

JOINT MAYORS ASSOCIATION OF TRINITY-BAY DE VERDE

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 15, 2017 @ 8:00 P.M.

TOWN OF BAY DE VERDE, NL

ATTENDANCE

There were 27 people in attendance, representing 8 communities.

PROCEEDINGS

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Clayton Branton at 8:02 p.m.

He welcomed guests to the Town of Bay de Verde and highlighted the association's recent Election of Officers. He and Ms. Kimberly Coombs look forward to serving for the next term of office.

The Chair then introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Minister Steve Crocker from the Department of Transportation and Works.

2. GUEST SPEAKER(S):

2.1. Hon. Steve Crocker, Minister of Transportation and Works -

Minister Crocker was joined by Mr. Joe Dunford, Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation with the Provincial Government.

Minister Crocker noted the five year provincial roads plan. He also spoke about the need to pilot a new way of operating depots and performing summer maintenance. He encouraged the group to get together and make a list of what roads should be addressed. He is very open to enhanced cooperation with municipalities over the winter months.

Mr. Burrige from Old Perlican asked why guiderails are being replaced by cables on the Heart's Content Barrons. Minister Crocker said he would look into the change and report back. Mr. Burrage also expressed his community's concern with the new 50/50 cost share for roads projects.

Minister Crocker acknowledged the change in cost sharing for roads projects, and noted the focus is now on water and waste water projects on account of the new federal guidelines.

Minister Crocker highlighted the Municipal Capital Works deadline on November 30. He encouraged everyone to get their submissions in as soon as possible.

Deputy Mayor Keats from Bay de Verde asked whether the Minister has heard of any updates from the Canadian Coast Guard regarding enhanced service in the region. Minister Crocker was not aware of any update, but suggested the Deputy Mayor reach out to the new Member of Parliament for the region once he or she is elected. Mayor Murphy noted the CCG has reached out to the town for information recently, which might be a good sign.

Mayor Murphy of Bay de Verde noted the unfinished section of the Barrons, suggesting they should be looked at immediately due to safety concerns. There are a lot of heavy trucks and busses that travel the road and it should be a priority.

Mayor Branton of Heart's Delight-Islington spoke about the cost of road upkeep in his town. His council is not happy with the new cost sharing ratio because it will mean they can no longer afford new capital works projects. Minister Crocker suggested that some communities may have to go back to unpaved roads if they cannot afford pavement and ongoing maintenance. Government is also considering the same.

Minister Crocker gave an overview of brush cutting in the region. He said Whiteway to Old Perlican was completed last year, with Old Perlican to Cavendish being done in 2017-18. He is hoping the work in the future will continue to move down the shore.

Mr. Burridge noted the impact roads have on tourism. Tourism is a very important part of the local economy.

Minister Crocker said the government paved over 600 lane kilometres throughout the province this past year. They have implemented a similar approach to Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia where politics is taken out of the decision making process.

Mayor Cumby raised the issue of law enforcement and traffic control. He said people need to take responsibility for their driving and slow down. He asked Minister Crocker about speed cameras and radar.

Minister Crocker said the Minister of Justice was looking into the use of cameras and whether or not they would be considered for Newfoundland and Labrador. Minister Crocker would like to see them piloted in construction zones first.

Mr. Hiscock from New Perlican noted the increasing prevalence of extremely slow drivers on the main roads, which can also be a safety hazard. Minister Crocker noted the work he's done with the Conception Bay North Joint Council in regard to minimum speeds. He's hoping to see new signs installed over the summer to curb this activity.

Ms. Hopkins from Old Perlican asked Minister Crocker to look into why the sand/salt mix from the local depot seemed to be clumping more frequently, which is affecting spreaders. Mr. Dunford suggested it could have something to do with the membrane damages (enclosure) at the depot which were caused by high winds. The added moisture could be the culprit. He will look into it.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from the meeting of October 18, 2017 were presented for review and approval.

MOTION: Moved by Mr. Power (Old Perlican) and Ms. Snelgrove (Heart's Delight-Islington) that the minutes of October 18, 2017 be adopted as tabled. All in favour. Approved.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT:

The financial report was delivered by Ms. Coombs. The current bank balance is \$2,208.96.

The Chair suggested the budget for the social in New Perlican should be half of the current bank balance. The group agreed. Towns were asked to RSVP as soon as possible for the event. Members were also reminded that fire departments and previous Councillors would be invited to the November 25, 2017 event.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

5.1. Regional Governance Update – Mr. Power from ERSB noted that the second Premiers Forum was held in Corner Brook during the fall MNL Trade Show and Convention. He handed out copies of the discussion document provided to participants of the forum. He encouraged all towns to read the information and have a discussion among their respective councils about what they want for this region.

5.2. Planning Day – Mr. Hiscock noted that plans were underway to hold a regional planning session on capacity and service delivery on January 13 in Old Perlican. The session would be hosted by the town and coordinated by Eastern Regional Service Board. A survey would be distributed in advance of the session to compile baseline information for discussion purposes. Towns were encouraged to RSVP their attendance and submit their survey response quickly once the request comes through.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

6.1. Food Bank – The Chair tabled a letter from the local food bank requesting support. The letter will be distributed to all councils for consideration. The food bank is anticipating a demand for 1500 hampers this season.

6.2. Regional Fire Services Funding Request – The Chair noted that he spoke with Mr. Melvin Harnum and suggested he write a letter for their funding request to each council individually.

6.3. Federal Candidates – The Chair encouraged federal candidates to attend the meeting, but unfortunately they were unavailable.

6.4. Cell Phone Towers – The Chair noted that some towers were recently installed, but they don't seem to have power yet. Mr. Power will get an update from Mr. Greene at Bell Aliant for the next meeting.

6.5. Training – Mr. St. George said he spoke with Mr. Brian Peckford from the Professional Municipal Administrators who was willing to host a training session in the region. The Chair suggested it be explored for the spring when the weather is good.

6.6. Eastern Regional Service Board Election – Mr. Power encouraged towns to submit their votes for the ongoing ERSB Board Election. Letters were sent to all towns noting the nominees. Anyone with questions can contact him at 709-579-8889.

7. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2018, in Whiteway.

The Chair will contact the RCMP (Staff Sgt. Greg Hicks) to attend the next meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Seeing no further business before the group, it was Moved by Ms. Coombs that the meeting do now adjourn. All in favour. Approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kimberly Coombs, Treasurer

January 16, 2018