

SOUTHERN SHORE JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Ferryland Town Office, NL-10, Ferryland, NL

ATTENDEES:

- Mr. Harold Mallowney, Bay Bulls (Chair)
- Ms. Carol Anne Cose, Aquaforte
- Ms. Donna Keough, Aquaforte
- Ms. Joan Luby, Bay Bulls
- Mr. Donny Graham, Cape Broyle
- Mr. Adrian Kavanagh, Ferryland
- Mr. Billy Doyle, Ferryland
- Mr. Bradley Power, ERSB

PROCEEDINGS:

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mr. Mallowney.

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Cose, seconded by Mr. Graham, that the Agenda of the Southern Shore Joint Council meeting of March 2, 2017, be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.

Ref#: SSJC2017-005

3. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kavanagh, seconded by Ms. Cose, that the Minutes of the Southern Shore Joint Council meeting of February 2, 2017, be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.

Ref#: SSJC2017-006

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Regional Water Operator:

Eastern Regional Service Board continues to move forward with an assessment of a regional water technician for the Southern Shore. The ERSB recently met with the Department of Municipal Affairs to indicate it wishes to expand the current pilot project in the region. To date, no response has been received. In the meantime, ERSB continues to compile data and develop a work plan for future implementation. Receiving the mandate to deliver the service more broadly is needed from the Provincial Government.

Regional By-law Officer:

Eastern Regional Service Board continues to assess current policies and by-laws in the region. An assessment has been completed on a number of communities. Others will be contacted in the coming weeks. Joint Council members are asked to encourage town staff to provide the necessary information when an ERSB representative makes contact. They greatly appreciate the info received from those who have already been contacted.

5. UPDATE ON ACTION ITEMS

- a) **DFO Letter:** A response to the letter from Ms. Patrician Williams, which was sent to DFO regarding the recreational ground fish (recreational) fishery, was tabled for information. Mr. Power and Mr. Mullooney will continue to monitor for the announcement on this issue by the Federal Government, which is anticipated very soon.

6. EASTERN REGIONAL SERVICE BOARD (ERSB) UPDATE

Mr. Mullooney noted that the last meeting of the ERSB was held on Wednesday, February 22. The board received an unaudited financial report for 2016, and Mr. Mullooney provided the following highlights:

- From an operational perspective, ERSB came in approximately 15 per cent below budget for expenditures;
- With capital added, ERSB is approximately \$400,000 to \$500,000 lower on overall expenditures;
- Revenue is on target once the \$300,000 in HST rebates yet to be received are factored in for the year.
- 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 \$4.3m of which \$2.1m is expected to be used for the Whitbourne Maintenance Depot and landfill closures during 2017.

Mr. Mullooney also noted that the board was provided with an update of the new fire service being delivered in the Salmonier Line area by the Town of Holyrood. Overall, the service is working well, and property owners seem to be accepting of the \$50 fee. As mentioned before, this is a pilot project or sorts, which will eventually allow the board to undertake similar service delivery in other parts of the Eastern Region in due course.

In addition, the board discussed a draft fire service delivery policy in more detail. The discussion surrounded how to best charge commercial properties, including RV parks and campground which are quite common on Salmonier Line. The board is currently looking at having a policy that specifically states that each property with a structure on it will receive a fire services invoice, but a different price will be charged for duplexes or multi-unit residences (including parks). There is much work to be done on this policy yet. I will report back to the group when it is finalized.

Finally, Mr. Mallowney noted that the board received updates on WorkplaceNL incidents, occupational health and safety, and guidelines for the use of security cameras in public buildings.

The minutes of the recent meeting will be posted online at www.easternregionalserviceboard.com toward the end of the month.

7. DELEGATIONS

- Mr. Power has been in touch with Mr. Sean Dutton, Deputy Minister of ServiceNL, whose department is responsible for the Government Purchasing Agency and the old *Public Tendering Act*. The Act has a significant impact on our communities and last year the Provincial Government implemented new legislation. Mr. Dutton has agreed to have Ms. Dale Williams, Director of Audit, Information and Training, with the Government Purchasing Agency, come speak with us in April or May about the new legislation. The Chair will send a note to the group once the presentation is confirmed. Town staff will be invited to attend.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) Update on the Reorganization of the Department Of Municipal Affairs:

The Chair noted that the Department of Municipal Affairs was significantly impacted by recent management layoffs and departmental mergers. Included in the meeting package is the news release issued by the Provincial Government recently that outlines the new department and how it may impact us all. The primary change is that environment and municipal affairs now come under the one department. The crown lands branch is now part of the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources. The government has said this merger will provide for a leaner and flatter department, and better delivery of services. There were multiple layoffs with these departmental changes.

b) Amendments to the *Municipalities Act, 1999*:

Information about recent changes to the *Municipalities Act* regarding selling, leasing or disposing of municipal property was provided to the group for information. In the fall of 2016, an amendment was made to the legislation allowing a council to accept an offer to dispose of personal property at less than its estimated fair market value, or accept an offer to dispose of personal property that is not the highest offer, for the purpose of social or economic development. This same provision was already in place for municipal real property, but now towns have the same flexibility regarding the disposal of all town property for social and economic development purposes. The information in the meeting package includes a short Q&A, as well as an overview of the process for a typical transaction. The legislative amendments are also included. If joint council members have any questions about this new provision in the Act, there are telephone numbers in the information that individuals can call for clarification.

c) Update On The Ongoing *Municipal Assessment Act* Review:

For informational purposes, a What We Heard document from the Department of Municipal Affairs regarding the ongoing review of the Municipal Assessment Act was provided to Joint Council members. Members have expressed that there is a fundamental problem with the current assessment process. The information provided tonight is a good read, and has lots of valuable insight into the issues that currently exist. The Chair recommend everyone read it and bring it back to your council for their information, too. We will keep an eye to any changes the government implements in the future.

d) Letters from MHA Hutchings:

The Chair tabled three letters written by MHA Keith Hutchings. The letters will be distributed to Joint Council members for the information of their respective councils and LSD committees. The three letters relate to: (1) Provincial Roads and the Robert E. Howlett Drive; (2) Mistaken Point; and, (3) the Mobile School Expansion.

Ms. Luby noted the school council in the region would be meeting in the coming days to discuss government's plan to expand Mobile Central High School instead of building a new facility in Witless Bay. An update on the meeting and advocacy will be provided at the next meeting. The school council does not agree with the extension.

The group agreed to write a letter to the Minister of Education, Dale Kirby, to express its displeasure with the decision to expand the school in Mobile versus constructing a new school as previously planned.

9. COMMUNITY REPORTS/ROUNDTABLE

- a) **Capital Works** - Mr. Graham says his council is hoping to see something in the next two to three weeks from the federal government in regard to capital works funding. He anticipates the province will announce funding shortly after.
- b) **Municipal Tendering** - Mr. Kavanagh noted that in the past the Town of Ferryland has piggybacked off provincial road tenders issued by the Department of Transportation and Works (TW). The town found this process beneficial from a financial perspective. Essentially towns do the engineering work, but TW does the tender. Mr. Kavanagh encouraged Joint Council members to call Doris in Ferryland Town Office for additional information about the process to participate in joint tenders.
- c) **Letter** - The Chair presented a letter to the Joint Council from AnnMarie Hann/Melanie Cleal at the Kilbride to Ferryland Family Resource Centre. The letter was requesting funding to support the purchase of new play equipment and a storage shed. The group agreed that this request was better suited to individual municipal councils that have funds to address such requests. The Southern Shore Joint Council is not a funding entity.
- d) **Ferryland Update** - Mr. Kavanagh expressed the importance of having a water technician on the Southern Shore. He went on to say that snow clearing for next year is the second most important priority for his town. A short discussion on snow clearing ensued. The group agreed that the Chair would solicit a meeting with the Department of

Transportation and Works to find out more information on the municipal snow clearing policy for next year.

- e) **Quarry Operations** - Mr. Kavanagh also brought up an issue the Town of Ferryland is having with the owner and operator of a quarry in the community. While the province has provided the quarry with a permit to operate, the town is not in favour of the business due to the significant negative impact on local roads and infrastructure. Mr. Kavanagh suggested a by-law officer in the region could support a resolution to this issue specifically.

10. NEXT MEETING - The next meeting of the Joint Council will take place in Ferryland on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

***MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Graham, seconded by Ms. Cose, that the meeting adjourn.
Motion carried.***

Ref#: SSJC2017-007

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

APPENDIX A

MARCH RECORD OF DECISIONS (MOTIONS)

MOTION NUMBER (Ref#)	MOTION TYPE	DETAILS
SSJC2017-005	Agenda	It was moved by Ms. Cose, seconded by Mr. Graham, that the Agenda of the Southern Shore Joint Council meeting of March 2, 2017, be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.
SSJC2017-006	Minutes	It was moved by Mr. Kavanagh, seconded by Ms. Cose, that the Minutes of the Southern Shore Joint Council meeting of February 2, 2017, be adopted as tabled. Motion carried.
SSJC2017-007	Adjournment	It was moved by Mr. Graham, seconded by Ms. Cose, that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.