

SOUTHERN SHORE JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Bay Bulls Town Hall, 2 Southside Road, Bay Bulls, NL

ATTENDEES:

- Harold Mullooney, Bay Bulls (Chair)
- Joan Luby, Bay Bulls
- Evelyn Tucker, Bay Bulls
- Pat Coady, Bay Bulls
- Lucy Carew, Witless Bay
- Beverly O'Brien, Cape Broyle
- Gerard Conway, Renewes
- Adrian Sullivan, Calvert
- Harry Bryan, Ferryland
- Holly Coles - ERSB

DELEGATIONS:

- MHA Loyola O'Driscoll

PROCEEDINGS:

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by the Chair.

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Luby and seconded by Ms. Carew, that the Agenda of the Southern Shore Joint Council meeting of October 29, 2019 be adopted. All in favour. Motion carried.

3. **DELEGATION**

- MHA Loyola O'Driscoll:** Mr. O'Driscoll attended the meeting to discover how the joint council works and to get more information. Mr. Mullooney welcomed him and gave an overview of the joint council and noted which communities are represented.

4. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Luby, seconded by Mr. Coady, that the Minutes of the Southern Shore Joint Council meeting of Thursday, May 9, 2019 be adopted with the revisions. All in favour. Motion carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Mr. Mallowney noted that Stephanie O'Brien from Eat Great and Participate called to check in after the last meeting and would like to attend another future meeting of the joint council to follow-up. Ms. O'Brien noted that Cape Broyle has made an effort to implement a healthier eating program by providing bottled water at events instead of pop, etc., and they are trying to get a Healthy Eating Resolution passed at council. Ms. Carew informed the group that Witless Bay will start a Healthy Eating Resolution in December. They will also start providing healthier options instead of hot chocolate, etc. Mr. Mallowney will relay this information back to Ms. O'Brien.

6. EASTERN REGIONAL SERVICE BOARD (ERSB) UPDATE

Mr. Mallowney provided the monthly ERSB update. There is no formal update at this time but the Board of Directors will meet on October 30, 2019. They have been operating on new directives from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in the past few months, these include the discontinuation of services on un-serviced roads in unincorporated areas. Several meetings have taken place over the past year with a number of different Ministers that have filled the position with the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment. What the Department was asking of ERSB would have been major, involving layoffs for both internal and external staff, selling of equipment, and buying out contracts. The buyouts would have cost approximately \$650-\$800 thousand, but Mr. Mallowney was happy to report that no buyouts came from new agreement, and that ERSB would only lose approximately \$25-30 thousand, which was very positive compared to the previous request. The tipping fee at Robin Hood Bay (RHB) has increased and revenue is down. ERSB set the annual household rate in conjunction with RHB. Expenses didn't change because tonnage is down. Mayor Danny Breen mentioned a possible \$10-15 increase in tonnage rate. RHB is still up in cost but ERSB decided not to increase fees in 2020, they have been 8 years running at \$180 and they are hoping to confirm this same in tomorrow night's meeting. RHB will have to pay more but will be reviewed again next year. The extra tonnage from other areas would keep costs down.

Mr. Bryan thought that extra properties such as the cabin areas would bring advantage to ERSB, he wondered why just not ask the Department to leave ERSB alone. Mr. Mallowney elaborated on the Boards efforts and provided a brief explanation. He explained that letters and ballots have been sent to the effected property owners, and that the ballots must return with 70% in favor of the service, on an area-by-area basis, in order for ERSB to reinstate waste collection next year. There is a fear of illegal dumping going forward, and a concern for towns that are near the affected areas that the towns will end up paying for unincorporated waste. Property owners in unincorporated areas will now have to go to RHB to dispose of their waste as the Waste Recovery Facilities that are operated by ERSB are for bulk items and not for household waste.

Mr. Mullooney noted that Ann Marie Hann is still working on the provincial waste management review requested by the Provincial Government. She asked about recycling, but recycling is not mandatory in our province.

Mr. Mullooney asked the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District about implementing a recycling program and offered it free from the ERSB, but there was no success. Currently, there are only 6-7 schools participating in a recycling program. A letter was sent to MHA Brian Warr, Minister of Education, to that effect.

Mr. Mullooney recognized staff at ERSB, noting the fantastic job done by all in the recent months. Unfortunately, there will be 2-3 layoffs on external staff and the Board is looking at selling compactors and tractor trailers from their fleet. The ERSB is fully self-sufficient compared to other areas of Newfoundland and Labrador.

7. NEW BUSINESS

i. Equipment Needs for the Department of Transportation and Works:

Ms. O'Brien mentioned that she would like to start a petition regarding roads in Cape Broyle. The Chair noted that the joint council coordinator will write a letter to the Department of Transportation and Works to express the concerns of the Joint Council and ask for an update on road conditions and upgrades. The group agreed that the patch work being done is not sufficient and that the dangerous road conditions are not acceptable. Ms. O'Brien informed the group that she has reached out several times with no success. She also noted that the conditions seem to be from lack of equipment, and not the fault of employees. Mr. O'Driscoll reached out to the Department a while back on some bridge work that was being done and even then it took over a month to get a response. The group agreed that it is a very inefficient way to do repairs, area by area - one area needs to be redone by the time the next is complete. Mr. Sullivan noted the same issues in Calvert, they only get one machine for one day to complete the entire job as there's usually no equipment available. Mr. Mullooney agreed and also noted that they have old equipment and there's not enough equipment, and those few pieces of equipment are being shared from community to community.

Mr. O'Driscoll will try to meet with Wayne Dillion at the Department of Transportation and Works depot on the Southern Shore to get an update. Many councilors have already met with him with no success. He asked the group's opinion on what they think we need to get these things done? Ms. O'Brien asked if we could demand such things as equipment and/or a meeting with the Department.

Mr. Bryan noted that this issue is not just on the Southern Shore, but it seems to be an issue province-wide. If there's no money from the Provincial Government to complete these projects then there's not much we can do. Often times the

distance to travel to these locations and lower population is also factored in to how much work and repairs gets done. The group wondered if it's possible that some of the work can be taken on by the towns themselves. Ms. Tucker then advised that we cannot do maintenance on government-owned roads. A crosswalk on the Southern Shore Highway prevented work to be done because the highway is a provincial road and not owned by the town.

Ms. O'Brien is wondering how bad government will let the roads get before anything is done about it. Mr. Mallowney added comments on brush cutting on roadsides, how wood cutting requires permits for 300 feet from roads, but people are not allowed to cut brush when the government does that themselves.

Mr. Coady noted the new machines that cut large sections of the roads to repave instead of doing patch jobs, they seem to be very efficient. Ms. O'Brien said that Witless Bay Line was completed in phases over a long period of time. Mr. O'Driscoll then commented on how primary roads are completed compared to secondary roads, he think this needs to be reassessed.

Mr. Mallowney spoke of how the seaport in Bay Bulls servicing the offshore provides a lot of traffic. This makes a good argument for road repairs and the same for the extension from the Robert E. Howlett Highway. These issues were mentioned with the upcoming construction job in Fermeuse. Everyone agreed that the Federal Government should be reminded that the Southern Shore is a major thoroughfare.

Ms. Luby wondered if communities can count traffic via electronic signage. Can we use this method to prove that it's a primary/priority road and not a secondary? Mr. O'Driscoll noted that the Team Gushue Highway had issues with land acquisition.

Mr. Mallowey provided an update on the project in Fermeuse. He said that blasting is taking place and the rock is being placed in the Harbour. There was a delay in startup as they were waiting on a contract from the Europeans.

Mr. O'Driscoll had petitioned regarding road issues in previous years and will do it again this year in the House of Assembly. Mr. Mallowney advised that our provincial government should be spending money in areas where they'll get money back... They need to invest.

- ii. **Commissionaires (Municipal Enforcement)** – Mr. Mallowney tabled an offer from the Commissionaires regarding municipal enforcement. He asked that communities on the Southern Shore come together to make this project work. He will work on a proposal together with other communities as Bay Bulls is hoping

to find a partner for the Commissionaires' offer. Seniors would like to see an extra security vehicle, children would be more protected riding their bikes, etc. Mr. Mullooney requested the group take it to their councils and review the offer.

- iii. **Municipalities of Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL) Conference** - Mr. Mullooney reminded everyone of MNL's upcoming conference and that the Agenda is included in their meeting package. The conference will take place at the Convention Center in St. John's on November 14-16, 2019.
- iv. **Women's Leadership Summit** – Mr. Mullooney reminded everyone about MNL's Women's Leadership Summit taking place at the Convention Center in St. John's on November 13, 2019. For those who are attending, a copy of the Agenda was provided in the meeting package.
- v. **Provincial Roads Plan** – Mr. Mullooney mentioned that a newsletter on the Provincial Government Seeking Input for Provincial Road Plan was also provided in the meeting package and the deadline to submit issues is approaching on November 23, 2019. He encouraged all Councils to submit any concerns they have regarding safety, traffic, road conditions, etc, before the deadline to be reviewed by the Department of Transportation and Works.
- vi. **Water Study in Bay Bulls** – The Town of Bay Bulls have submitted a request to Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) to model some river systems in the area to foresee any work that needs to be done. The bridge on the Southern Shore Highway is becoming a concern, where will water go if another flood were to happen in the future? Armour stone will be used in future repairs and some roads will need building up to prevent any further damage.

Ms. Tucker noted her meeting with MUN regarding climate change, etc. She was very impressed with their presentation. The Geologist and expert on Coastal Erosion were excellent in explaining items like a drone that hovers and reports on water veins for rivers, etc. Ms. O'Brien asked how they could get this done in each community, and Ms. Tucker advised to reach out to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). Bay Bulls is concerned about losing coastline and the community is losing their roads as water needs to be controlled. Mr. Mullooney is waiting on studies from FCM to see if they need to replace or reuse pipes, etc. before they spend money in these areas.

- vii. **Regional Government** – Ms. O'Brien inquired about regional government. Mr. Mullooney doesn't think we need it, nor can we afford it. The Eastern Regional Service Board is mandated from government to provide services in these areas i.e. Waste & Fire services, so why not use the ERSB for services needed in these areas? We should not have to pay another level of government to make it happen

when we can collaborate together to correct these issues and collect fees for services or put it on the Service Board to help. Ms. Luby noted that too much money is being wasted on those regional government issues when the money could be spent on providing those needed services to our communities. We should be able to pay for services needed/required in specific areas.

8. ROUNDTABLE

- i. **FERRYLAND:** Mr. Bryan noted that the lack of population is one of the biggest struggles in Ferryland. Budgeting is getting difficult as a result. Tourism is great, but it doesn't create employment. Ferryland has reached out to the group that completed the tourism ads for the provincial government for a meeting. They are hoping that more communities would come together to save money and implement the same programs. There's a big need to resolve the population issue, to reach out to young people and to get them more involved. They've asked the Association of New Canadians for advice on how to reach out to more people outside of Canada regarding relocation to small communities. Mr. Sullivan thinks that the distance to these communities and age will prevent that from happening.
- ii. **FERRYLAND:** Job creation & new businesses might keep people around, and extracurricular activities will keep younger families. Mr. Bryan thinks that we need to get proactive and start doing something to keep and attract the population. Ferryland will get more information on ads from Newfoundland and Labrador Tourism to share with the group at a future meeting.
- iii. **MR. MULLOWNEY:** A SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis was mentioned by Mr. Mullaney, it was completed a few years back for the Irish Loop Regional Economic Development Board. It's been a few years since the last report, so Mr. Mullaney advised that we look into getting another one completed. He also noted that more young people will bring new ideas to our communities.

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. Carew, seconded by Ms. Luby that the meeting be adjourned. All in favour. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.