

## NORTHEAST AVALON JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

# MINUTES

*Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.*

*City Hall, City of St. John's, 10 New Gower St., NL A1C 2B5*

---

### **ATTENDEES:**

- Mary Thorne-Gosse, Torbay (Chair)
- Craig Williams, Conception Harbour (Vice Chair)
- Sam Whalen, Colliers (Treasurer)
- Denis Hickey, Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove
- Kirk Youden, Conception Bay South
- Sam Stack, Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove
- Michelle Martin, Flatrock
- Owen Mahoney, Avondale
- Sheilagh O'Leary, St. John's
- Joedy Wall, Pouch Cove
- Mike Doyle, Harbour Main-Chapel's Cove-Lakeview
- Isabelle Fry, Mount Pearl
- Holly Coles, Eastern Regional Service Board

### **REGRETS:**

- Members of the House of Assembly
- Members of Parliament
- Bill Antle
- Andrea Power
- Dave Aker
- Bert Hickey
- Bridget Hynes
- Stephen Jewczyk
- Corrina Martin
- Jordan Blackwood
- Madonna Stewart-Sharpe
- Lisa Niblock

### **PROCEEDINGS:**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Ms. Thorne-Gosse at 6:31pm.

Ms. Thorne-Gosse welcomed everyone to the meeting and went around the room asking each individual to introduce themselves and which community they represent.

## **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

## **3. DELEGATION(S)**

- a) **Department of Natural Resources** – Ms. Thorne-Gosse informed the Joint Council that the delegation regrettably cancelled due to their team having to quarantine for COVID-19.

## **4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

*MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Whalen, seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, January 15, 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. She noted that the Town of Torbay is willing to house the student, but they require a job description to know what the duties of the position entails.

Mr. Youden agrees and feels that the student/position should be utilized to its full potential. He noted that the position should be involved with items such as regional events and infrastructure plans for towns. He suggested that the student could gather information on how each town operates/processes certain topics and a report could be provided to the Joint Council for general discussion/learning points.

Ms. Coles will start the application process and await further instruction.

### **b) Provincial Road Plan**

A short discussion took place regarding the provincial road plan and it was requested that this item be left on the Agenda for future meetings for any updates that might become available.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT** - Mr. Whalen reported a balance of \$18,230.65 in the bank with no outstanding debts. He is pleased with the membership fees being paid in a timely manner.

***MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Mahoney, that the Treasurer's Report for February be adopted as tabled. All in favour. Motion carried.***

## **7. EASTERN REGIONAL SERVICE BOARD (ERSB) UPDATE:**

Mr. Whalen provided a report on the ERSB and noted that they met last on Wednesday, February 26, 2020.

The ERSB are still implementing the Ministerial Directives that have followed them through since 2019. Information regarding serviced vs. un-serviced roads is still being provided to them from the Department of Transportation and Works, which means that their website is updated on a regular basis to inform the public of any changes made to waste collection areas.

The ERSB recently issued Tenders to dispose of its Waste Collection Equipment as a result of the changes implemented by the Ministerial Directives. These tenders received a great response and the equipment has been awarded to the highest bidders.

The ERSB have decided to redesign their website as upgrades and improvements are much needed. They are working with a public relations company to get this work completed, hopefully before year end.

The next meeting of the ERSB will take place on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 7PM in St. John's. Don't forget, most of these meetings are open to the public so, feel free to attend if you wish.

Ms. O'Leary spoke to the Provincial Waste Management Strategy Review Report that was recently released. A short discussion took place.

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

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a) Authorized Signing Authority**

Mr. Whalen noted that the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair will need to meet him at the Scotia Bank in Mount Pearl at an agreed upon time to change the signatories on the account belonging to the Northeast Avalon Joint Council. They will discuss after the meeting to coordinate a date and time.

## **9. ROUNDTABLE**

### **a) Provincial Waste Management Strategy Review Report – Trash to Steam Plan**

Mr. Whalen provided some information on the Trash to Steam program. He noted that several places outside of Newfoundland and Canada have had success with this type of program.

The Joint Council agreed that this topic was something of interest, and that the potential summer student should research and provide a report on the topic at a future meeting.

### **b) Regionalization**

Communities from the Conception Bay Center Area updated the Joint Council on their progress on regionalization. Harbour Main-Chapel's Cove- Lakeview, Avondale, Conception Harbour, and Colliers have all played positive roles in the initiative, and a letter has been sent to Minister Bragg, Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment, with the signatures of all four Mayors.

The report is very positive and notes that the communities have come together to make mass purchases, join Fire Departments, save money on tax payers, etc. An update will be provided at a later date, but regionalization is encourage from this area and shows to be of benefit to all those involved.

### **c) Improvements at local Fire Departments**

Mr. Wall was happy to inform the Joint Council that the Fire Department in the Town of Pouch Cove will be getting their #1 Pumper Truck in the third week of July. The town was able to purchase this pumper truck on their own after the Government turned them down four years in a row. This was a major accomplishment for the town.

### **d) Emergency Funding & Road Repairs**

Mr. Youden commented on Emergency Funding and how it's been a big topic of conversation lately within the Town of Conception Bay South. There has been millions of dollars' worth of damage on shorelines, beaches, roadways/bridges, at the yacht clubs, etc. from the recent snow storms and weather systems at play. The town has undergone a major process to request funding for these repairs.

Mr. Youden also mentioned the lack of response from the Department of Transportation and Works for road concerns, pot holes, etc. The town is currently working with the Department to try and agree on providing some of these services together, as opposed to

waiting for the Department to ‘get around to it’. There is a certain liability on the town when provided these services in conjunction with the Provincial Government and so the town is now working on a maintenance agreement.

Torbay and other member towns have had the same issues with road repairs and will request to their town councils to consider a similar maintenance agreement.

It was noted that research on road maintenance and other projects could be completed by the summer student if granted the position.

#### **e) COVID-19 & At Home Tourism**

Ms. O’Leary spoke to the Joint Council on the affects that COVID-19 will have on the province’s tourism this year. She encouraged each town to do what they can with respect to events/promotion to keep the public engaged, as most people will be travelling within the province and vacationing local this summer.

She also noted the upcoming change in leadership for the province, and that each Joint Council member should make use of this opportunity for advocacy.

#### **f) Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador(MNL) Regional Meetings**

MNL will soon announce their regional meetings. It was requested that this be added to the next meeting’s Agenda and an email be sent with dates and times as a reminder.

### **10. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on held on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 6:30pm and the location will be announced at a later date.

### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

***The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:19 p.m.***