for information.

7. COMMUNITY REPORTS/ROUNDTABLE

7.1 Whiteway Heritage Society:

Mr. Mahoney noted that the Whiteway Heritage Society is working to raise funds for a new war memorial. He asked communities to send a letter of support and possibly make a donation to the initiative. Mr. Power will send out a letter to all communities requesting donations and support.

7.2 Ambulance Issue Update:

The Independent Community Ambulance Operators Association met on January 25. The Chair received a report on the meeting. They are seeking clarification on the Public Procurement Act. Minister Haggie emphasized that he's concerned about the delivery of the service. The Minister will suggest ways to proceed in the future. The government hasn't received any negative comments about community ambulance services.

7.3 Tourism and HeritageNL:

The Chair and Mr. Power will meet with Jerry Dick and Dale Jarvis from HeritageNL before the next meeting. They will provide a report once the meeting occurs.

8. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held in Hant's Harbour on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Seeing no further business the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at approximately 9:47 p.m.

Submitted by:
Bradley Power
Joint Mayors' Association Coordinator
3/20/2019