

SOUTHERN SHORE JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Ferryland Town Office, NL-10, Ferryland, NL

ATTENDEES:

- Harold Mullooney, Bay Bulls (Chair)
- Joan Luby, Bay Bulls
- Evelyn Tucker, Bay Bulls
- Beverly O'Brien, Cape Broyle
- Adrian Sullivan, Calvert
- Harry Bryan, Ferryland
- Debbie Windsor, Aquaforte
- Chris Maher, Aquaforte
- Jerome Croft, Aquaforte
- Sgt. Frank Flynn, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)
- Holly Coles, Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB)

REGRETS:

- Ken McDonald, Member House of Assembly

PROCEEDINGS:

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the Chair.

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Luby and seconded by Ms. Windsor, that the Agenda of the Southern Shore Joint Council meeting of December 5 2019 be adopted. All in favour. Motion carried.

3. **DELEGATION**

There were no delegations in attendance at this meeting.

4. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Luby, seconded by Ms. Tucker, that the Minutes of the Southern Shore Joint Council meeting of Tuesday, October 29, 2019 be adopted with the revisions. All in favour. Motion carried.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

i. Equipment Needs for the Department of Transportation and Works

Mr. Mallowney reminded the joint council of the conversation from the last meeting regarding lack of equipment at the Department of Transportation and Works, Road Upgrades, and Snow Clearing. He noted that the Minister of this Department, Hon. Steve Crocker will try to be in attendance at our next meeting to discuss these issues. Mr. Mallowney is hoping that at that time, Minister Crocker will have a formal response to the letter that was written to him from the joint council.

Mr. Mallowney also informed the joint council that he had been speaking with both the Minister of Transportation and Works and the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation at the Municipalities of Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL) Conference in November and requested that they attend a future meeting of the Southern Shore Joint Council (SSJC).

Mr. Mallowney asked the joint council to compile some questions and concerns that they would like to have addressed by the Ministers, and to forward them to Ms. Coles to have added to the Agendas of the meetings that the Ministers can attend. The joint council members will also gather information from their local Transportation and Works depots and report to Ms. Coles with their findings for the same purpose.

Sgt. Flynn added that in 2018, snowmobiles had to be used on two separate occasions to respond to emergency events on the Southern Shore Highway due to lack of snow clearing. This is unacceptable to the joint council and the Southern Shore Highway is a main thoroughfare for emergency vehicles and is critical for saving lives.

ii. Commissionaire's Quote on Development Enforcement

A copy of the Commissionaire's Quote was tabled for review.

Mr. Mallowney noted that the Town of Bay Bulls is interested in this program and is looking for a neighboring community to come on board and share the costs.

Ms. O'Brien noted that she brought it to the Council of the Town of Cape Broyle but there wasn't much interest.

Sgt. Flynn thinks that this is a great idea for the communities to have support with smaller issues such as animal complaints, or minor enforcement situations. He noted that this would create more time for Police to handle the more serious or pertinent situations. Sgt. Flynn says that an extra set of eyes will keep everyone safer, and that the residents would certainly see the benefits once the program is put into place. The RCMP could also come on board with the program and possible program some small training programs if needed.

Mr. Bryan questioned the authority of the Commissionaires, and was informed that their authority comes from the Department of Justice. The Commissionaires are given a certain amount of police authority and have to follow the municipal enforcement by-laws.

iii. Update on MNL Conference and Trade Show – November 14-16, 2019, St. John’s, NL

Mr. Mullaney informed the joint council that the ERSB booth received a lot of positive activity.

Mr. Mullaney also noted that the Resolution that was put forth by the Town of Marystown for a common tipping fee across the province was defeated at the conference. He explained that the tipping fee at the regional landfill, Robin Hood Bay (RHB) has increased, but that the ERSB have not increased their fees as a result. Mr. Mullaney explained that the Eastern region has some of the lowest operating costs, and he feels that we should not have to subsidize the rest of the province if we do not have input on how they operate. Mr. Mullaney notified the joint council that he spoke to the Resolution at the conference, and that the results remain that approximately 70 percent in attendance were against it.

Mr. Croft inquired about the Town Hall Forum with the Ministers that took place at the conference. He feels that the event should be made more public for the issues to be addressed.

Mr. Mullaney noted that the Town Hall Forum with the Ministers was an RSVP event, and that this was the largest conference to date for MNL, with double the attendance from previous years. He also noted that because of such a large attendance, accommodations for hosting the event will be an issue in the future, especially as the City of St. John’s struggled with parking at this event.

iv. Update on MNL Women’s Leadership Summit – November 13, 2019, St. John’s, NL

Ms. Luby and Ms. Tucker both noted that they had attended the Women’s Leadership Summit, and that the event was sold out. They felt that the event was a huge success and found it very empowering. The women that we have as politicians in this province seem to be well organized and confident in their positions which is what this Summit promoted to all who attended.

v. Federal Budget and Grants to Control Climate Change

Ms. Luby and Ms. Tucker introduced Ms. O’Brien to the engineers that were mentioned in the previous meeting at the MNL Conference in November. Ms.

O'Brien passed the information along to the Town of Cape Broyle and they will reach out to the engineers for advice on water ways, etc. to be reviewed.

Ms. Tucker explained how drone footage will now be used to measure land and water, and that this information can be used to model the community for water run-off in river areas, flood plains, etc. The model will be placed in the Town Hall and can be used in future infrastructure planning. Ms. Tucker represents the Town of Bay Bulls and she noted that the Town has been working with the engineers since the early stages of this project, and that the Town of Bay Bulls will be used as an example.

Ms. O'Brien informed the joint council that the Town of Cape Broyle has scheduled a meeting with the engineers at Memorial University for the month of January to start the process for their own review.

Mr. Mullowney advised the joint council to get their Towns to do some research if this is something they are interested in as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) will have money allotted in the Federal budget in the coming years to address upcoming climate change issues.

6. EASTERN REGIONAL SERVICE BOARD (ERSB) UPDATE

Mr. Mullowney informed the joint council that the ERSB last met on October 30, 2019.

The Ministerial Directives that caused the reduction of services in unincorporated areas and on un-serviced roads has affected approximately 4000 people, but none of these areas received the required 70 percent in favor of the services for reinstatement. Mr. Mullowney expects that January will be quite busy for staff once these property owners realize that their services are in fact discontinued.

Mr. Mullowney also noted that the Towns that are under Contract with the ERSB will not be affected but will see changes from seasonal users.

The 2020 Budget has been issued by the Board, it shows that the tipping fees at the regional landfill, Robin Hood Bay (RHB) has increased, but that the ERSB have decided not to increase their fees as a result. The \$180.00 annual fee has not been changed for 8 years running.

Staff has been laid off and equipment will be sold as a result of the Ministerial Directives. The ERSB saved money in the beginning stages by provided the services themselves to some areas, but layoffs mean that these areas will have to Tender and be contracted out in the future.

Ms. Windsor asked for advice in situations where residents don't pay their fees to the Towns, she is worried that other residents are soaking up the extra costs.

Mr. Mallowney explained to the joint council that, as an incorporated Town, if you hold a contract with the ERSB, then your duty to pay the ERSB remains the same, regardless of how the Towns collect their taxes.

Ms. Tucker advised of ways to collect property taxes such as cutting water supply, sending to Collections, etc. She also provided the joint council with a contact that may be able to help and/or provide more detailed advice on the topic. Towns need to collect their fees/taxes, the same as any other business.

Mr. Mallowney also noted that the ERSB has been working with the Minister of Education and with the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District to coordinate a meeting regarding recycling programs in the schools. The ERSB is hoping to start a program with schools in the Eastern region in 2020.

Mr. Mallowney also commented on how nice it is to see Towns supporting recycling programs such as Kids Eat Smart, Bottle Blitz', etc.

7. NEW BUSINESS

i. Volunteer Recruitment

A document was tabled for review on volunteerism and how to recruit volunteers for events in small towns. The joint council appreciated the advice provided and will review the document.

ii. Meeting with Ministers of the Provincial Government

It was noted that the joint council would be interested in speaking with the Minister of Transportation and Works, as well as the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry, and Innovation. It was agreed that an invitation will be send to both Ministers to attend a future meeting.

iii. Newfoundland and Labrador Tourism Ads

The Town of Ferryland have not received a response from the Tourism Ads and are still in the early stages of the process. Mr. Bryan will keep the joint council updated as soon as there is any information to report.

8. ROUNDTABLE

- i.** Information was passed around the table regarding Holiday events that were to take place in each Town. Santa Claus Parades, Tree Lighting Ceremonies, Dances, and Concerts have all been scheduled over the next few weeks and the

Towns invited each other to attend, purchase tickets, and take part in the Holiday Cheer.

9. **NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting of the Southern Shore Joint Council will take place at the call of the Chair.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Sullivan that the meeting be adjourned. All in favour. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:26 p.m.