

## SOUTHERN SHORE JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

# MINUTES

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Ferryland Town Office, NL-10, Ferryland, NL

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### ATTENDEES:

- Harold Mallowney, Bay Bulls (Chair)
- Madonna Hewitt, St. Shott's
- Rene Estrada, Witless Bay
- Debbie Windsor, Aquaforte
- Harry Bryan, Ferryland
- Gerard Conway, Renews
- Frances Sutton, Trepassey
- Diane Tee, Burnt Cove-St. Michaels-Bauline South
- Jerome Kenny, Fermuse
- Lucy Carew, Witless Bay
- Evelyn Tucker, Bay Bulls
- Eric Maloney, Bay Bulls
- Joan Luby, Bay Bulls
- Beverly O'Brien, Cape Broyle
- Rita Pennell, Trepassey
- Joan Power, Trepassey
- Clarence Caul, Trepassey
- Jerome Croft, Aquaforte

### DELEGATION(S):

- Keith Hutchings, MHA
- Amy Howard, Eastern Health
- Judy O'Keefe, Eastern Health

### PROCEEDINGS:

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chair.

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Luby and seconded by Mr. Estrada, that the Agenda of the Southern Shore Joint Council meeting of March 14, 2019 be adopted as tabled. All in favour. Motion carried.*

*Ref#: SSJC2019-004*

### 3. DELEGATION

a. **Keith Hutchings, Member of the House of Assembly for the District of Ferryland:**

MHA Hutchings provided an update on infrastructure work in the region. He noted that the project to replace Renews Harbour Bridge has been tendered by the Department of Transportation and Works. The winning bid was from Concrete Solutions. The work will get underway in April.

Roadwork from Renews to the park should be tendered in March. Also, a commitment was made by the Provincial Government to replace Mutton Bay Bridge. The tender is forthcoming.

MHA Hutchings anticipated annual road maintenance to begin soon, with potholes in Trepassey, Cape Ballard March and Witless Bay Line being the priority. Cold Path is likely to be used to fix the issues on these roads.

Student employment applications are due March 28. MHA Hutchings' office has sent out a reminder to all communities. He encouraged those applying to notify his office when their application is submitted.

MHA Hutchings informed the group that he has met with numerous communities about their Municipal Capital Works applications and priorities. He will discuss the projects with the Minister next week. He expects the approvals to be issued in 4 to 6 weeks.

b. **Amy Howard and Judy O'Keefe, Eastern Health:**

Ms. Howard and Ms. O'Keefe attended to provide an update on Eastern Health's progress on physician recruitment on the Southern Shore, specifically in Trepassey, due to Dr. McGarry's retirement.

Ms. Howard began by providing an overview of primary health care in the region. She noted a review is ongoing to determine the future needs of the area. She recognized that Dr. McGarry's retirement is a concern for everyone in the region.

Ms. Howard said they are looking at two things in Trepassey as part of their review. The first is addressing the retirement of the long-time local doctor. They will explore how best to respond to medical needs. To that end, they've met with Dr. McGarry and are currently compiling an assessment of his patient population. She noted that Dr. McGarry was a fee-for-service practice, while most new physicians are salary-based. This will pose some problems.

Eastern Health is looking regionally to find a solution to address the vacancy in Trepassey. They need to first determine the needs of the community in the short,

medium and long-term. Once that has occurred, they can implement a plan to address those needs. The region being studied includes Bay Bulls to St. Shott's. There are approximately 7,200 people in that area.

Ms. Howard noted that Dr. McGarry will continue to perform some house calls, but he has confirmed his retirement from his public practice. His activity will decrease significantly.

Ms. Howard noted that Trepassey is the most rural clinic in operation. It is the furthest clinic away from a primary health facility. Eastern Health is speaking with two potential replacements. They will provide an update as recruitment efforts progress. A full time nurse practitioner is also being considered. The ad for this position will be posted next week.

Ms. O'Keefe said there is no plan to change x-ray or lab services at the Trepassey clinic. They will stay in place. They are also looking at other telehealth opportunities to support the region.

Ms. Howard noted that Dr. McGarry's patients can contact the clinic for a copy of their records. There might be an administration fee required to get copies. She noted there is a sign up at the clinic outlining the process to obtain those records. Eastern Health is moving forward on implementing the electronic health record in all clinics in the area. It might take more time in the private clinic in Bay Bulls, but they are very hopeful it will occur soon.

The second item being explored by Eastern Health on the Southern Shore is the establishment of a community advisory zone. There are nine zones in total. These groups will talk about finances, consult on health delivery models, plans to address aging populations, and how to do things differently in the future. Eastern Health will work with community representatives to get local input.

In April, Eastern Health is planning to release a regional health needs survey. They need 400 responses and encourage everyone in attendance to participate. The survey will be online, but it will also be made available via Canada Post or over the telephone.

Ms. O'Keefe noted for those looking for a family doctor that there is some capacity in St. Mary's and Ferryland. She also encouraged anyone who knows a nurse practitioner to let them know about the upcoming recruitment for Trepassey clinic.

Ms. Howard and Ms. O'Keefe committed to providing updates to the joint council on any progress moving forward. MHA Hutchings will also continue working with Eastern Health to find solutions to issues present in the region. The Chair thanked everyone for the information they presented.

#### 4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

*MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Luby, seconded by Ms. Windsor, that the Minutes of the Southern Shore Joint Council meetings of Thursday, January 10, 2019 be adopted as tabled. All in favour. Motion carried.*

*Ref#: SSJC2019-005*

#### 5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a. **Update on Meeting with Minister Mitchelmore re: La Manche Provincial Park:** The Chair and Ms. O'Brien provided an update on their recent meeting with the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation. They noted the meeting was not productive and the Minister was not receptive to their suggestions on how to improve La Manche Park. Ms. O'Brien suggested - with the concurrence of the group - that next steps should be considered including soliciting media attention to the joint councils concerns. Ms. O'Brien and others also suggested sending a letter to the Premier on this issue where the Minister was not receptive to making improvements at the site.
- b. **Update on Meeting with Minister Coady re: Quarry Development:** The Chair provided an update on the recent meeting with Minister Siobhan Coady regarding quarry development in the region. Minister Coady was very receptive to the joint council's concerns. She recognized a better job enforcing quarry development is needed. She highlighted a review that is ongoing and thanked those at the meeting for the valuable feedback. Minister Coady's officials provided the group with an update on the review, as well as a copy of a new application and inspection form being utilized by the department. Both new forms are expected to improve processes. She also committed to ensuring the regulations governing quarries would be improved through the review and will follow up with the joint council in the future in regard to this issue. The Chair will also follow up in the fall once the review is completed.
- c. **Response from the Department of Transportation and Works re: Highway Winter Maintenance:** A letter in response to correspondence sent to Minister Steve Crocker in the Department of Transportation and Works was tabled.
- d. **Finalization of Southern Shore Joint Council Constitution:** The Chair asked if there were any comments, questions or concerns with the draft constitution distributed previously. There were no issues raised. The Chair then asked for the adoption of the constitution.

*MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Windsor, seconded by Ms. Luby, that the draft Southern Shore Joint Council Constitution be adopted as tabled. All in favour. Motion carried.*

*Ref#: SSJC2019-006*

## 6. EASTERN REGIONAL SERVICE BOARD UPDATE

The Chair provided the monthly update from the Eastern Regional Service Board.

The Board of Directors of the Eastern Regional Service Board met on Wednesday, February 27. The primary item discussed at the meeting was the recent directives provided by Minister Letto to the Board regarding seasonal properties. A brief presentation on the issue was distributed.

The Chair said government's directives are regressive and will have a negative impact on jobs, finances of the Board, and the environment. He added that the entire Board shares his concern.

A meeting of all stakeholders (communities) will occur on April 6 in St. John's to ensure everyone is up to speed on what the impacts might be if additional changes are made to the regional waste service, including seasonal properties, composting and transportation subsidies. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Joint Council members are reminded that monthly ERSB meetings are open to the public. The next one will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27, at the Holiday Inn Express near the airport in St. John's.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Summer Student Employment Programs:** A news release regarding applications for summer student employment programs was tabled for information only.
- b. **Job Creation Partnership Program:** A news release regarding applications for job creation partnership programs was tabled for information only.
- c. **Terms of Reference for Provincial Waste Management Strategy Review:** A news release and terms of reference document regarding a review of the provincial waste management strategy was tabled for information only.
- d. **Request from Janice Ryan, Liberal Candidate for the Provincial District of Ferryland:** The Chair presented a request from Ms. Janice Ryan, Liberal Candidate for Ferryland. Ms. Ryan would like to speak to the joint council in the future. The group agreed to invite Ms. Ryan to a future meeting.
- e. **St. Mary's Fish Plant:** A CBC article regarding the hazardous material issue at the St. Mary's Fish Plant was tabled for the information of the group. There was a short discussion on the risk of something like this happening at a facility locally. The Chair suggested we keep this issue in mind when development occurs or business closures take place.

## 8. ROUNDTABLE

- a. **Cape Broyle:** Ms. O'Brien provided an update on discussions her community has had with MP Ken McDonald regarding the municipal contribution to projects funded under the Canada Infrastructure Program. The Federal Government has a provision in the program for municipalities to pay only 7% toward projects under this program; however, the Provincial Government has decided to leave the contribution level at 33%. This is detrimental to small communities advancing their infrastructure priorities. Ms. O'Brien asked MHA Hutchings to bring up the issue in the House of Assembly whereas the Provincial Government can change the policy. Communities desperately need more affordable cost sharing ratios.
- b. **Witless Bay:** Mr. Estrada noted that meetings with the RCMP have begun to pay off. They are seeing more police patrols in their community as a result. Mr. Estrada also provided a brief update on regional fire services and noted his work with the ERSB in this regard.

9. **NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting of the Joint Council will take place in Ferryland on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

*MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Windsor, seconded by Ms. Tee that the meeting adjourn. All in favour. Motion carried.*

*Ref#: SSJC2019-007*

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