

NORTHEAST AVALON JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Mount Pearl City Hall, Centennial Street, Mount Pearl, NL

ATTENDEES:

- Mary Thorne-Gosse, Torbay (Chair)
- Craig Williams, Conception Harbour (Vice Chair)
- Sam Whalen, Colliers (Treasurer)
- Bill Antle, Mount Pearl
- Madonna Stewart-Sharpe, Portugal Cove-St Philip's
- Jordon Blackwood, Wabana
- Denis Hickey, Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove
- Brad Power, Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove
- Kirk Youden, Conception Bay South
- Sam Stack, Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove
- Patrick Martin, Paradise
- Kevin Costello, Holyrood
- Michelle Martin, Flatrock
- Owen Mahoney, Avondale
- Sheilagh O'Leary, St. John's
- Holly Coles, Eastern Regional Service Board

REGRETS:

- Members of the House of Assembly
- Members of Parliament
- Bridget Hynes
- Allison Whitty
- Dave Lane
- Ian Froude
- Terry French
- Andrew Ledwell
- Joanne Whalen
- Patrick Coady
- Lisa Niblock
- Joedy Wall

PROCEEDINGS:

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Ms. Thorne-Gosse at 6:45 p.m.

Ms. Thorne-Gosse thanked everyone for their support in her newly elected position as Chair of the Northeast Avalon Joint Council. She then started by going around the room as asking each individual to introduce themselves and which community they represent.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Antle, seconded by Mr. Whalen, that the Agenda be adopted as tabled. All in favour. Motion carried.

3. DELEGATION(S)

There were no delegations in attendance.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Whalen, seconded by Ms. Stewart-Sharpe, that the Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, December 4, 2020 be adopted as tabled. All in favour. Motion carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Summer Student 2020

Ms. Thorne Gosse had requested at a previous meeting that the joint council members bring this topic back to their own town councils, and discuss summer student positions to see if one may be available to pass to the joint council. Currently there are no updates from the members, so the same request was made and this topic will be discussed again at the next joint council meeting.

b) 2020 Membership Fees

Mr. Whalen informed the joint council that he has been working with Ms. Coles on the 2020 Membership Invoices and they were completed and approved today. Invoices were emailed to each municipality and original copies will be mailed tomorrow via Canada Post.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT - Mr. Whalen reported a balance of \$13,451.00 in the bank with no outstanding debts. There are no receivables or payables to report.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Whalen, seconded by Mr. Stack, that the Treasurer's Report for December be adopted as tabled. All in favour. Motion carried.

7. EASTERN REGIONAL SERVICE BOARD (ERSB) UPDATE:

Mr. Whalen provided a report on the ERSB. He informed the joint council that information regarding serviced vs. un-serviced roads is still bring provided to the Board from the

Department of Transportation and Works, and that the ERSB website is being monitored and updated on a regular basis with this information.

Mr. Whalen also noted that Tenders have been issued for Waste Collection in some areas due to the changes implemented by the Ministerial Directives, and they seem to be getting a great response.

The ERSB has issued their invoices for 2020 and the office is in full swing. Staff are exceeding their expectations and continue to ensure that their busiest few months run as smoothly as possible.

The next ERSB Meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in St. John's and Mr. Whalen reminded the Joint Council that most of these meetings are public in case anyone would like to attend.

There were no questions or discussions related to the ERSB report.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) News Release: Quarry Legislation

A copy of the New Release issued by the provincial government was tabled for review.

Mr. Power provided information that the Southern Shore Joint Council (SSJC) had already discussed this issue in the past and met with the Minister of Natural Resources Siobhan Coady. At that meeting, Minister Coady had recognized that Quarries were not being monitored as they should, they are not being returned to their natural state as they are supposed to, and that the Department of Natural Resources would be working to rectify these issues.

Mr. Power thinks that these issues are quite known, there's just not enough enforcement; and this is the reason for the Legislation review. New applications have been created, and many more steps have been taken to ensure that this work is being complete. Mr. Power encourages each municipality to submit a response to this news release and have their input on the topic.

Many of the municipalities represented by members of the Joint Council have had several issues with quarries. These issues include: no response after application submission, materials not being handled properly, top soil not being restored, completed projects not actually being completed, and bridges, roads, and residential properties being damaged.

The Town of Conception Bay South (CBS) mentioned that they are a quarry capital. Quarries in that area seem to be expanding and moving in on new properties which brings major safety concerns to the town. CBS feels that quarries are valuable and

necessary for development, but it definitely needs to be monitored and completed correctly.

The Town of Colliers have turned down major quarry projects as the location is close to an old cemetery and residents have issued complaints. The provincial government is still trying to move forward and the town is struggling with how to deal with the issue.

The Town of Flatrock noted that they had a quarry in the community years ago and when the request came for another one, council turned it down. Again, the location was the concern.

Mr. Power noted that walked trails in a lot of these areas would be a major safety concern as well, and should be noted at future council meetings when the topic arises.

Ms. Thorne-Gosse mentioned some issues that have come up in the Town of Torbay with quarries as well. The town has waited one and a half years for the application process so far. Water run-off, and the location of the access road to the quarry has been reported as issues. Ms. Thorne-Gosse feels that new home owners should be made aware that quarries are near, and/or that the land that they are purchasing used to be a quarry.

Mr. Martin notified the joint council that the Town of Paradise put a stop to some companies expanded as a result of blasting and causing damages within the town.

Ms. Thorne-Gosse asked the joint council members to submit any documentation that they have regarding this issue so that it can be tabled at the next meeting and discussed further.

9. ROUNDTABLE

a) Joint Council Initiative

Mr. Power provided a brief overview of the joint council for any new members that were in the room, as requested by Ms. O'Leary. The Northeast Avalon Joint Council represents 19 different communities and provides a voice for all. Mr. Power reminded everyone that 51% of the joint council must agree on an issue in order to move a motion, and that the purpose of these meetings is to ensure that regional information gets back to the municipalities. Mr. Power noted that this is a great opportunity for the municipalities to voice their concerns and bring their issues to the table.

Mr. Power also mentioned the Summit that took place at the end of 2018 which included all joint councils in the Eastern Region. He feels that this was a huge benefit to all and that it should continue to take place in future years.

b) Provincial Road Plan

Mr. Youden noted that the Provincial Road Plan has been ongoing for a number of years and that he would like to keep it on the Agenda for future discussion. Mr. Youden feels that the Town of Paradise could use some sort of back channel to decongest traffic, and that the joint council could be a great voice of support on this topic with the provincial government.

c) Guest Speakers

Mr. Costello expressed his interest in getting more guest speakers at the joint council meetings going forward. He feels that they are very informative, and may be cause for more discussion in the group, and attention brought to their requests. Mr. Costello expressed his interest in inviting Ms. Siobhan Coady, Minister of Natural Resources to our next meeting to discuss the Quarry issue further. The joint council agreed with his request and feels like speaking with the Minister directly may get their concerns heard.

d) Closing Comments from the Chair

Ms. Thorne-Gosse thanked all joint council members for their support in her new role as Chair. She also thanked the new Vice Chair and Mr. Power for their dedication and hard work. Ms. Thorne-Gosse looks forward to her new role and working with the new executive and supporting clerk. She also requested that a News Release be issued to announce the newly elected executive.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be February 12, 2020 and the location will be announced at a later date.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Antle, seconded by Mr. Whalen, that the meeting adjourn. All in favour. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.