

**JOINT MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF TRINITY-BAY DE VERDE**

# MINUTES

**Wednesday, November 21, 2018 @ 8:00 p.m.  
Old Perlican, NL**

## **ATTENDANCE:**

16 attendees representing 7 communities

## **PROCEEDINGS:**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Clayton Branton at 8:01 p.m. He welcomed everyone and thanked the Town of Old Perlican for hosting the meeting.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting of Wednesday, October 17, 2018 were presented for review and approval.

***MOTION: Moved by Mr. Bren Power and seconded by Ms. Melissa Bursey that the minutes of October 17, 2018 be adopted with the revisions. All in favour. Approved.***

### **3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**Ambulance Service Update:** The Chair noted that the new contract with community ambulance operators cannot be renegotiated until 2020. He also said the use of 911 and EMR training is going to be mandatory in the future.

Mr. Bren Power handed out a resolution from the Community Ambulance Operators Association which is intended to support communities in writing letters of support for local, community-run ambulance services in their towns. He said local service is very important to residents and we all need to take the

issue seriously. Mr. Power said there's a different standard for rural versus urban ambulance services, which is not fair.

Mr. Bradley Power delivered an update he was provided about the issue by Mr. Wayne Young from the Department of Health and Community Services. Mr. Young said government sole sourced ambulance services to communities and private operators in the past. The new Public Procurement Act does not allow for that process any longer – it must go to a competition as such. Mr. Young added that the Department is currently in the process of working with the consultant Ernst and Young to explore what ambulance service procurement models will look like under the new Act. There are four options as he sees it: (1) independent RFPs for each service; (2) one single RFP for all services; (3) something in between the previous two options; and, (4) a province-run service. The last option is the most unlikely to happen according to Mr. Young. The analysis on all options is ongoing and will be presented to Cabinet in the New Year. Grant Thornton is also helping with the analysis. All executive members of community-run ambulance services will be consulted.

The Chair noted that the block funding provided by government to communities is not enough. The cost of employment benefits, vacation time and overtime is prohibitive. One issue in particular is the additional \$3 an hour for paramedics, versus EMRs. The Chair asked where the money for this additional cost will come from. He estimates it could be an additional \$22,000 more for community ambulance services to accommodate new employees.

***MOTION: Moved by Mr. Bren Power and seconded by Mr. Peter Burrige that the Joint Mayors Association write a letter to the Minister of Health and Community Services regarding the issue of community ambulance services, specifically asking that any new system development does not affect the region negatively, and that more funding be allocated for the delivery of the service in the future. All in favour. Approved.***

Mr. Cumby said the new Public Procurement Act is very difficult to interpret. For example, it seems like preliminary engineering work with potential projects will now have to be tendered. Projects might cost 15% more now as a result. This is a cost to a municipality that was never anticipated. He concluded by saying the ambiguity around the new legislation and policies is disheartening. He is confident the new Act will negatively affect ambulance services in particular.

**Christmas Social Update:** The Chair noted that the social was well attended. He thanked the council and staff in Heart's Content for all of their hard work. Approximately 60 people attended the very successful event. Six or seven towns were represented, which is consistent with previous years. The cost of the event will be discussed in the financial update later in the meeting.

**Joint Council Summit Update:** The Chair provided a short update on his attendance at the Inaugural Eastern Region Joint Council Summit, hosted by the Northeast Avalon Joint Council. He said the session was very beneficial and well attended by counterparts from throughout the region. He suggested the summit next year be held earlier and that more time be provided for discussion.

**Tract Tourism Project/Heritage Committees:** Mr. Cumby noted that some of the heritage societies in the area met recently with HeritageNL for a People, Places and Culture Workshop. The workshop received media attention and seemed to go very well. A community advisory committee has been established to move forward with some of the recommendations stemming from the workshop. The Chair noted that many towns were unaware of the session, which was unfortunate. Mr. Bradley Power was asked to reach out to Mr. Jerry Dick and Mr. Dale Jarvis from HeritageNL to determine if there are opportunities to partner with this group to collectively advance tourism in the region.

Mr. Power presented a draft letter for all communities regarding the Tourism Strategy proposal delivered to the Association in September by Tract Consulting. The group saw no issues with the letter, but Mr. Power asked for direction on contribution levels for communities. The Chair suggested that not all communities should be included, but it is up to the group how to handle it. Mr. Power said ACOA is only likely to look at the project if all communities are involved. Mr. Burrige suggested that the contribution rate be on a per capita basis, so to ease the burden on smaller communities who may find any fee prohibitive. The group agreed to proceed with the per-capital concept.

***MOTION: Moved by Mr. Mr. Keats and seconded by Mr. Bren Power that the proposed Tract Consulting tourism project incorporate a per-capita contribution from each community toward the municipal costs. The project is only in the proposal stage, therefore communities will be asked in the tabled letter to simply budget the funds at this stage. In the meantime, Mr. Power will reach out to HeritageNL to ensure there is no duplication in efforts***

*among the heritage societies and the Association. A decision on the project will be made in the New Year. All in favour. Approved.*

#### **4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The financial report was deferred until the next meeting.

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1. Membership Fees:** The Chair suggested that membership fees be increased by \$50 per community in 2019. This additional funding will ensure the Association can continue to operate effectively. Mr. Burridge suggested a \$50 is reasonable considering the last increase was quite some time ago. The group agreed.

***MOTION: Moved by Mr. Burridge and seconded by Mr. Cumby that membership fees for the Joint Mayors' Association for 2019 be increase by \$50 per community. This brings the fee to \$250 per community for next year. All in Favour. Approved.***

Ms. Coombs and Mr. Power will send out the 2019 membership invoices in January.

**5.2. Cell Phone Tower Expression of Interest:** Mr. Bradley Power requested that all communities write a letter of support for the Association's application to the Provincial Government's cell phone service expansion project. The letter should outline key items such as the direct benefit to a community by installing a new cell tower. Mr. Power will send a request to each council in this regard. Members are asked to send the letter to Mr. Power as soon as possible.

#### **6. COMMUNITY REPORTS/ROUNDTABLE**

There were no community reports or additional issues raised.

#### **7. NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held in Heart's Desire on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

Seeing no further business the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at approximately 9:40 p.m.

**Submitted by: Kimberly Coombs  
Secretary/Treasurer  
1/16/2019**

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