

SOUTHWEST NEW BRUNSWICK SERVICE COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING

6:00 P.M., Thursday, September 28, 2017
Administration Building, Hemlock Knoll, Lawrence Station, NB

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Upon the chair checking, there were no members of the Board participating via the conference calling system.

STAFF

Frank Tenhave, Executive Director, SNBSC
Claudette MacLean, SNBSC
Mark Porter, Financial Officer, SNBSC
Dan Harrington, Director of Solid Waste/Planning

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were two members of the public in attendance.

Presenters:

Diane Spenser, NB Power
Myles Copp, NB Power

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 plus one Alternate 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 presenters and thanked members of the public for attending.

Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Chair asked all members to declare any conflicts of interest that they may be in. No conflicts were declared.

Adoption of Agenda

The chair asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting that was projected on the screen, and circulated to all members in the emailed board members packages.

17-53 It was moved by W. Gamblin, seconded by J. Tubbs that the agenda be accepted as presented. CARRIED.

Public Presentation re; NB Power's Energy Assistance Program for Homeowners

The chair then introduced the presenters to the Board, Diane Spencer and Myles Copp, and asked them to take the floor. Diane was the primary presenter and she provided a detailed overview of the Home Insulation program and the SMART Home program. She explained how the Home Insulation program works and what it takes to apply for this program. She also detailed what the energy advisor will evaluate and the type of recommendations they make to homeowners. These programs have a short turnaround time thus homeowners can receive their financial assistance quite quickly. The amount of savings a homeowner can expect varies but in general there is a fairly rapid pay-back on the net cost to the homeowner (after the financial assistance is included in the calculation).

There were a number of questions which were asked and answered by the two presenters.

Adoption of Minutes

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

17-54 It was moved by A. Townes, seconded by H. Hatt that the minutes of the August 24, 2017 Regular Board meeting is approved as circulated. CARRIED.

Business Arising from the Previous Meetings

Review of Existing Policy regarding SNBSC Charitable Contributions

The next agenda item was reviewing the financial contributions requests that are made to the board by various groups looking for support. The Chair, explained when the last discussion on this subject was held and thus why it was back on the agenda today. There was much

discussion of this issue but in the end the consensus of the Board was that Motion 13-44 had expired and the expected revisiting of the policy in year two did not happen. Given the sensitivities to this issue and with requests coming in, it was suggested that this issue would best be handled by a committee of the Board.

17-55 It was moved by T. James, seconded by D. Naish that the policy regarding financial contribution from the Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission for outside agencies be forwarded to the Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee which would bring a recommendation back to the board. CARRIED

Hospital Foundation Requests for Contribution

The Chair than moved on to the next agenda item which was the request from the Charlotte County Hospital Foundation for a financial contribution to a study it was undertaking. She asked Allen MacEachern to speak on this agenda item. He explained what the Charlotte County Hospital Foundation was looking for, who has contributed and how much is still need. He indicated that he believed that this research was for the benefit of the whole county, not just the Charlotte County Hospital. Further it was his understanding that this plan would address the services concerns, based on facts and verifiable data, and through this there would be a list of services currently being done outside of our region which should be provided within the region. The presentation was debated at length with other Board members disagreeing with the premise that the study would benefit the entire county and that it was unlikely to be of assistance in improving health care within parts of our region like Eastern Charlotte and our portion of York county.

17-56 It was moved by T. James, seconded by D. Naish that this topic be moved to next month meeting with Allen MacEachern to bring more clarity for the ask or bring a presenter. CARRIED.

New Business

No new Business

Committee and Staff Reports:

Ad-Hoc Recycling Review Committee Report

The chair then moved to the next agenda item and asked Wade Greenlaw to give this report. Wade read the report that was circulated to each member and projected on the screen. The committee has narrowed the discussion at this point to three options for the collection of recyclable material, and to two options for the sorting/processing of the recyclable material. Staff has done extensive work on the financial impacts of each of these options. With the announcement coming from the government re; financial assistance, he indicated that this may influence which way the Board proceeds with whichever of the 3 options proves to be the final choice.

EMO Planning Partnership Com. Report

The chair then moved to the next agenda item and asked Carla Brown to give this report. Carla read the report that was circulated to each member and projected on the screen. The committee

discussed many topics; the EMO flyer initiative, the NB Power tree trimming program and where it is to date, and the near tragedy in Maces Bay. She indicated that this committee is pursuing more information about progress on tree trimming, especially in parts of our region that were the longest without power during the last major outage (no trimming in that area yet). Because of the recent storm on the Acadian Peninsula and the great damage there, the government is enhancing the emergency communications systems there and in other parts of the province. Little change is expected here as our region has a good communication system already. There was mention of a dead rabid animal found in a shed in Milltown, but the area was baited and the public should be more vigilant in keeping their children and pets away from wild animals, especially if they are acting strangely.

HR Committee Report

The chair then moved to the next agenda item and asked Wade Greenlaw to give this report. Wade read the report that was circulated to each member and projected on the screen. This committee has reviewed its current employment agreement with Mark Porter and is moving toward changing it back to a service contract agreement with the SNBSC. Another item that the committee dealt with was the employee retirement savings structure which was revised, as indicated at a previous meeting, within the HR Manual. He went on to indicate that this committee has now completed its revisions to the HR Manual, that as per the suggestion of the Board at the last meeting, it had been reviewed by our corporate lawyer, Andre Daigle, who saw no issues of concern within it. Given that, as promised at the last Board meeting, he brought forward the following motion;

17-57 It was moved by W. Greenlaw, seconded by T. James that the Board approve the newly revised HR Manual become the official HR Manual of this commission, effective September 29, 2017. CARRIED

Another item of discussion was the partnership between McAdam and Harvey with a private sector building inspector. The HR committee felt this was a good template for the SNBSC, should the commission gain business that it could not service entirely with its own current staff. This possibility would be taken to the Planning Management Committee meeting which is responsible for such planning related items.

He summarized this committee's work with its contracted HR consultant, Erik Machett, on an HR Study focused on the succession planning and organizational structure. The final report has just been delivered to the committee thus the committee has not had time to do an in-depth review of it. Given that, it could not provide any report on this item at this time.

Community Policing Com Report

The chair then moved to the next agenda item and asked Carla Brown to give this report. Carla read the report that was circulated to each member and projected on the screen. She also provided some general statistics to the Board for several unidentified locations within the region. She indicated that the CPC committee discussed the speed sign and the budget it to maintain this speed sign in the budget. Coming out of that, she made the following motion;

17-58 It was moved by C. Brown, seconded by D. Blair that the board approve an additional \$1500.00 for the 2018 SNSBC budget for the Community Policing Committee for the maintenance and data collection software that the speed sign requires. CARRIED.

Another major topic of discussion was the legalization of Marijuana. The committee felt that the policing system did not have all of the necessary resources in place to deal effectively with the legalization of marijuana. Further, it was felt that since it is the Federal government is pushing this legalization forward then the Federal government should be paying for all cost associated with the additional policing – related costs emanating from the legalization of marijuana.

17-59 It was moved by C. Brown, seconded by D. Blair that the commission send a letter to the Prime Minister, Premier, and other appropriate Federal and Provincial ministers, expressing our concern about the lack of preparedness on the local level for the legalization of marijuana. Further it would ask the Federal government to move quickly fund the additional resources (both human and technical) that policing organizations across the country will need to have in place when marijuana is legalized. This includes development and roll-out of a reliable marijuana-impairment testing system prior to legalization. Since this is a Federal initiative, which the Provinces have had very little say in, it is only fair that such additional costs be borne by the Federal government which is creating them. If the Federal government is not able to fulfill this request in a timely fashion, we would ask that legalization be delayed until such time as the Federal government is able to do so. CARRIED. C. Cooke Voted NAY.

Regular Financial Report

The Chair then asked Mark Porter to give a brief outline of the monthly financial reports, which had been circulated prior to this meeting and are displayed on the screen. Mark provided his usual report indicating that all was tracked closely to the budget with the usual seasonal variations on tonnage and other activities taking place as they normally do. Statistics for the year to date are tracking just slightly ahead of last year.

Executive Directors Report

Executive Director Frank Tenhave gave a brief overview of his report that was projected on the screen. The revised MOU with Opportunities New Brunswick, which is attached to this report, was briefly discussed. He indicated that there has been some meetings held regarding the Greater Harvey Rural Community project (a flyer of this project was attached to this report) and the project was showing positive momentum at this time. It is expected that enough support would be found to proceed to the next step (feasibility study). He indicated that the SNB Transit Authority had launched the bus service on September 25. In addition, the first meeting of the provincial government's Transportation Advisory Committee was just held. This committee is tasked with measuring key metrics of the service in order to capture the ridership data, usage, etc. and, more importantly, the various cost savings to various government departments as a result of this service being in place.

Report on Collaborative Activity

Recreation Planning Committee Report

The chair then moved to the next agenda item and asked Doug Rowlands, Chair of the Recreation Planning Committee to take the floor. Doug referred all to the Recreation Planning Committee Report that all had received prior to the meeting and to the report showing up on the screen. In summary the key points were that the approval of the funding for the Coastal Trail Study project was discussed (and it has been officially approved). Given that, the RFP for this work has been sent out. Once the winning proposal has been selected the work will begin quickly. The work on the Regional Recreation Masterplan is proceeding as expected (loosely following the timelines in the proposal and RFP).

Date, Time and Location of Next Board Meeting:

The topic of where to hold the next Board meeting was then put before the Board by the chair, given that there had been previous discussions of other possible locations (besides Hemlock Knoll), and the Mayor of St. Andrew's, Doug Naish, offered to host the next meeting so it will be held;

6:00 PM Thursday, October 26, 2017 in the Meeting Room at the W. C. O'Neill Arena, in St. Andrews, N.B.

Question & Answer Period with Public in Attendance

There were no questions from the public or the press.

Adjournment

It was moved by W. Greenlaw that the meeting adjourn (at approx. 7:32 p.m.)