

Northeast Avalon Joint Council Meeting

MINUTES

September 12, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Paradise Town Hall, 28 McNamara Drive, Paradise, NL

ATTENDEES:

- Joedy Wall, Pouch Cove (Chair)
- Bill Antle, Mount Pearl (Vice Chair)
- Mary Thorne-Gosse, Torbay
- Andrea Power, Mount Pearl
- Rene Estrada, Witless Bay
- Michelle Martin, Flatrock
- Mike Doyle, Harbour Main-Chapel's Cove-Lakeview
- Joanne Whelan, Bauline
- Bradley Power, Eastern Regional Service Board & Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove

PROCEEDINGS:

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair at 6:35 p.m.

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Antle, seconded by Mr. Whalen, that the agenda be adopted with the additions. All in favour. Motion carried.

Ref#: NEAJC2018-018

3. **DELEGATION(S)**

There were no delegations present.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Antle, that the Minutes of the meeting of June 13, 2018 be adopted as tabled. All in favour. Motion carried.

Ref#: NEAJC2018-019

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- a) **Business Outlook for the Fall:** The joint council decided to send a letter to all political party leaders in the province offering them an opportunity to speak at a

future joint council meeting on a topic of their choosing. Mr. Power will send the letters in the New Year.

- b) **Joint Council Summit:** The Chair confirmed the inaugural Joint Council Summit would be held in December. Mr. Power will send out invitations to all joint councils, regional committees and joint mayors' associations. Each group will be eligible to send 5-7 members each to the meeting. All member of the NEAJC will be invited where they are the host group.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Whalen delivered the financial report. The current bank balance is \$9,887.37. All final membership invoices have been paid. The annual dinner cost \$4,362.07, with the City of St. John's contributing \$2,000 to the overall cost.

7. EASTERN REGIONAL SERVICE BOARD UPDATE

Mr. Whalen delivered a report on behalf of Eastern Regional Service Board:

- The Board of Directors met last on Wednesday, June 27. The Board did not meet in July or August.
- At the last Board meeting, a number of tenders were awarded. They were for a new pick-up truck for day-to-day operations, as well as roadwork and a sewer line upgrade at the Clarenville Transfer Station.
- The waste collection contract for the Clarenville area was also approved at the last Board meeting.
- Over the summer the Board received an enhanced mandate from the Provincial Government for the delivery of fire and emergency services throughout the region. Mr. Power will elaborate on this later in the meeting as a follow-up to the presentation given by Ken Kelly during our joint council meeting in May. This is a significant step forward for the Board. Many communities have already indicated their interest in signing on.
- The Household Hazardous Waste events held in communities throughout the region in June were very successful. The specific volume of material collected is not yet available. Additional collection events will take place on September 15. The full list of communities holding these events is available online. Participating fire departments get a \$1,000 grant for their time coordinating these events.
- Speaking of fire services and fire departments, the Board recently became a sustaining member of the NL Association of Fire Services. This membership will bring the ERSB closer to the fire departments in the region. Some of these departments will eventually be contracted to deliver fire and emergency services as

part of the expanded service mandate from the Provincial Government. Staff will have a presence at their conference at the end of September in Clarenville.

- Staff at the ERSB will also be attending the upcoming MNL AGM in Gander. The Board encourage mayors, deputy mayors and councillors to reach out to our representatives on the ground if they have inquiries or ideas about regional service delivery in Eastern Newfoundland.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Meeting Calendar for Fall/Winter 2018:** Mr. Power distributed a calendar for meetings for the next four months. The calendar will also be sent to all town staff for their information.
- b) **Remuneration:** The Chair noted that remuneration for municipal councillors will be taxed in its entirety beginning January 1, 2019. This will have a significant impact on those communities who provide councillors remuneration for the service they provide.

Mr. Antle noted that the City of Mount Pearl is exploring options to lessen the impact on their councillors, Mayor and Deputy Mayor. He expects they will announce their plan soon.

Mr. Power asked that those present note by show of hands if their receive remuneration. All members present answered in the affirmative.

The Chair noted that the municipal legislation allows for a council (other than the cities), to provide remuneration up to a maximum 2% of their total budget.

Mr. Antle noted that a discussion on this issue is expected at the upcoming MNL Convention and Trade Show in Gander. Ms. Thorne-Gosse and Ms. Martin said it is an important issue and needs MNL's attention.

- c) **ERSB Fire Service Mandate:** Mr. Power noted that the Eastern Regional Service Board has received confirmation of its expanded mandate from the Provincial Government to provide fire and emergency services throughout the Eastern Region. The letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs was tabled for everyone's information. Those interested in availing of the new service should contact the Board as soon as possible.
- d) **Municipal Dart Tournament:** The Chair reminded members of the upcoming dart tournament in the Town of Bauline. He encourages all communities to register a team and come out and enjoy this social event with fellow municipal representatives. Mr. Power was asked to send the invitation to the City of Mount Pearl and City of St. John's.

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- e) **Premier's Forum/MNL Convention and Trade Show:** The Chair reminded members of the upcoming Premier's Forum and MNL Convention and Trade Show. He encouraged those interested in attending the Premier's Forum to put their names forward as soon as possible, where the turnaround time for election of representatives is very tight. He also added that attending the MNL Convention and Trade Show should be a priority for all communities, especially now that regional governance and other important topics are at the forefront of discussion.
- f) **Update on Municipal Legislative Review:** Mr. Power noted that the review of municipal legislation is still ongoing. He will provide additional updates as soon as they are received; however, it is anticipated the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will roll out the new legislation in the spring of 2019.
- g) **Tiny Homes:** The Chair raised the issue of tiny homes with the group. His community has received an inquiry about the construction of a tiny home, but unfortunately their development regulations prevent them from being built. They had an individual give a presentation to their council on the concept, which was very eye opening. He noted that Pouch Cove is moving forward with changing their development regulations to allow for their construction.

Ms. Power asked if there's any national research on the issue. The Chair said his community reached out to the Halifax Regional Municipality who had lots of information to share.

Ms. Martin noted that the Town of Flatrock has also been looking into the issue. Mr. Power said his town is doing the same. Everyone was encouraged to bring the issue back to their own councils for a discussion. It was also suggested that Ms. Jess Puddister be invited to a future meeting of the joint council to discuss the issue on a regional level in more detail. The group agreed.

- h) **Guiderails:** Mr. Doyle noted an issue in his community with trees and shrubs growing over guide rails on provincial roads. In some cases, guide rails have also rotted and have become ineffective. He has reached out to the Provincial Government's Department of Transportation and Works requesting repairs, but hasn't had any success. He is now considering reaching out to Occupational Health and Safety to make a complaint against the department for their lack of action, whereas they are responsible for the road and the associated risk with guiderail failure. He will keep everyone updated as this issue progresses.
- i) **Drone Funding Request:** Mr. Antle asked if other communities have received a request from NL Rovers Search and Rescue requesting funding to purchase a new drone to support their operations. The Towns of Paradise, Torbay and LB-MC-OC have all made donations based on the request. Mr. Antle suggested having Mr. Harry Blackmore, President of the Rovers, in to a future meeting to talk about their work.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town of Conception Bay South.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Ms. Martin that the meeting adjourn. All in favour. Motion carried.

Ref#: NEAJC2018-020

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.