

NORTHEAST AVALON JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Zoom Video Conference

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
- Michelle Martin, Flatrock
- Sheilagh O’Leary, St. John’s
- Joedy Wall, Pouch Cove
- Madonna Stewart-Sharpe, Portugal Cove-St. Philips
- Joanne Whalen, Bauline
- Mike Doyle, Harbour Main-Chapel’s Cove-Lakeview
- Isabelle Fry, Mount Pearl
- Patrick Coady, Bay Bulls
- Dan Austin, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)
- Ralph Tapper, Pipe Down NL
- Mona Rossiter, Pipe Down NL
- Holly Coles, Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB)

REGRETS:

- Members of the House of Assembly
- Members of Parliament
- Bill Antle, Mount Pearl
- Kevin Costello, Holyrood
- Crista Turnbull, Holyrood
- Craig Scott, Torbay
- Dawn Chaplin, Torbay
- Gail Pomroy, Conception Bay South
- Bert Hickey, Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove
- Allison Whitty, Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove
- Stephen Jewczyk, Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove
- Lisa Niblock, Paradise
- Dan Bobbett, Paradise
- Sam Stack, Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove

PROCEEDINGS:

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Ms. Thorne-Gosse at 6:38pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Stewart-Sharpe, seconded by Ms. O’Leary, that the Agenda be adopted as tabled. All in favour. Motion carried.

3. DELEGATION(S)

a) Dan Austin, RCMP

Mr. Austin introduced himself to the Joint Council, and explained that he is the Superintendent and Eastern District Policing Officer for the RCMP. Mr. Austin’s district starts with Lewisporte and covers the eastern portion of the Province.

Mr. Austin noted that the RCMP is thankful that the Joint Council will allow them to sit in on the monthly meetings and provide consistent input and support to the Communities in the region.

b) Ralph Tapper, Pipe Down NL

Mr. Tapper also thanked the Joint Council for allowing them to speak at this meeting. He explained that Pipe Down NL is a group that’s campaigning against loud noises from vehicles like ATVs, motorcycles, and customized car pipes. Not only does the noise from these vehicles cause issues, but the often times the use of certain vehicles is prohibited on town roads.

Mr. Tapper reported that he has had several positive conversations with the City of St. John’s, as well as support from the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) in getting these issues resolved.

He then introduced another Pipe Down NL Group Leader, Ms. Mona Rossiter.

c) Mona Rossiter, Pipe Down NL

Ms. Rossiter introduced herself and Pipe Down NL to the Joint Council. She noted that Pipe Down NL has met with the Signal Hill Foundation, as well as the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, along with the groups that Mr. Tapper had already mentioned.

Ms. Rossiter informed the Joint Council that Pipe Down NL has a Facebook Page that she encouraged everyone to join, as well as a petition that they could sign... The petition already has over 1000 signatures.

Ms. Rossiter explained some of the issues that they've been having with trying to enforce the ban or illegal use of these vehicles, vehicle parts, and loud noises. They include lack of enforcement, trying to determine who is responsible for enforcement, proper equipment to read volume decibels, etc. However, she was pleased to note that there is some new equipment on route to the Province, such as highway traffic cameras, etc. that may be able to assist in some cases.

A large concern for the loud noises are the people that are affected... residents who are hearing impaired, children with sensory issues, PTSD patients, etc.

Ms. Rossiter informed the Joint Council that currently there are no parameters for what is classified as "excessively loud".

Spot checks have been set up in the area of Signal Hill, and she will check on those reports to bring back to the group. She also noted that an off-season campaign will be requested to give the public an opportunity to repair and replace the issues with their vehicles.

Ms. O'Leary was pleased to hear of this initiative and agrees with the work that's being done. She fully supports Pipe Down NL and specifically asked how she and the City may be of assistance.

Mr. Youden noted that the loud noises are definitely an issue in the Town of Conception Bay South as well. He is concerned as to why these products are even available for the public to purchase, especially those items that are used for illegal modifications.

Mr. Wall had a resident in Pouch Cove consider moving to another area of the community in attempts to get away from the area of loud noises and common traffic concerns. He also noted that the RNC and RCMP are understaffed and he commends them for doing the great job that they do. Mr. Wall also supports Pipe Down NL and will support in any way he can.

Ms. Rossiter informed the Joint Council that she has drafted a support letter that she will provide to Ms. Coles and have it distributed to the Joint Council contact list. The letter can be revised and/or signed as is, and sent to the Provincial Government to show support of the Pipe Down NL project.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Whalen, seconded by Ms. Fry, that the Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, March 11, 2020 be adopted as tabled. All in favour. Motion carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) 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.

b) Authorized Signing Authority

It was noted that the Northeast Avalon Joint Council's bank account will need to be updated with the correct signing authority since there has been a newly elected executive in January of this year.

Ms. Coles will coordinate a date and time with Mr. Whalen, and update the executive on when to meet at Scotia Bank in Mount Pearl to complete this task.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT - Mr. Whalen reported a balance of \$18,804.33 in the bank with no outstanding debts.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Ms. Stewart-Sharpe, that the Treasurer's Report for October be adopted as tabled. All in favour. Motion carried.

7. EASTERN REGIONAL SERVICE BOARD (ERSB) UPDATE:

Mr. Whalen noted that the Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB) last met on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 via Zoom Video Conference.

They are happy to announce that Mr. Bob Gammon is the newest ERSB Board Member to represent the Smith Sound and Isthmus area, as a bi-election took place over recent months to fill this position.

Mr. Whalen told the Joint Council that the ERSB currently collects Fire & Emergency Service Fees on behalf of the Towns of Holyrood and St. Joseph's. They are pleased to report that four other Towns are working with the ERSB now to provide this service for them in 2021.

He also noted that the Board is excited to announce the official launch of their new website. This new website is more user-friendly and interactive as users can now

sign up for important notifications, updates, etc. Members can check out the new site at www.easternregionalserviceboard.com.

The next meeting of the ERSB will take place on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 7:00pm via Zoom Video Conference and this meeting will be broadcasted LIVE through YouTube. The YouTube Channel is posted on the ERSB's website and Mr. Whalen encouraged everyone to observe.

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

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) News Release – Foxtrap Pasture Land Road Quarry

This News Release was added to the meeting package for information purposes. There were no questions or concerns to be discussed.

b) Municipalities Newfoundland & Labrador (MNL) Virtual Conference

Information was included in the meeting package with details of the MNL Virtual Conference that will be taking place on November 5-7, 2020.

Ms. Coles informed the Joint Council that the three day conference will also be available to play OnDemand for 30 days after the conference, so registrants don't have to worry about missing a session or being stationed at their computer screens.

Ms. O'Leary encouraged everyone to attend if possible, and noted the exciting key note speakers that are booked.

9. ROUNDTABLE

a) North East Avalon Food Bank

It was noted that the Northeast Avalon Food Bank has a newly elected Board and Executive. They are very pleased with its progress.

b) Applications for Emergency Funding

Many communities have completed and submitted their applications to the provincial government for emergency funding but have yet to see a response since the major snow storm in January of this year. CBC investigations have been contacted to follow-up on the status of these applications.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on held at the Call of the Chair.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:26 p.m.