

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR  
MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH  
COUNCIL OF ST. THOMAS HELD ON  
MARCH 10, 2016**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council of St. Thomas was held in the Council's Meeting Room on Thursday, March 10, 2016, commencing at 10:20 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE COMMENCEMENT**

Councillor L. Mathison, Chairman Parish Council and Mayor of Morant Bay  
Councillor E. Marr, Vice Chairman Parish Council and Deputy Mayor of Morant Bay  
Councillor J. Spencer  
Councillor L. Rawle  
Councillor M. McLeod

**MEMBERS WHO ENTERED DURING THE PROCEEDINGS**

Councillor H. Williams  
Councillor V. Hutchinson  
Councillor R. Bryan  
Councillor C. Bogle

**Officers in attendance were:**

Mr. E. Greene J.P., Secretary/Manager and Clerk to the Committee  
Mr. J. Robinson, Director of Planning  
Ms. T. Thomas, Budget and Revenue Officer  
Mrs. J. James, Inspector of Poor  
Mrs. Tamika Small-Broderick, Internal Auditor  
Mr. H. Jackson, Superintendent of Roads and Works  
Ms. I. Vickers, Matron (Actg.), Infirmary  
Ms. M. Medley, Parish Co-ordinator Disaster Preparedness  
Dr. D. Jackson, Assistant Medical Officer of Health  
Mr. L. Allen, Customer Service and Field Service Manager, Jamaica Public Service Company Limited (JPS)  
Mr. D. Forrester, J.P., Extension Officer, RADA  
Mrs. B. Lawson-Kildare, Zonal Monitor, NSWMA  
Mrs. R. Dehaney, Chief Public Health Inspector (Actg.)  
Mr. Paul Griffith, Project Manager, LSDPU  
Ms. C. Sewell, Office Manager, LSDPU

**Notice convening the meeting** 1. The Notice convening the meeting was read by the Mr. Errol Greene J.P., Secretary/Manager.

**Devotion** 2. Mr. Errol Greene, Secretary/Manager prayed.

**Apology for absence** 3. Apologies for absence was tendered on behalf of the following persons:

1. Ms. Grace Dean, Ministry of Labour and Social Security
2. Mrs. Lorian Peart-Roberts, Parish Manager, Social Development Commission (SDC)
3. Dr. D'Oyen Smith, Senior Medical Officer of Health
4. Rev. Leasen Burnett, Chaplain of the Council

- Correction of the minutes** 4. Nil
- Confirmation of the minutes** 5. The minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the St. Thomas Parish Council held on February 11, 2016, having been circulated were confirmed on the motion of Councillor Rawle and seconded by Councillor Spencer.
- Matters arising** 6. Nil
- Chairman's Announcement** 7. **Town Hall Meeting in Dalvey – Parish Preparedness for Zika Virus**

His Worship the Mayor and Chairman of the St. Thomas Parish Council informed the Council that a town hall meeting in relation to the parish preparedness for the Zika-Virus will be held in Dalvey at the Duckensfield Primary School on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

He noted that it would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> town hall meeting of a series to be held across the parish.

Following the Mayor's announcement, Councillor McLeod, representative for the Dalvey Division asked that the information regarding the town hall meeting be announced at least two (2) days via town crier within the communities of Dalvey.

Mayor Mathison also asked Councillor McLeod to assist with the mobilization of the citizens in that area.

**Reports from External Agencies**

8. **National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA)**

No report was tabled for the month of February 2016.

Councillor Marr extended welcome to Mrs. Kildare who was on leave. He also voiced his concern about the pile up of garbage within communities across the parish, due to non-collection.

He expressed concern that the Council was not advised about who would actually carry out the duties of the Zonal Monitor for the parish during the absence of Mrs. Kildare.

Other Councillors shared the same sentiment as Councillor Marr and asked Mrs. Kildare what had caused the breakdown in garbage collection during her absence.

In response, Mrs. Kildare said that she could not give a definitive reason; however, she reported that she was made aware that there was a problem with the compactor for the Yallahs area for about 8-10 days.

The Secretary/Manager spoke on the matter by saying that there ought to be a mechanism whereby information can be communicated to the Council by an officer at the NSWMA. He said further that the Mayor should have been told of the challenges being faced by the NSWMA, so that the message could have been communicated to the citizens by the Councillors for the respective divisions.

Councillor McLeod specifically requested the removal of cane droppings on the roadways within the communities of Dalvey and Bath. He asked that Mrs. Kildare have dialogue with Mr. Jones at Seprod concerning the longstanding issue.

Mrs. Kildare was asked to see to the collection of garbage in areas such as Harbour Head main road in Port Morant, Heartease, Gutter Head, Newland, Aelous Valley, Lloyds, Port Morant and Swamp.

### **Ministry of Labour and Social Security - Report for February 2016**

The following report was tabled for the month of February 2016.

#### **Public Assistance Department**

<b>Type of Grant</b>	<b>East (Application processed)</b>	<b>West (Application processed)</b>	<b>East (Amount of grants received)</b>	<b>West (Amount of grants received)</b>	<b>*Amount Received</b>
Rehabilitation	4	5	18	11	557,950.00
Compassionate	6	5	9	5	465,000.00
Emergency	1	0	0	0	Nil
Education and Social Intervention	1	0	0	0	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1,022,950.00</b>

#### **PATH**

The Ministry continues to promote alternative payment options for PATH beneficiaries who are neither elderly nor disabled. Beneficiaries are given the option of selecting from three payment agencies; NCB Keycard, Paymaster or Bill Express.

#### **Public Education**

The Ministry continues its drive to sensitize the public on the various services and programmes offered through the various departments.

#### **Steps to Work**

We are now taking applications for the Steps to Work Programme for Educational and Entrepreneurial Grants. Persons have to be registered in a PATH household to be eligible to apply. The following documents are required:

- ID, TRN & NIS card
- Recent passport size photograph
- Proforma invoice for the items to be purchased (**Must include Business TRN**)
- Proof of legal access to property on which the business will be conducted (**Property title, lease agreement or rent receipt, letter of permission from property owner signed by JP**)
- Copies of licenses required (**Food handlers etc.**)
- Birth certificate
- Written business plan

**Transitional Grants**

Intake period for Transitional Grant Applications is now open effective **January 04, 2016 to March 31, 2016** for the 2015/2016 Academic Year. Applicants must submit their acceptance letter from an educational institutional registered with Ministry of Education along with their TRN and ID and TRN of the PATH family representative. Applicants must have received at least one PATH benefit before graduating from Secondary School.

**Education & Entrepreneurship Grants Programme**

Applicants are invited to apply for Entrepreneurial and Educational Assistance through the Social Intervention Project – Educational and Entrepreneurial Grant. Applicants must be between 17-35 years old and are deemed to be “at risk” or unemployed. Basic requirements needed are: **Identification Document (National ID, Passport, Drivers Licence), letters of recommendation, certified passport size picture and birth certificate.** Persons are invited to visit the local office for further information regarding additional documents.

**On the Job Training**

Participants are to be trained by the Labour Department for three (03) additional days regarding labour laws and other issues before placement. Training to be commenced on March 16-18, 2016.

**National Insurance Department****Funeral Grant**

The number of Funeral Grant Applications received is Seventeen (17).

The number of Cheques paid out is nineteen (19) totaling One Million, Five Hundred and Eighteen Thousand and Two Hundred Dollars (\$1,518,200.00).

**National Insurance/Business Registration**

The number of National Insurance Registration is 81.

Employed	-	72
Self-employed	-	9
Domestic	-	Nil

The number of Business Registration - Nil

The number of business closed Nil

**Claims**

The number of applications received and processed is 25.

Old Age	-	14
Widows/Widower	-	5
Invalidity	-	4
Spouse Allowance	-	2

**National Insurance Claims**

All new claimants **MUST** submit their banking information as all benefits will be sent to their bank account. Please note that the banking information being requested are National Commercial Bank and Bank of Nova Scotia.

Effective January 2016, all existing pensioners are required to submit their banking information to ensure benefits are sent to their accounts. Pensioners who do not submit their banking information as of December 31, 2015 will be paid a cheque once per month.

**Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP)**

The amount of Applications received	-	8
The amount of Placements	-	8

The Ministry is still in the process of seeking employment for applicants and continues to accept applications from persons 18-35 years of age.

**Labour Department**

**Farmworkers**

The amount of persons called for Medical	-	48
The amount of persons called for Flight	-	0

**Labour Market Information System**

The amount of Registration	-	05
The amount of Placements	-	Nil

**Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) – Report for February 2016**

The following report was tabled for the month of February 2016.

“Despite the many challenges that the parish had encountered over the past years, (the prolonged drought, numerous incidents of bushfires), the parish stood out like a beacon during the RADA’S 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Presentation and Awards Ceremony held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston December 2015.

RADA St. Thomas received the most coveted awards; National Extension Officer of the year, awarded to Dwight Forrester Cedar Valley Extension Area and Land Husbandry Officer of the year, awarded to Lennox Bartlett the parish Land Husbandry Officer; the parish see these awards as very significant as there are 84 Extension Officers that cover the island and six Land Husbandry Officers. The Parish Agricultural Manager, Lennox Hemans, Senior Accounts Technician Deloris Osbourne and Agricultural Assistant Dalgo Bennett, received awards for over 25 years of service to the organization.

**Hope River/Yallahs River watershed**

“The Parish was host to a three days workshop at the whispering Bamboo Cove. All the project implementing partners sent representatives; the focus was on land husbandry Farmer Field School. The participants were taken through the various techniques at sites in Content where land husbandry structures were demonstrated and the ballasting of a waterway with stones in Richmond Vale.

Forty two persons participated in the workshop. The project will start in field implementation at Windsor Castle (Gutter Head) and the Hagley Gap areas respectively.

The GIZ project for the Hagley Gap area has now received approval, the Senior Land husbandry specialist from RADA is slated to meet with representative of the community to look at prospective proposals.

### **Trinityville Area Integrated and Management and Disaster Risk Reduction Project.**

1. Complete classroom training for 267 farmers
2. 60% of target farmers complete field training
3. 3850 pineapple suckers established in five communities (Trinityville, Bailey's Piece, Jones Pen, Mt. Vernon and, Mt Lebanon.
4. 825 Fruit tree seedling distributed to farmers in four districts (Mt. Vernon, Mt. Lebanon, Jones Pen and Bailey's Piece).
5. 355 timber plants distributed in three districts
6. The <sup>1st</sup> public awareness fair will be held on March <sup>18th</sup> at the Robert Lightbourne High School grounds.
7. Request for expansion of interest is on the way for the rehabilitation of the Danvers Pen Community.
8. Consultant for the formulation stage (drawings) of the drainage infrastructure for Mt. Lebanon is selected and awaiting sign-off on financial & technical proposal.

### **Spring Garden Small Irrigation Project**

The irrigation system that is implemented in the Spring Garden area where a water catchment was rehabilitated and pipes laid to 25 farmers plots to improve their ability to mitigate against drought.

Seventeen (17) of these twenty-five (25) farmers received ¼ acre irrigation kits plus 1000 gal plastic water tank. Of the seventeen farmers that received, five is now connected to the irrigation system and three have established ¼ acre irish potato plots. This project is funded by JAREach USAID and the GOJ Adaptation Fund Programme.

### **Bushfires Rehabilitation**

The parish has received 1200 (25kg) bags of fertilizer (11-22-22 and 15-30-15) to assist affected farmers on the phase two of this programme. These will be distributed to farmers in Hagley Gap, Minto, Kerrick Hill, Epping Farm, Monkland, Ness Castle, Penlyne Castle, Ramble and Llandewey areas respectively.

Five thousand (5000) coffee seedling was distributed to 23 farmers in Cedar valley, Grove, Richmond Gap, Mango Row, Nunk, and Monkland Hill.

Five thousand four (5,400) banana and plantain suckers was also received to be established for those that was lost by coffee farmers. Approximately 550 banana and plantain suckers were distributed through the parish; this banana variety was introduced because of the large bunch (18-20 hands) it produces and its ability to withstand strong wind.

#### **Irish Potato Expansion**

Planting material was received from the GOJ Adaptation Programme, from this 1.9 ha was established.

#### **Farm Road Rehabilitation**

The farm road rehabilitation work that has started from Tarris to Spring Bank is ongoing. Work includes grading and retaining walls construction.

#### **ABIS**

Farmer registration/verification, ID processing and distribution continues, upon verification the farmers are required to pay \$350 for the processing of the ID. Over 12,235 farmers are registered in the parish presently.

#### **Agro Park Yallahs and Plantain Garden**

9.4ha of onion established to date with over 30 farmers. The sweet potato demonstration plot that was established with the Beauregard variety was harvested; this variety when peeled has a very unique orange color and has to be placed in storage for about five days to enhance its sucrose content.

#### **Planting Garden Agro Park**

10 hectares of vegetables is currently growing; cucumber, water melon and pumpkin. Land preparation for fall planting of onion, was affected by the inclement weather condition that prevailed during the month of November and December. As such only 2 ha was established; however land preparation is being done for the spring planting season. 2ha of irish potato was planted; this planting material was made available by a marketer who does business with farmers on the park.

#### **RADA Open Day / St Thomas Parish Expo**

This event will be held on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> of June at the Rudolph Elder Park Morant Bay. This event will showcase the parish's agriculture and other important sectors. The Parish Management is seeking the support of the St. Thomas Parish Council and all the agencies represented to promote and support this annual event."

Following the report, Councillor Marr enquired of Mr. Forrester about the progress of the rehabilitation of farm roads following a tour that was held with the European Union and officers at RADA at Johnson Mountain in Bath. He said that a pledge was made to rehabilitate the Subhana road.

In response, Mr. Forrester said that he could not give an update as to plans in place for rehabilitation of Subhana road; however, he reported that work had commenced on the road from Tavis to Johnson Mountain.

**Jamaica Public Service Company Limited (JPS)  
Report for February 2016**

***Street lighting***

For the month of February 2016 we were able to repair two hundred and one (201) streetlights across the parish, please see detailed listing attached.

***Reliability Improvement Projects***

We have embarked on a number of initiatives aimed at improving our service delivery in the parish.

- ***Hampton Court to New Pera*** - We have re-conductor 10 spans of primary line using covered conductors ; changed fourteen (14) poles; treated seven (7) poles, 8 km of bushing was done; carried out lightening mitigation.
- We have carried out vegetation management from Roundabout to Danvers Pen and all T-Offs except Soho.

LOCATIONS		POLE #	DATE REPAIRED
Stokes Hall New H/S		Pearl Ave.	7.2.16
Stokes Hall New H/S		Pearl Ave.	7.2.16
Stokes Hall New H/S		Pearl Ave.	7.2.16
Stokes Hall New H/S		Yaba Cane ave.	7.2.16
Stokes Hall New H/S		Robin Cane ave.	7.2.16
Stokes Hall New H/S		200244	7.2.16
Stokes Hall New H/S		White Cane ave.	7.2.16
Stokes Hall New H/S		White Cane ave.	7.2.16
Stokes Hall New H/S		590123	7.2.16
Stokes Hall New H/S		590124	7.2.16
Stokes Hall New H/S		no #	7.2.16
Stokes Hall New H/S		no #	7.2.16
Stokes Hall New H/S		no #	7.2.16
Stokes Hall New H/S		no #	7.2.16
Stokes Hall New H/S		no #	7.2.16
Stokes Hall New H/S		no #	7.2.16
Stokes Hall New H/S		221444	7.2.16
Orange Walk		590298	7.2.16
Bustamante ave.		193919	7.2.16
Bustamante ave.		193924	7.2.16
Duckensfield main rd.		938853	7.2.16
Duckensfield main rd.		194430	7.2.16
Davis ave.		475043	7.2.16
Davis ave.		475462	7.2.16
Davis ave.		591380	7.2.16
Davis ave.		475375	7.2.16

Davis ave.		591363	7.2.16
Davis ave.		475357	7.2.16
Davis ave.		475370	7.2.16
Davis ave.		475361	7.2.16
Davis ave.		475439	7.2.16
Duckensfield H/S		475115	7.2.16
Duckensfield H/S,pole before pole # 475115		no #	7.2.16
Duckensfield H/S		475047	7.2.16
Duckensfield H/S		516674	7.2.16
Duckensfield H/S		475063	7.2.16
Duckensfield H/S		475215	7.2.16
Duckensfield H/S		475094	7.2.16
Yallahs Newlands H/S		049322	6.2.16
Yallahs Newlands H/S		no #	6.2.16
Yallahs Newlands H/S		049456	6.2.16
Yallahs Newlands H/S		198739	6.2.16
Yallahs Newlands H/S		049319	6.2.16
Yallahs Newlands H/S		049461	6.2.16
Yallahs Newlands		049247	6.2.16
Yallahs Newlands		049358	6.2.16
Yallahs Newlands		no #	6.2.16
Yallahs Newlands		049368	6.2.16
Yallahs Newlands		049333	6.2.16
Yallahs Newlands		049329	6.2.16
Yallahs Catholic Lane		049335	6.2.16
Yallahs Catholic Lane		415800	6.2.16
Yallahs Catholic Lane		no #	6.2.16
Yallahs Catholic Lane		412684	6.2.16
Yallahs Catholic Lane		049158	6.2.16
Yallahs Catholic Lane		049157	6.2.16
Yallahs Catholic Lane		no #	6.2.16
Lysson Rd.		113113	13.2.16
Hampton Court Dist.		194325	13.2.16
Hampton Court Dist.		194459	13.2.16
Duckensfield		475451	13.2.16
Bamboo Corner		475120	13.2.16
Bamboo Corner		523907	13.2.16
Bamboo Corner		591359	13.2.16
Genash Corner		475497	13.2.16
Genash Corner		475119	13.2.16
Genash Corner		475503	13.2.16
Genash Corner		475502	13.2.16
Genash Corner		475489	13.2.16
Dalvey Hill top		475494	13.2.16
Dalvey Hill top		475153	13.2.16
Dalvey Water Lane		556208	13.2.16
Dalvey Water Lane		475175	13.2.16
Dalvey Water Lane		200431	13.2.16
Dalvey		198741	13.2.16
Cotage Lane		200058	13.2.16
Dalvey		591368	13.2.16
Top House Dalvey		475211	13.2.16
Top House Dalvey		475188	13.2.16
Top House Dalvey		523832	13.2.16

Top House Dalvey		475214	13.2.16
Top House Dalvey		475320	13.2.16
Top House Dalvey		475355	13.2.16
Top House Dalvey		571488	13.2.16
Top House Dalvey		475176	13.2.16
Top House Dalvey		475159	13.2.16
Top House Dalvey		475143	13.2.16
Top House Dalvey		475482	13.2.16
Nutts River Dist.		156318	14.2.16
Nutts River Dist.		153309	14.2.16
Nutts River Dist.pole at entrance to ball ground		no #	14.2.16
Nutts River Dist.infront Mr.Black gate.		no #	14.2.16
Stokes Hall in front Sports complex		193944	14.2.16
Holland Town		475054	14.2.16
Holland Town		475205	14.2.16
Holland Town		475147	14.2.16
Holland Town at Suzette gate		no #	14.2.16
Holland Town		200391	14.2.16
Holland Town pole before pole #		200391	14.2.16
Holland Town		575137	14.2.16
Holland Town		475224	14.2.16
Holland Town before pole # 475224		475224	14.2.16
Holland Town		200004	14.2.16
Holland Town		475432	14.2.16
Spring Side		no #	14.2.16
Spring Side		200039	14.2.16
Spring Side		475131	14.2.16
Spring Side		95971	14.2.16
Morant Bay Round About in front Petcom gas station		no #	14.2.16
Morant Bay Church corner first pole in Salt Lane		no #	14.2.16
8 Lysson Rd. first pole in lane.		no #	14.2.16
Hampton Court Dist.		194352	19.2.16
Hampton Court Dist.		475189	19.2.16
Hampton Court Dist.		475116	19.2.16
Hampton Court Dist.		194419	19.2.16
Hampton Court Dist.		194042	19.2.16
Hampton Court Dist.		200288	19.2.16
Hampton Court Dist. In front Cirac night club		no #	19.2.16
Hampton Court Dist.		194112	19.2.16
Hampton Court Dist.		475336	19.2.16
Hampton Court Dist.		475139	19.2.16
Dalvey Sykes Lane		576514	19.2.16
Dalvey Sykes Lane		571426	19.2.16
Dalvey Sykes Lane		475236	19.2.16
Dalvey Spring side		475468	19.2.16
Dalvey Spring side		523757	19.2.16
Dalvey Spring side		516578	19.2.16
Dalvey Spring side		576510	19.2.16

Hampton Court Dist.		no #	19.2.16
Dalvey Cheswick Brown man Hill		565112	20.2.16
Port Morant		198959	20.2.16
Leith Hall		176168	20.2.16
Rocky Point		176069	20.2.16
Rocky Point		556225	20.2.16
Barking Lodge		no #	20.2.16
Barking Lodge		184925	20.2.16
Barking Lodge		587958	20.2.16
Prospect H/S		152861	20.2.16
Prospect H/S		523778	20.2.16
Prospect H/S		152918	20.2.16
Hampton Court Dist.		591308	20.2.16
Morgan lane		198743	20.2.16
Morgan lane		565111	20.2.16
Morgan lane		475210	20.2.16
Morgan lane		198795	20.2.16
Morgan lane		198795	20.2.16
Morgan lane		475262	20.2.16
Morgan lane		475264	20.2.16
Cheswick		194104	20.2.16
Cheswick		no #	20.2.16
Cheswick		194376	20.2.16
Cheswick		194030	20.2.16
Cheswick		no #	20.2.16
Cheswick		475285	20.2.16
Cheswick		475285	20.2.16
Cheswick		475278	20.2.16
Cheswick		200243	20.2.16
Harbour Head Rd. Port Morant		176495	20.2.16
Harbour Head Rd. Port Morant		176465	20.2.16
Winchester		475081	20.2.16
Winchester		no #	20.2.16
Winchester		no #	20.2.16
Winchester		506552	20.2.16
Winchester		no #	20.2.16
Winchester		194444	20.2.16
Winchester		194214	20.2.16
Jarrett Lane		no #	20.2.16
Jarrett Lane		no #	20.2.16
Stokes Hall		184135	20.2.16
Stokes Hall		184084	20.2.16
Stokes Hall		no #	20.2.16
Stokes Hall		184995	20.2.16
Hampton Court		200355	20.2.16
Rocky Point		599032	20.2.16
Rocky Point		200195	20.2.16
Poormans Corner		056630	28.2.16
Poormans Corner		550955	28.2.16
Poormans Corner		026034	28.2.16
Yallahs H/S Phase 1		056343	28.2.16
Yallahs H/S Phase 2		054296	28.2.16
Yallahs H/S Phase 2		053605	28.2.16

Yallahs H/S Phase 2		053721	28.2.16
Yallahs H/S Phase 2		056440	28.2.16
Pearl Lane		056845	28.2.16
Pearl Lane		056838	28.2.16
Albion Bogle Ave.		054505	28.2.16
Albion Barrant Dr.		056372	28.2.16
Albion Cage Rd.		056410	28.2.16
Albion ST.Thomas Dr.		056348	28.2.16
Albion Mahoe Dr.		077575	28.2.16
Albion Forest ave.		053443	28.2.16
Albion Evergreen Way		077727	28.2.16
Albion Palmave.		no #	28.2.16
Albion Fern Ave.		056330	28.2.16
Albion Parish ave.		055637	28.2.16
Albion Main Rd.		028442	28.2.16
Albion Miramar		153509	28.2.16
Albion Miramar		153292	28.2.16
Morant Bay Hope Rd.		no #	28.2.16
Morant Bay Hope Rd.		065380	28.2.16
Morant Bay Hope Rd.		065086	28.2.16
Prospect Duppy River		198670	28.2.16

Following the report, some Councillors raised concerns about the amount of street lights that were repaired in one division, whilst in other areas there was none.

The Deputy Mayor said that there were over one hundred (100) street lights repaired in the Dalvey Division and stated that the document submitted by JPS did not represent equity.

Councillor Williams mentioned that he could not locate in the report any area within his division where street light repair was done.

Councillor Bogle in support of what Councillors Williams and Marr said, remarked that the Jamaica Public Service (JPS) report was a political document, as there was preferential treatment in some areas.

In response to the concerns raised, Mr. Allen said that the concerns of the Councillors were noted; however, he indicated that the JPS did not align itself to any political party; neither did it single out any one area for street light repairs.

Councillor McLeod spoke on the matter by saying that some of the street lights on the JPS report, such as those at the new scheme in Stokes Hall were reported by the Member of Parliament for Eastern St. Thomas.

Councillor McLeod also said that whenever persons within his community visited the JPS office to report street light they are directed to the Parish Council.

In light of the aforementioned, Mr. Allen said that such directive ought not to happen and promised that he would address the issue.

Some areas mentioned for repairs of street lights were:

- Spring Bank – Bath Division
- Stokes Hall – Down Hill
- Pleasant Hill – Substation
- White Horses Division
- Winchester Crossroad

### **Fire Department Report – February 2016**

“During the month of February the Fire Department received and responded a total of forty nine (49) calls. Responses were made using two (2) functional fire units, the # 5- 98 and the #5-94 units, which are assigned to the St. Thomas Division.

The operational activities revolve around the management of extinguishing seven (7) dwelling house fires, twenty eight (28) bush fires, two (2) commercial complexes, two (2) motor vehicle fires and two (2) dump fires. These operations were efficiently executed as the Brigades intervention prevented the escalation of these incidents.

#### **Summary of calls received**

Total calls received and responded to	49
Genuine fire calls	44
Malicious false alarm	03
Calls for special service	02

#### **Significant among these calls are:**

Dwellings	07
Bush fires& Rubbish	28
Canefield Fire	01
Motor Vehicle	02
Dump Fires	02
Utility Poles	03
Commercial Buildings	02

Investigations done into the cause of these fires revealed that these fires were mainly started as a result of the careless use of fire.

There was no fire related death of any civilian or fire personnel. However, one male adult suffered from superficial burns. Based on information received, he was treated and had recovered. Nine (09) civilians to include seven (07) adults and two (02) children were left homeless.

#### **Summary of risk & loss resulting from incidents**

The associated risk, the loss and property saved as a result of the reported incidents are listed as follows:

Property at risk for the period is estimated at \$569,514,000.00.

Property loss for the period is estimated at \$6,056,000.00.

Property saved for the period is estimated at \$563,458,000.00.

**Other activities conducted during February, 2016.**

For the month under review the Operational Staff undertook fifty seven (57) hours of training, to include classroom sessions and practical out door exercises, so as to keep the competence levels, of fire personnel up and improving. During these sessions emphasis was placed on topics such as, search & rescue procedures, motor vehicle accidents, earthquake awareness, fire ground operations among other topics.

The Fire Prevention and Public Relations Section continue the public educational process as it is our desire to incite public interactions, consistently.

**The listed activities were conducted during the Month in review.**

Building Inspections	08
Building Certification	04
Building Plans Approved	01
Sub Divisions Inspected	03
Sub Divisions Approved	02
Hydrant Inspections/ Hydrant Cleaning	06
Hydrant Repaired	00
Hydrant Installation	00
Fire Drills Conducted	05
Lectures at schools and public entities	32
Community Fire Safety Meetings	01
Safety Monitors Training	00
Pamphlets issued	58
Exhibitions held	02
Tours of special risk areas	04
Public / Personal interactions	200
Fire investigation conducted	02

**Fire Hydrants**

The Brigade continues to conduct routine hydrant inspections and hydrant cleaning operations across the parish. Six (6) hydrants were inspected and cleaned during the month of December.

We are awaiting the start of the Brigade's 2016 hydrant rehabilitation programme where the parish is to have at least six (6) new installations this year.

**Infrastructure Challenges**

Operational activities were impacted by the poor conditions of the road network, and the long travel distances, especially when accessing some of the more remote communities in the parish. Water supply issues presented their fair share of challenges, as well. However, the Brigade stands ready to work with all stakeholders in finding workable solutions to these issues.

The Jamaica Fire Brigade, St. Thomas Division, take pleasure in serving the constituents of this great parish and we do look forward to continue playing our role in the process of "Saving Lives and Protecting Property".

**Council to sit as the  
Local Board of Health**

9. On the motion of Councillor Marr and seconded by Councillor Williams, the Council resolved itself into the Local Board of Health.

**Local Board of Health  
St. Thomas Health Department**

The following entails the highlights for Health for the month of **FEBRUARY 2016**:

**New Minister of Health**

There is a new Minister of Health, the Honourable Dr. Christopher Tufton, who was sworn in this week. The St Thomas Health Services looks forward to working with the new Minister as it continues to serve the people of St Thomas.

**Zika Virus**

There has been one confirmed case of Zika virus in Jamaica. The STHS continues its Zika virus mitigation activities with its integrated management inclusive of vector control activities, health promotion, clinical management and surveillance, among others. The STHD takes the opportunity to THANK the ST Thomas Parish Council for partnering with the STHD to ensure town hall meetings in Morant Bay and Yallahs thus far. The STHD looks forward to the next such town hall meeting in Dalvey on March 15, 2016.

A reminder to all is that there has been an increase in dengue cases in Jamaica which presents similar to the Zika virus. Fortunately, the aedes aegypti is the mosquito that transmits both viruses and so the vector control management of the Aedes aegypti remains priority. Of note, the same mosquito transmits the Chikungunya virus which has similar symptoms to the dengue and zika viruses.

*The opportunity is again taken to thank the St. Thomas Parish Council for enhancing the STHD's ability to adequately control the aedes aegypti by lending us pickups for the vector control programme.*

Forty five and fifty five gallon drums account for 70% of the aedes aegypti breeding in the parish. As such, drum covers can significantly reduce the aedes index and therefore risk to the population. The **drum cover project** is ongoing and the manufacturer has been at the town hall meetings displaying the mesh drum covers for sale. Request is again being made for the purchase of these covers by the councillors for those that live in their divisions as a means of protecting the populace as the risks of zika are microcephaly and GuillainBarresyndrome (weakness like polio) and the risk of dengue.

Partnerships with communities in cleanup activities have been ongoing.

**H1N1**

The Influenza season is the cooler times of the year most notably, November into February each year, where the influenza viruses circulate. Among the circulating viruses this year is Influenza H1N1. The symptom is like the typical flu but is more aggressive with four deaths recorded this year.

The virus is spread through the air by those that are infected and coughing or sneezing and through contact such as hugging and kissing and by viruses on surfaces such as door handles.

The public is being asked to ensure proper respiratory etiquette meaning you cough or sneeze into a tissue and dispose of same; frequent hand washing; stay home if you have flu like symptoms and seek medical care if you are in a high risk group: pregnant, elderly, very young ie under 5 years old, asthmatic, chronic illness like diabetes, obesity.

The STHS is doing triaging for Possible H1N1 infected individuals presenting to its facilities. Our isolation areas are ready for the management of cases so identified. There have been no positive cases in the parish thus far.

Our frontline staff is being vaccinated against the virus as they are the most likely ones to be exposed. Tamiflu is available in management of cases so identified.

**New Ambulance**

The parish received a new ambulance to assist with safe patient transfer.

**Refurbishing of the Princess Margaret Hospital Accident and Emergency Area**

The \$143 Million refurbishing of the PMH AnE with funding through the National Health Fund continues and is expected to be completed in one year's time. The accident and emergency patients continue to be seen at the Old Health Department.

**Morant Bay Health Centre Refurbishing**

Refurbishing of the facility is to be completed with the possibility of reopening for the end of March, 2016.

**Phase Two – IBCoE**

Phase two of the Isaac Barrant Centre of Excellence began this week and will entail refurbishing of Blocks D, E and F of the facility within which will lie the refurbished Family Health section among other diagnostic capabilities. Services at the facility will continue.

**Adjournment of the  
Local Board of Health**      10.

Councillor Williams moved seconded by Councillor McLeod for the adjournment of the Local Board of Health and the Council resumed its sitting as the Council.

**Questions**                      11.

Nil

**Notice of Motion**            **12.**            Councillor Hutchinson informed the Council of his intension to table three (3) Resolutions at the next sitting of Council in April 2016.

**Resolutions**                **13.**            Nil

**Correspondence**           **14 a.)**        Read letter dated January 2, 2016 from the Clarendon Parish Council regarding a Resolution that was passed by that Council on November 12, 2015: Same is tabled below:

“**WHEREAS** the major public cemeteries in Clarendon are either full to capacity or almost full;

**AND WHEREAS** most citizens in the rural areas of the parish persist with the practice of home burials in small family plots;

**AND WHEREAS**, the practice has over time given rise to a haphazard system of interment which has significant negative implications for the parish’s public health and water safety systems;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Parish Council is yet to identify suitable lands in sufficient quantity to meet the growing demand for burial space across the parish;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Council move immediately to commence dialogue with the relevant agencies – Ministry of Health, the National Environment and Planning Agency, the Water Resources Authority, the National Land Agency, the Commissioner of Lands and the various local churches to acquire lands to be reserved for a public cemetery;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Planning Department of the Clarendon Parish Council immediately identify suitable lands ahead of the commencement of those discussions;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the cemetery established by way of these discussions or any cemetery established subsequently use a tier burial system similar to that of the Dovecot Memorial Park and Crematorium in order to maximize the use of space;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be copied to ALL Parish Councils and the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation, the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development, the Ministry of Health, the Water Resources Authority, the National Environment and Planning Agency for their support and collaboration.

**Supported.**

**b.) Re – Declaration of Stokes Hall Great House as a National Monument**

Read letter dated February 29, 2016 from Jamaica National Heritage Trust regarding the captioned. It reads:

“The Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT) is of the opinion that the Stokes Hall Great House Ruin (the site) is an important symbol of Jamaica’s early settlement history and as such has decided to declare it as a National Monument.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the Notice of Intention to Declare the Site a National Monument and the Draft Declaration.

The documents will be published in the Daily Gleaner and the Government Gazette on Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

If you have any queries, representations or objections in the respect of the same, please contact our offices within the time stipulated in the Notice of Intention.”

**Noted.**

**ALGA Matters** 15. Nil

**Minutes of the Infrastructure & Maintenance Committee** 16. Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Infrastructure and Maintenance Committee held on February 3, 2016, having been circulated were received on the motion of Councillor Marr seconded by Councillor Hutchinson.

**Minutes of the Finance & Commercial Services Committee** 17. Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Finance & Admin. Committee held on February 4, 2016, having been circulated were received on the motion of Councillor Marr seconded by Councillor Hutchinson.

His Worship the Mayor, Ludlow Mathison extended congratulations to the new elected Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Honourable Andrew Holness and his team as well as the Members of Parliament for Eastern and Western St. Thomas, Dr. Fenton Ferguson and Mr. James Robertson.

**Adjournment** 18. Councillor McLeod moved and seconded by Councillor Hutchinson for the adjournment of the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

**CORRECTED:.....**  
**SECRETARY/MANAGER**

**CONFIRMED:.....**  
**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE:.....**