

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG
Minutes of a Meeting of
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
Held in Council Chambers, 210 Aberdeen Road, Bridgewater, NS
Monday, January 13th, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Brian Keizer, District 1 & 2 Fire Commission, Chair
Councillor Reid Whynot, Vice Chair (left meeting from 7:07 p.m. – 7:33 p.m.)
Deputy Mayor Eric Hustvedt
Councillor Wade Carver
Councillor Cathy Moore
Chief Tom Lockwood, Indian Point Fire Department
Deputy Chief Steve Patterson, Cornwall Fire Department
Deputy Chief Dean Schmeisser, Dayspring & District Volunteer Fire Department
David Fancy, Member-At-Large
Herbert Seymour, Member-At-Large
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson

Staff: Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator/Administrator
Sandra Challis, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Keizer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Deputy Chief Schmeisser, seconded by Chief Lockwood that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes of the November 18, 2019 Meeting

Moved by Herbert Seymour, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Minutes of the Fire and Emergency Committee meeting of November 18, 2019 be approved as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

4. Business Arising from Minutes and Unfinished Business

4.1 Firefighter Personnel Insurance/WCB

Mr. Kennedy reported on a presentation that had been made to the Insurance Sub-Committee which provided clarity on what the WCB Package for fire fighters will look like and demonstrated that personnel insurance would still be needed in order to provide full coverage to members. A memo on the Sub-Committee meeting, handout and a copy of the slideshow were circulated with the agenda package.

The following questions and answers were given:

- Q. If only active firefighters are covered under WCB, what about auxiliary members or general helpers?
- A. Currently, these people are covered under the department's general liability insurance. This would still be the case, that department's personnel insurance would cover this going forward.
- Q. The presumptive cancer coverage is quite limited on WCB, as there are more women firefighters, should breast cancer for example also be included?
- A. Many other provinces already include WCB for firefighters, and each province has its own presumptive cancer list. A review is to be carried out in the near future to look at which other cancers should be added to the list.
- Q. WCB premiums will be paid by the Municipality, but it provides insufficient coverage to no longer have personnel insurance. On the other side, Departments do not want to be wasting money on unnecessary insurance, what are the next steps?
- A. The consultant for the broker has asked for full details of WCB coverage and has incorporated this into his requests from Insurance Company. He has so far heard back from two companies but is waiting for replies on the Family Assistance Program request. It is hoped that the Sub-Committee will have a meeting towards the end of January, with more information being available at the next meeting of this Committee.
- Q. How is an "Active Firefighter" defined?
- A. A volunteer fire fighter is a member of a fire department registered by a municipality. WCB covers firefighters for responding to an emergency call, at the site of an emergency, returning from an emergency, being involved in repair or maintenance or department's property of equipment, attending authorized training, attending authorized meetings and participating in parades or similar events. For some of the presumptive coverages, it may be necessary to have minimum periods of service.
- Q. Providing and maintaining lists of active members could be onerous for the Chiefs, how often will the list be updated?
- A. The Chiefs will supply a list of active members, which is likely to be numbers rather than a list of names. The numbers may be reported quarterly, or twice a year. The process has not yet been finalised.

4.2 Pump Test Requirement for Annual Registration

Mr. Keizer reported that Staff would be preparing amendments to MDL-36 and the Annual Registration forms to incorporate Council's motion that pump testing will be a mandatory requirement for 2021/22 registration. Effectively, in order for Departments to complete the registration in June 2021, they will need to provide proof that pump testing has been carried out. Therefore, departments may need to consider carrying out pump testing in 2020/21 to be prepared for the following year.

Current versions of MDL-36 and the Annual Registration were included in the agenda package and Mr. Keizer asked that the Committee review these documents and have some thoughts ready

for the next time this is on the agenda – perhaps consider which trucks needs to be tested, or what will happen if testing is not carried out.

It was noted that Departments would be forewarned of the upcoming changes in communications regarding annual registration for 2020/21 and this would be communicated at the AGM in April.

A question was raised regarding the level of acceptance of Departments around mandatory pump testing. The Committee was advised that a motion of agreement had been passed by Lunenburg Regional Fire & Emergency Services (L.R.F.E.S.), although it was not unanimous. If a Department had concerns with pump testing, from a financial standpoint then they should raise the concerns with the Municipality. It was reported that that two of the five departments currently not carrying out pump testing had plans to have tests done very soon.

4.3 Municipal Grants

Council had approved the requested 2% increase on municipal grants for 2020/21. The motion and 2019 breakdown of Fire Department payments was circulated with the agenda package.

4.4 Fire Scene Security

Mr. Keizer advised this subject often comes up at L.R.F.E.S. and at some point, they would like to see something done with the matter. Mr. Dumaresq advised that Mr. Kennedy had done some work on the subject, but other, more pressing items, had taken priority. It was reported that the Municipality of the District of Chester had already done work in this area and have pre-approved security firms to carry out fire-scene security, if necessary. They also have things in place to put a lien against a property for providing this service, should insurance not cover the cost, or the property owner be uninsured. It was agreed to keep this on the agenda, and strategic priorities of this Committee would be discussed at the February workshop.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Proposal for report from most recent LRFESC to be included as regular item

It was agreed that L.R.F.E.S. Report would be included in future agendas, so the Committee could be kept up to date with items discussed at Lunenburg Regional Fire & Emergency Service meetings.

5.2 Equipment Register including Serial Numbers

It was noted that it would be pertinent for Fire Departments to keep internal records of serial numbers of portable equipment. This reminder was a result of the theft of Walden Fire Department's generator and them having no record of the serial number – this impeded the Police investigation and may make recovery very difficult. It was noted, in the past, RCMP offered an engraving service, and it was agreed to ask if this still existed at the next Police Advisory Board meeting.

6. IN CAMERA (Nil)

7. NEXT MEETING – March 9, 2020

Note: Strategic Planning Workshop Monday, February 10, 2020 at 5pm, and supper is to be provided.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 7:42 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynott, seconded by Deputy Chief Schmeisser that the meeting adjourn. Carried Unanimously.