

**North East Avalon Joint Council
Wednesday May 18, 2016
Town of Conception Bay South
Municipal Building 7:00pm.**

Present

Chair Craig Williams - Conception Harbour

Treasurer Steve Tessier - Conception Bay South

Secretary Joedy Wall - Pouch Cove

Stirling Willis – Paradise

Pat Doyle – Avondale

Jim Joy – Holyrood

Dan Noseworthy – CBS

Randy Simms - Mt. Pearl

Minister Eddie Joyce – MA

MHA Graham Letto

Moses Tucker - PCSP

Gavin Will - PCSP

Bert Hickey – LMO

Ken George - CBS

MHA Elizabeth Parsley - Harbour Main

ADM Max Harvey – TW

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order @ 6:45pm and the Chair welcomed all in attendance.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion: S. Tessier/M. Tucker

Motion to approve the agenda for May 18, 2016 as presented: carried.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

1. Summer student applications for 2016; to be carried forward as we await information from ERSB.

2. Municipal Assessment Agency; presentation from Shawn Martin, MAA, postponed due to weather. Possible schedule for September meeting. Chair to schedule and advise.

4. TREASURERS REPORT

Only 2 towns remain outstanding for 2016 fees.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Invoice received from Canada Post.

6. EASTERN REGIONAL SERVICE BOARD

No representative present - no report available.

7. NEW BUSINESS

1. Federation of Municipalities (FCM) representative S. Willis forwarded material to several Towns on Green Fund Applications.

2. Discussion on the process for the Canada Build Fund (CBF). J. Joy asked for clarification on the CBF and the participation from both levels of government. Requested for this to be added to the list of questions for the Ministers.

8. NEXT MEETING

Meeting scheduled for June 8, 2016 in St. John's. Chair to confirm with city representative A. Puddister.

9. CHAIR WELCOMED

TW Minister A. Hawkins and Executive Assistant Jody Fancey at 7:30pm.

10. QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION WITH MINISTER JOYCE AND MINISTER HAWKINS.

1. NEAR Plan - Status Update; waiting on confirmation from all Towns involved. MHA Letto taking the lead on this process.

2. New Build Canada Fund; MA will help facilitate this process. Currently up and running, and fast tracked for ready projects. MP's are promoting shovel-ready projects for approval. Announcement from MP Judy Foote scheduled for Friday May 20, 2016.

3. Future of Municipal Operating Grants; currently no change for 2016 and Minister Joyce advocating the same for 2017. Much work is desperately needed for Towns infrastructure and municipal leaders want the MOG's to continue. Discussion continued on Towns receiving ample notice of approval and Minister Joyce advised of the same.

4. Waste Water; Towns involved in this process are advised of what is needed i.e.: flow meters, for necessary permits and specified timelines in place. MA advocating / lobbying federal government for increased funds for these projects. MA also working with MP's to attempt to alleviate these financial burdens.

5. Engineering; J. Joy shared thoughts on this and asked for the process to be streamlined i.e.; Towns to administer said project and MA to complete the following audits. Minister Joyce to take the request from J. Joy back to his department and advise.

6. Regionalization; discussion on a working partnership between neighbouring Towns on regional issues. MA working with MNL on an agenda for shared services, resulting in improved service for all. MA currently working to form the process over the next four weeks. Minister Joyce stated that public consultation hopefully to commence in the fall. M. Tucker updated Minister Joyce of the Killick Coast Region Mayors who meet on a regular basis to discuss regional issues, and currently working with MNL on regional governance. Minister Joyce offered to help this and any group in any way as we move forward.

7. Cost Sharing; Same cost shared ratio applies for 2016: 90/10 funding for Towns of 3000 and less. 80/20 funding for Towns of 3000-7000. 70/30 for Towns of 7000 plus. Discussion ensued on the possibility of Towns that have the financial ability to fund large projects and apply for a better cost shared ratio. No commitment from provincial government.

8. Priority Issues for TW; Minister A. Hawkins stated that all projects that come to his department are without political colour and evidence based only. Currently \$62 million for municipal projects. Minister A. Hawkins stated that tenders were out by mid March on

work committed to in 2015 to be completed in 2016. Currently prioritizing projects and moving forward with the commitment to road work. Next project: a 5-year plan to consult with Mayors on possible road work and tenders. TW is attempting to be proactive in preventative work for cost savings. Minister A. Hawkins assured the group of money allocated for brush cutting in problem areas in 2016.

9. Reversal of Limits of Service Agreements; C. Williams spoke of the high cost of maintenance of roads in his area, and asked if TW has considered the reversal of agreements on roads. TW is not entertaining this idea. Currently, 72 Towns fall into this category, costing \$5000/km for maintenance. This total will increase to \$6600/km plus HST for Towns without a suitable contractor. Discussion continued on CORE certification for Towns. Minister A. Hawkins to check with his staff on the legalities of the same.

10. Rural Broadband; there is \$2million in budget 2016 allocated for broadband in remote areas. The province and FCM are currently working with the federal government to increase broadband coverage in NL.

11. Communication Protocol; the communication protocol for Towns that have concerns which must be addressed by TW and/or MA is first to call the regional managers, who in turn will pass along pertinent information to the ADM or onto the Ministers office. In some cases, EA Jody Fancy of TW will represent the minister to meet with Mayors &/or Towns.

12. Merge Lanes; K. George spoke on this concern and addressed it to Minister A. Hawkins. Concern was noted and added this request to his list for discussion with TW staff. S. Tessier spoke on the reduction in the snow clearing budget, as is no coverage from 10pm - 4:30am. Minister A. Hawkins stated that his department monitors the weather forecast closely during these times. No change forthcoming.

13. Legislation Review;

A. Municipal Assessment Act: the process of hearings on changes have commenced and the department is committed to advancing this work. Also working with MNL on the same.

B. Municipalities Act, 1999: the department of MA is working with larger Towns on necessary changes and public consultation.

C. Public Tendering Act: this act is now called the Procurement Act. Public consultation to follow with all Towns. Discussion continued on the possibility of Towns requiring the ability to deal with contractors who have proven to be problematic i.e.: contractors who are routinely late upon completion of a project. RFP's in the Procurement Act, with newly added regulations, document when a contractor is unqualified for a scope of work and the municipality can reject said contractor from the procurement process. More details to follow from the department of MA.

14. Municipal Fiscal Arrangement.

MOG not changing for 2016, however no commitment made for 2017 on continuing current status quo.

HST Mayor Randy Simms of Mount Pearl questioned minister on municipalities' rebate of the portion of the HST. Minister Joyce responded that there is no change for 2016 but could not commit to 2017.

Crown Land inside municipal boundaries- Municipalities now have to ability to freeze crown land for economic development for up to 5 years. Payment prorated as it is developed, land priced at Market Value. No limit on amount of land that can be froze within boundaries.

15. Development along provincial routes. Minister Hawkins.

Currently development on provincial highways requires 60 metre access division requirements. However, there are instances where 30 metre access, the department looks at several other factors with safety being #1, sight lines, volume of traffic and speed limits etc.

Deputy Minister Max Harvey - Department has been directed to review access policy with the overall aim being safety. Cases to be made in certain areas and department looking at moving from basing decisions on daily vehicle count to peak time traffic counts.

16. Group tendering – Minister Hawkins,

Towns have had success in purchasing through the Central Purchasing Agency however towns give up the tendering process as CPA takes over the issuing of the tenders.

17. PCA approval process

Minister Joyce Stressed the importance of getting the application and supporting documents correct the first time, double and triple check. If application submitted completed correctly turnaround is usually 2 weeks. If it contains errors could be 1-2 months. Department is looking at standardizing structure of documentation needed for submission

18. Joint Infrastructure Review Committee

This would allow towns to predetermine consultant and engineering fees. Talks are still ongoing within the departments but nothing concrete.

19. Capital Works Project Contract Language.

A lot of the applications and contracts are taken from other department and made to work for that department. Contracts need to be more tailored to each department to make it easier for municipalities to understand.

20. Larger towns helping smaller towns on various areas of expertise.

Dan Noseworthy CAO of the town of CBS suggests that larger towns support the smaller towns in sharing of information and expertise.

Minister Joyce and Hawkins, MHA Parsley and Letto et al vacate the meeting 9:15 pm.

11. DISCUSSION

Mayor Simms of the city of Mount Pearl brought it to membership attention that fast food outlets are removing their waste receptacles. First noticed at Tim Horton's, learned that

McDonalds and corner stores as well were removing receptacles. Mayor Simms suggests that this is a labour savings initiative amounts the owners of the franchises.

Mayor Simms suggests that all municipalities adopt a bylaw that all fast food, convince stores have to have waste receptacles outside their businesses. Mt Pearl to produce bylaw to share amongst the membership. Jim Joy suggested that business such as Tim Horton's should be held accountable for the mess that they are causing in public areas and roadside, whether a recycling fee be added to these cups may be the right answer.

Jim Joy brought attention the need for a proper digital recorder is needed to properly record notes from the meetings. Steve Tessier to purchase for next meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

9:30 Motion to Adjourn. Steve Tessier second Moses Tucker. All in favour.

Joedy R. Wall

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