

SOUTHWEST NEW BRUNSWICK SERVICE COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

6:00 P.M., Thursday, January 26,2017

Administration Building, Hemlock Knoll, Lawrence Station, NB

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS

Joyce Wright, LSD Dennis Weston
Garry Christie, LSD St. Patrick Terry
James, Village of Blacks Harbour Ken
Stannix, Village of McAdam Winston
Gamblin, Village of Harvey Carla
Brown, LSD St. David Annette
Townes, LSD St. James Doug Naish,
Town of St. Andrews Allan MacEachern,
Town of St. Stephen James Tubbs, LSD
Dumbarton Crystal Cook, Town of St.
George Dennis Blair, LSD McAdam / St.
Croix Heather Hatt, LSD Fundy Bay
Wade Greenlaw, LSD Dufferin

STAFF

Frank Tenhave, Executive Director, SNBSC
Claudette MacLean, Secretary to the Board, SNBSC
Mark Porter, Financial Officer, SNBSC
Dan Harrington, Director of Planning & Solid Waste, SNBSC

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Presenter;
Brent Whalen, EMO Regional Coordinator

Two members of the public were in attendance.

Call to Order

The Chairperson, Joyce Wright, called the meeting to order at approx. 6:00 p.m.

She indicated that there were 14 Board members present at the table and thus quorum was declared. A check of the conference calling system showed that there were no members in attendance via Conference Call. She also welcomed the presenter and members of the public for attending.

Public Presentation

Presentation re; "EMO Regional Plan" Template and System

Brent Whalen made a PowerPoint presentation on the new Emergency Measures Organization Regional Emergency Response Plan (regional EMO plan) template and system. This new planning structure/template has recently been adopted by the Province as the template for all of the regional emergency response plans in the province i.e. for all 12 RSCs. This new system is greatly simplified from the past ones and uses a color coding system to make following it much easier and intuitive. Brent utilized the web-based demonstration to show how simple it is to move between different parts of the regional plan and how every conceivable emergency has been incorporated into the new system. He stressed that this can and should be used as a template for municipalities to follow as well as how easily municipal plans could "plug in" to it. He used the new St. George EMO plan as an example that demonstrated this. Within his presentation he indicated that he had made arrangements with the people responsible for reimbursing communities for EMO costs, to have a much faster repayment system in place than in the past. In order to make this work communities and LSDs need to contact him asap when an emergency happens. He has a special form that he provides for this which must be filled out and returned to him asap. He stressed that this is not automatic which is why he needs to be contacted and a form needs to be completed. This change was well received by the Board members.

The members of the Regional Emergency Action Committee, the members of the Regional Service Commission, Mayors and Council members for any municipality, rural municipality and any representative of LSDs within Region 9 and any interested agency involved in emergency planning are invited to comment on the new planning structure or to provide suggestions for amendment.

There was a brief question and answer period at the end of his presentation. Many of the mayors (and others) present had not seen this presentation before or heard anything about it so

the ED indicated that he would forward a copy of it to all. The only concern that Brent could foresee at the present time was how to ensure that users of this new web-based system were using the latest version - given that the EMO Div. of DPS plans to update and tweak the new template once a year. He indicated that they were working on how best to address that potential problem and would welcome suggestions in that regard as well. In addition Brent commented on his e-mails concerning weather events and reports on emergency activities within our region. He suggested that everyone present might want to receive these going forward. The consensus was receptive to this idea and the ED indicated that he would forward e-mail addresses for all of the Board and Alternates to Brent.

Adoption of Agenda

The chair and ED indicated that they had inadvertently left out the "Adoption of the Minutes" from the agenda. The chair asked the Board if it could be added and dealt with at this point. It was the unanimous consensus that it could.

17-01 It was moved by W. Gamblin, seconded by W. Greenlaw that the most recent agenda circulated be accepted as presented. CARRIED.

Adoption of Minutes

The Chair then referred to the next agenda item which was the minutes of the last Board meeting which were e-mailed out prior to the meeting - and were now being projected on the screen. She indicated that all had the opportunity to review them and thus she was looking for a motion to approve.

17-02 It was moved by A. Townes, seconded by G. Christie that the minutes of the November 24th, 2016 Regular Board meeting is approved as circulated. CARRIED.

Business Arising from the Previous Meetings

Draft Letter of Support of the Rabies Eradication Initiative

The Chair moved on to the next agenda item and referred all to a letter on this item that was circulated to everyone -and was up on the screen.

17-03 It was moved by D. Blair, seconded by T. James that a letter of support circulated be sent as is to Minister Rick Doucet stating that this Board supports continuing this initiative. CARRIED.

Housekeeping Motion re; Bylaw Changes for Alternates Expenses

The Chair then moved on to the housekeeping motion regarding the change to the expenses for Alternates who attend the Board meetings at the last Board meeting. She reviewed that change so all present recalled it accurately. She then turned the floor over to C. Brown. As per what was showing on the screen, Carla proceeded to indicate that further to her motion that was passed at the last Board meeting (more than 25 days ago) concerning adjusting our expenses policy for Alternates, there was a glitch in our procedure such that the Board needs to rectify through another motion just to ensure that we are doing things correctly.

17-04 It was moved by C. Brown, seconded by W. Gamblin that we change the first sentence of Procedural Bylaw section 2.4.3 from " When Alternates attend Board meetings to sit in the public gallery, they are not eligible for any per diem or reimbursement of expenses for that meeting. " such that it will now read " When Alternates attend Board meetings to sit in the public gallery, they are not eligible for any per diem however they are eligible for reimbursement for their mileage as well as for meals when appropriate." CARRIED.

New Business

Brief Overview of the Airport Expansion Project

A. MacEachern gave a brief overview of the proposed expansion project. He outlined that the reason for this project was so that larger aircraft can land at this airport, make it safer, etc. This would allow wealthier people, and others, to land planes here and easily travel to St. Andrews to play golf - which is a large market. Other opportunities may come out of that as well such as people building homes here or making business investments here and other spin-off benefits. Allan used the Bar Harbour airport as an example as what the impact could be here. Local companies like Cooks Aquaculture and Irving may be interested in using this expanded airport as well. Presently the status of the project is on hold, waiting for an engineering study which was due yesterday. He indicated that the study would answer the key question which is if a 5000 ft. runway could fit on the existing airport land and they didn't have to do anything with the road system which would be extremely expensive. Also, it would be the only airport in Atlantic Canada with 24 hour Customs Clearance, which is a huge competitive advantage over other similar tourism-type locations in Atlantic Canada seeking to attract this same market segment. The airport is located partially in the LSD of St. David and partially in the LSD of Dennis Weston. He ended by indicating that if things look favorable after the engineering study, it was likely that the airport project could come to the Board table to be dealt with as a "Regional Project".

Committee and Staff Reports

CPC Report

The Chair then moved to the next agenda item and asked Carla Brown, the new Vice-chair of the Community Policing Committee to take the floor. Carla referred all to the CPC Report that all had received prior to the meeting and to the report showing up on the screen. She began the report then asked the ED to continue due to her inability to speak clearly as a result of a cold/sore throat. The ED summarized the report as follows;

- The CPC was very pleased with the support of this board re; the speed-sign purchase
- A speed-sign management committee has been set up to put in place all the directions as to taking it out, bringing it back, proper security, maintenance, and so on
- Two episodes of the Regional Policing series are now taped and ready to be aired. More to come soon.
- The next CPC meeting would be an opportunity to set the region's regions policing priorities in advance of the province doing the same (SNBSC Board members have a special invite to this meeting).

The next meeting of the CPC will be Thursday, March 9th, 2017 @ 6 pm at the Oak Bay Hall.

Ad Hoc Recycling Review Committee Progress Report

For reasons beyond anyone's control, no report was presented as this meeting however one is anticipated at the February Board meeting.

Transportation Committee (SNBTAI) Update

The chair then asked F. Tenhave to give this report on behalf of S. Choptiany. He drew everyone's attention to the report that had been previously circulated, and which was showing on the screen. In summary he indicated that;

- The Orchard Group had been hired to prepare a report assessing the business plan created by the SNBTAI, to verify the soundness of the business case and to offer suggested ways forward. They did so and it did verify many but not all items.
- The SNBTAI has put a great deal of effort into getting the public to make their support for this project known to politicians and that message seems to be getting thru.
- Verbal commitments from both levels of government have been made but the exact source of actual funding is not yet clear - a disconnect that must be resolved.
- The SNBTAI is weighing its next steps as there is real frustration that after 5 years of work we still don't have a concrete public funding source that is imperative to make this service viable.

He asked the board to provide him with comments and feed-back so that he could take that information back to the SNBTAI Chair, Stan Choptiany, and the rest of the Board. Several comments were given and noted.

Regular Financial Report

The Chair then asked M. Porter gave a brief outline of the monthly financial reports, which had been circulated prior to this meeting and are displayed on the screen. In summary he indicated tracked closely to the budget. In fact the 2016 surplus will be larger than expected and would come in at around \$ 393,000. This is thanks in large part to a substantial increase in US waste and the portion we receive from the SJ River Valley Region.

Paperless Meeting Discussion

The Chair moved on to this agenda item and commented that we were now at the end of our three meeting trial of doing paperless meetings. She went on to indicate that she thought the new system worked pretty well all in all, and we were being successful in reducing the amount of photocopying thus putting off the replacement of our main photocopier which would be a significant expense. Others made comments as well with the group generally being happy with how it was working and saving a lot of photocopying. There was a concern raised by three Board members that they liked having paper copies so that they had something in their hand to use when they go back to their LSD meetings and discuss what is happening with the RSC. The consensus of the group that this was a legitimate concern that could be addressed.

17-05 It was moved by W. Gamblin, seconded by C. Brown that the Commission continue to hold paperless Board Meetings while making up to five (5) copies of the meeting package available for members if so required. CARRIED.

Report on Collaborative Activity:

There was no such activity to report on at this time.

Date, Time and Location of Next Board Meeting:

The Chair informed that the next meeting of the Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission will be;

Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 6:00 at the Administration Building, SNBSC Solid Waste Division, Hemlock Knoll, Lawrence Station, NB.

Question & Answer Period with Public in Attendance

While there were no questions coming from members of the public present, two Board members took the opportunity to raise items for Board discussion;

- 1) K. Stannix spoke of the need for a shared service in Building Inspection. Specifically some municipalities within our region were having difficulty in accessing building inspection services and wanted to look deeply into such a service coming from the RSC. A wide-ranging discussion ensued with many areas touched on such as the cost of training a building inspector (and the time it takes), the commitment needed from municipalities in order to pay for such an inspector, whether or not utilizing the PRAC (rather than their own PACs) was possible, and so on. The need for any such committee to have joint discussions with the Planning Management Committee to explore all possible options was also discussed. In the end the group felt that Ken's suggestion of an ad hoc committee would be the best route to move forward on this issue.

17-06 It was moved by K. Stannix, seconded by D. Naish that an ad hoc committee of the Board be formed to review this need, cost and other considerations regarding the possible creation of a municipal building inspection service. CARRIED.

The next item of business was to ask for volunteers for this Committee. Several spoke up, who are as follows:

Ken Stannix Allan
MacEachern Crystal
Cook Doug Naish

This group indicated that any other municipal representatives that are interested are welcome to join this committee at a later time.

- 2) G. Christie voiced his concerns on a couple of issues;
 - a) He questioned the process for advertising the upcoming LSD elections. There was a great deal of discussion of this issue. It was noted that Darren McCabe has sent out an e-mail indicating that 5 LSD chairs were up for elections in September and of that 3 on our

Board were up for re-election. Others would but those were later. Concern was raised that it wasn't well publicized and that who the candidates are was not well publicized. Darren outlined the advertising that is done within a month of the elections and said that this was as good as they could do in getting the word out as best they can.

In the end the Board agreed that staff would post this information regarding the 5 LSD chairs elections coming up in September on the SNBSC website in order to help with publicizing this information to the public at large. Any further information received about later LSD elections would be posted as soon as it is received.

- b) He also inquired about the presentation to be made by Public Safety to this Board regarding policing costs for the Region. He expressed dissatisfaction with the delays in having these folks come and provide detailed information on this subject. He indicated that it is the LSD chairs that take the heat for the cost of policing in this region and yet the chairs have nothing to say about it, it is all decided behind closed doors in Fredericton. Several Board members expressed similar concerns and suggested inviting the local Ministers to attend. There was also a concern that they would come here and present the same generalized information that went to the CPC last summer -that was of little value. There were comments about our region having the highest per capita policing costs. It was also stated that many believe that our high policing costs were in part because of the extra expenses incurred for the policing our islands and because of the loss of court houses which takes police away to Saint John at a great additional cost. In the end the group agree that a letter should be sent to the MLAs for our region, outlining the increasing concerns about the quickly rising cost of policing, the delayed presentations to our Board on the specifics of this, and so on. The ask to them would be for them to attend the March Board meeting where they could hear both the concerns expressed on behalf of the citizens of our region and to hear the answers being given by DPS. The group felt that this would be a good approach to help educate the politicians to this issue and ensure that the DPS provide specific information which is what is being asked for.

17-07 It was moved by G. Christie, seconded by W. Greenlaw that staff draft a letter requesting of appeal and support to the three local MLAs asking them to attend the March Board Meeting where the Department of Public Safety is scheduled to attend and do a presentation and answer specific questions on how the policing costs are established. CARRIED.

It was the consensus of the Board that there was no need to wait until the next Board meeting to approve this letter. It would simply be circulated to the Board for suggested changes and approval, then be signed and sent.

Adjournment

It was moved by T. James that the meeting adjourn (at approx. 8:05 p.m.)