

SOUTHERN SHORE JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Thursday, October 11, 2018

Ferryland Town Office, NL-10, Ferryland, NL

ATTENDEES:

- Harold Mullooney, Bay Bulls (Chair)
- Evelyn Tucker, Bay Bulls
- Joan Luby, Bay Nulls
- Debbie Windsor, Aquaforte
- Lucas Ward, Portugal Cove South
- Bradley Power, Eastern Regional Service Board

DELEGATION(S):

- Ken McDonald, Member of Parliament

REGRETS:

- Sean Walsh, Ferryland (Vice Chair)
- Keith Hutchings, Member of the House of Assembly

PROCEEDINGS:

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m. by the Chair.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Luby and seconded by Ms. Windsor, that the Agenda of the Southern Shore Joint Council meeting of October 11, 2018, be adopted with the additions. All in favour. Motion carried.

Ref#: SSJC2018-026

3. DELEGATION

a. Mr. Ken McDonald, Member of Parliament:

MP McDonald began by thanking the Chair for the opportunity to address the group. He is always pleased to get reports from his assistant Chris about the great work happening at the joint council table.

MP McDonald highlighted the new bilateral agreement between the province and the federal government for new infrastructure projects. He then explained how

communities with less than 5,000 residents will benefit significantly from this new agreement on account of the associated new cost-share ratios. Now, the federal government will contribute up to 60% of the cost of new projects, with the province covering 33% and small communities only having to find 7% of the funding from their own budget. This is a significant improvement from previous infrastructure programs. It will benefit small communities the most and will ensure important projects get completed in the next few years. He added that the list of needs continues to grow, and he will continue working with all levels of government to access additional funds.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Tucker, seconded by Ms. Luby, that the Minutes of the Southern Shore Joint Council meetings of September 13, 2018 be adopted as tabled. All in favour. Motion carried.

Ref#: SSJC2018-027

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a. **LETTER: Ambulance Service on the Southern Shore:** The Chair noted the letter sent to the Minister of Health on September 18 by the Town of Witless Bay regarding ambulance service on the Southern Shore. Mr. Power distributed a media article regarding the current position of the Provincial Government on this issue. The Chair said the current situation is very discerning. He believes that one area may have to lose a service for another to gain one, based on the fact there is limited funding available from the Government. He also noted he spoke with some ambulance operators who are confirming the overall frustration surrounding this situation.

The group agreed to watch the issue very closely in the coming days and weeks to determine if there's anything the joint council can do to support the ambulance service application currently before the Minister, as well as if any assistance can be provided to the overall issue for the benefit of all.

- b. **Regional Cooperation Initiative (Pat Curran Proposal):** The Chair noted that a letter has been sent to all communities requesting that they budget the necessary funds to participate in a planning session with Pat Curran in the New Year. The session will explore opportunities for regional collaboration in economic development on the Southern Shore. Mr. Power will maintain the responses and report back early in the New Year. The intent is to hold the session in the first quarter of 2019.
- c. **La Manche Provincial Park:** Mr. Power noted he has been trying to reach the park manager to setup a meeting to discuss the issues raised by Mayor Beverly O'Brien at the last meeting. Mr. Keith King is the park manager. Mr. Power is

hoping a meeting can be setup by the next joint council meeting, or shortly thereafter.

- d. **Summer Student Programs:** The Chair read an e-mail from MHA Keith Hutchings who looked into the issues flagged at the last meeting regarding provincial summer student programs. MHA Hutchings noted that participants must meet a certain age requirement. Exceptions can be made if no other candidate is available. Mr. Power will forward the e-mail along to Ms. Hannah Power who brought up the issue originally.

6. EASTERN REGIONAL SERVICE BOARD (ERSB) UPDATE:

Mr. Mallowney noted that the Eastern Regional Service Board will soon be releasing a new public engagement initiative. The intent of this initiative is to solicit feedback from current clients of the Board about the delivery of services now and into the future. He encouraged everyone to complete the associated online survey. It is anticipated that the initiative will be launched by the next joint council meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Quarry Development on the Southern Shore:** Ms. Windsor raised the issue of quarries in the region. She noted that there are 7 quarries visible from the road from Witless bay Line to Cape Broyle. There have been 3 new quarries developed on Witless Bay in the last year alone. The number of quarries and the lack of government oversight is a big issue. They receive permits to operate, without any input from municipalities or communities, and follow-up is never completed. The quarries are affecting local infrastructure due to the heavy equipment used to transport the rock, but their unsightliness is also affecting tourism which is a big part of the local economy. Ms. Windsor suggested that the joint council write a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources expressing displeasure about the approval process and the effects these sites are having on locals. There is no need for so many in the area, especially considering they are serving other areas more so than the Southern Shore. The Chair said that the Provincial Government should be monitoring these sites. He also noted that the Town of Ferryland raised a similar issue in the past. The group suggested a letter be written regarding these concerns and be presented for approval at the next meeting.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Windsor, seconded by Ms. Luby that the Southern Shore Joint Council send a letter to the provincial Department of Natural Resources regarding concerns with the number of quarries in the region, as well as the process for approval and monitoring. All in favour. Motion carried.

Ref#: SSJC2018-028

- b. **Premier's Forum Update:** Mr. Power provided a brief overview of the items discussed at the Premier's Forum at the recent MNL Convention. The discussion focused primarily on the new municipal legislation to be introduced in 2019. Ms. Luby noted that more focus needs to be put on Conflict of Interest in the new legislation. She also suggested that there be a provision for unintentional conflicts. The Chair said it is hard enough to get people to run for council because of the potential conflicts that exist.
- c. **Regionalization Report:** Mr. Power noted that he brought along copies of a new report published by Pat Curran and the Harris Centre regarding changing demographics and their impact on regional service delivery. He noted that Mr. Curran will be delivering a presentation on the report at the upcoming joint council summit in St. John's.

8. COMMUNITY REPORTS/ROUNDTABLE

- a. **Witless Bay Line Brush Cutting:** the Chair noted that brush cutting will take place on the Witless Bay Line this fall. MHA Keith Hitching provided the update recently that a contract had been signed to complete the work.
- b. **Cell Service:** The Chair provided an update on cell service expansion, which was provided by MHA Hutchings. The project is still slated for a 2019 start. Having said that, contracts have not yet finalized with the federal government and all work has halted. This will in all likelihood lead to some delays from the original schedule. December 2019 would be the earliest completion date at this point.
- c. **Mistaken Point:** An update was provided about activity at the Mistaken Point UNESCO Heritage Site. Mr. Ward, who works at the site, said that challenges still exist at the site. MP McDonald said the site is a jewel in the Southern Shore's crown that could be lost if everyone is not careful. He said there's a plan to keep the site operating effectively, but he feels it's not being followed. The Chair noted that the advisory committee has still yet to be established, and finances continue to be an issue for the operators. Mr. Power will continue to monitor the issue and report back to the group as necessary.
- d. **Regionalization:** MP McDonald said that all communities on the Southern Shore should be looking at regionalization as a solution to some of the issues they are experiencing. He said that from his experience communities do not lose their individual identity when they come together, but cost savings can be found by eliminating duplication. He looks forward to what the province has in store for regionalization in the future.

- 9. **NEXT MEETING -** The next meeting of the Joint Council will take place in Ferryland on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Luby, seconded by Mr. Ward that the meeting adjourn. All in favour. Motion carried.

Ref#: SSJC2018-029

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.