

JOINT MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF TRINITY-BAY DE VERDE

MINUTES

**Wednesday, April 18, 2018 @ 8:00 p.m.
The Social Club, Heart's Desire, NL**

ATTENDANCE:

26 attendees representing 8 communities.

PROCEEDINGS:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Clayton Branton at 8:05 p.m. He thanked the Town of Heart's Desire for hosting the meeting.

2. GUEST SPEAKER(S):

Staff Sgt. Greg Hicks, RCMP Harbour Grace Detachment – Staff Sgt. Hicks thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the group. Joining Staff Sgt. Greg Hicks was Cpl. Steve Barker (Shift Supervisor), and Mr. Shawn Lewis, (volunteer Auxiliary Constable).

Staff Sgt. Hicks noted that the Trinity Conception District RCMP was dissolved and broken into 2 detachments (Harbour Grace and Bay Roberts) about two and a half years ago.

The Harbour Grace detachment of the RCMP has 17 officers (incl. 2 investigators), 2 admin staff, and 21 detention guards that operate the local jail. Its resources are being engaged significantly due to the number of calls, size of the region and the other demands that are on the organization. The detachment serves the town limits in Harbour Grace to Grates Cove (up and down both shores).

In 2018, there have been 921 calls for service thus far. The detachment had 921 this time last year. Of those in 2018, 737 came from Harbour Grace and Carbonear. There were 3535 calls last year in total.

Staff Sgt. Hicks explained that officers are doing the best they can, night and day, to address the issues in the community.

The RCMP spends considerable time dealing with impaired driving, general assistance on the road, probation issues, fraud, and other traffic violations. Traffic has a big impact on the day to day.

The RCMP received a new unmarked patrol car this year as well as a new radar for dealing with speeding. Their focus has been on school zones.

The benefit of having two detachments in the area is that Harbour Grace detachment can focus on its own priorities knowing the neighbouring region is covered.

Staff Sgt. Hicks noted that off road vehicles are a major concern for his officers. They see similar concern all throughout Conception Bay North. The unsafe operation of ATVs on the highway is a particular safety concern they're all dealing with. He added that officers will not chase ATVs. That said, calls to the police regarding ATVs has dropped significantly. There were zero calls this year, but still a prevalent issue in the communities no less.

Staff Sgt. Hicks then introduced the TYRE Program to the group. He handed around an information sheet (Attached in the Appendix). This program focuses on ATV safety and was started in Holyrood by Staff Sgt. Boyd Merrill. It targets youth and brings parents into the training too. The Harbour Grace detachment is doing a joint project between Salmon Cove and Victoria currently. It is open to other towns as well.

Auxiliary Officer Shawn Lewis has been going into schools since last year to deliver ATV safety program. He teamed up with Avalon Trailways and Rick Noseworthy. The team talked about ATV safety solely. It was targeted at children and adults. The RCMP want the message to be brought home. The TYRE program incorporates these same safety messages, but includes safety for the entire community as well.

Mr. Lewis explained that many children don't realize they are breaking the law when operating ATVs. He added that parents need to take responsibility for the children's activities while on trails and in the community.

Mr. Lewis said the RCMP has asked towns to support the TYRE Program. This program is done in the community, not in the school. People have to register. They are expected to attend. Under 18 requires a parent to attend with them.

During the program they discuss safety, risks and consequences. They show the parents and kids what can happen when ATVs are used improperly. The RCMP also partners with the FD or the funeral home during the presentations.

Staff Sgt. Hicks noted that the TYRE Program shows that a traffic stop doesn't always mean an ATV will be confiscated. Participants of the program get a sticker for their ATV or helmet to show they've completed the program. The RCMP wants to show otherwise good kids from good families the safety hazard they are creating. The type of program will not address the drunk drivers, but it will go a long way to prevent accidents or tragedies with good ATV users.

Mr. Lewis said children and adults need to weigh the consequences of improper ATV use and adjust their activities. ATVs are not meant for pavement. A 13 year old cannot be on a full-size ATV.

Cpl. Baker reminded everyone that flight from police is a criminal offense. It is much better if ATV users stop and receive the info the police want to provide.

Staff Sgt. Hick reminded everyone that the Salmon Cove/Victoria TYRE Program is scheduled for April 29.

Mr. Cumby commented that these are not easy issues to deal with. He said they've had an issue at a historic site recently where an ATV hit a tourist. He addressed it with the parents of the ATV user.

Cpl. Barker said many people don't want to get involved in making complaints. He said people really should make the call to the RCMP to have it addressed. All the RCMP needs is someone to give a statement. They will ticket ATV users as long as there's a witness.

Staff Sgt. Hicks said all ATVs should have a license, and insurance/registration to cross a road. People need to be 16 years of age to operate an ATV.

Mr. Fletcher noted that many ATVs cause damage to trails and roads. They are meant for off road usage.

Mr. Randell asked if an under-age person operating an ATV will have their bike confiscated if caught. Cpl. Barker said it depends on the situation.

Mr. Coombs asked about speeding on town roads. Is there anything communities or individuals can do? Staff Sgt. Hicks said the moving radar they have can be used in the community, but a report will trigger someone to visit the area even without the radar.

Staff Sgt. Hicks offered to attend future meetings of the Joint Mayors Association to give reports and determine local priorities. He is happy to attend or take calls. They are very quick to respond. They operate on a priority list, and will address things as best as possible. He handed out his business card which has his cell and his e-mail (709-680-1299 / greg.hicks@rcmp-grc.gc.ca).

Mr. Fletcher asked about the benefit of LED speed signs. Cpl. Barker said they are very helpful. They seem to be effective in other areas. Staff Sgt. Hicks said they are especially effective in school zones. Some units have the ability to track statistics.

Mr. Cumby noted that the Department of Transportation and Works has some of those signs. He asked Mr. Power to send out details of their cost.

Mr. Branton noted some issues in his own community. He asked about the complaint process and whether complainants get a call back to say their issues was addressed. Staff Sgt. Hicks said those making complaints should expect to receive a follow-up call. Most of the issues the RCMP faces about dissatisfaction is usually the lack of follow-up.

In conclusion, Staff Sgt. Hicks offered again that he can attend meetings anytime. He said he can also address individual community requests if councils would like to have him visit on an individual basis.

The Chair thanked the RCMP members for coming and said everyone looks forward to working closely with them in the future.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from the meeting of March 21, 2018 were presented for review and approval.

MOTION: Moved by Mr. St. George and seconded by Mr. Rendell that the minutes of March 21, 2018 be adopted. All in favour. Approved.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

4.1.Planning Session – Mr. Power noted that Mr. Hiscock was in touch and suggested the regional planning session be deferred to the fall. Mr. Power will send out a reminder over the summer.

4.2.MNL Symposium – Mr. Power confirmed with MNL that the annual Municipal Symposium will be held in Gander on May 3-5, 2018.

4.3.Bell Towers – Mr. Power to follow-up with Minister Crocker regarding the Budget 2018 reference to cell phone towers.

4.4.Municipal Enforcement/Commissionaires – Mr. Power is requesting information from Torbay CAO Dawn Chaplin regarding their partnership with Portugal Cove-St. Philips and the Commissionaires to perform municipal enforcement. Mr. Burrage suggested Mr. Power follow-up with Mr. Morey from the Commissionaires to present to the Joint Mayors Association in the fall.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Coombs delivered the financial report. The report from the previous month was also presented.

There are two communities left to remit payment for 2018 membership.

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1.Affordable Housing –

Mr. Branton spoke to The Compass two weeks ago reading the topic of Affordable Housing in the local community. The reporter asked about the availability of rentals in the area. She asked if there's a need for more

affordable housing for residents. Clayton offered to bring it up at the next joint mayors association.

The article ran in The Compass this week. Unfortunately the comments were not captured properly. Mr. Branton said there's "likely a need for additional social housing".

Mr. Cumby noted that Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation has some rental units in his community. Mr. Branton added they have some in his community as well. Mr. Cumby went on to say one of the units has been vacant for a number of months. These units were upgraded in recent years.

The Chair will continue to monitor this issue and report back as necessary.

6.2.Meeting Request from Eastern Health – The Joint Mayors Association has received a meeting request from Mr. Ron Johnson of Eastern Health who wants to speak about and Community Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Ambulatory Care. Mr. Branton will reach out to Mr. Johnson for the meeting in May.

6.3.Provincial Budget Update – Mr. Power distributed the news release published by the Provincial Government regarding Budget 2018. The release was provided for information only.

6.4.Job Creation Partnership Program –Mr. Power distributed the news release published by the Provincial Government regarding the 2018 JCP Program. The release was provided for information only.

7. COMMUNITY REPORTS/ROUNDTABLE

7.1.Mr. Branton - Suggested that attendees at the MNL Symposium could provide a report to members at the next meeting.

7.2.Mr. St. George – Noted that the Chair needs to tell fire chiefs that they have to better inform the joint mayors about their plans so towns don't order unnecessary food.

7.3.Mr. Branton – Noted his community received \$10,000 for some ditching and roadwork along R80 from the Department of Transportation and Works. He suggested communities reach out to Minister Crocker to see if they too can get some additional funding.

8. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, in Heart's Delight-Islington.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Seeing no further business before the group, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Secretary/Treasurer Kimberly Coombs

APPENDIX A – RecNL Presentation