

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
Minutes of a Fire & Emergency Services Committee Meeting
Held in Council Chambers, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, NS
Monday, 16 November 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Brian Keizer, District 1 & 2 Fire Commission, Chair
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9, Vice Chair
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4
Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, Ex-Officio
Chief Tom Lockwood, Indian Point Fire Department
Deputy Chief Steve Patterson, Cornwall Fire Department
Deputy Chief Dean Schmeisser, Dayspring & District Volunteer Fire Department
Herbert Seymour, Member-At-Large

Regrets:

David Fancy, Member-At-Large

Staff:

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator
Sandra Challis, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Mr. Seymour, seconded by Deputy Chief Schmeisser that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried Unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 9, 2020

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Deputy Chief Patterson that the Minutes of the March 9, 2020 Fire & Emergency Services Committee meeting be approved as circulated.

Carried unanimously.

4. INTRODUCTION BY FIRE SERVICES COORDINATOR – Strategic Priorities

Mr. Kennedy gave a presentation on the activities of the Fire Service Coordinator and the Fire & Emergency Services Committee which included:

- Strategic Priorities of the Committee – Maintenance & Testing Standards being #1
- Data provided on some of the current Department standards on hose testing, bunker gear cleaning and replacement and SCBA testing collected from the 2020 registration forms
- The success of the Group Personnel Insurance initiative – equitable and, in most cases, improved coverage for all fire fighters in the Municipality
- The introduction of Mandatory Pump Testing (effective 2021/22) and the implications to departments for not complying with new regulations
- Membership changes between 2019 and 2020 – increases in medical first responders, auxiliary and honorary memberships, and a decrease in numbers of structural, active and junior firefighters
- A breakdown of calls for 2019 – the highest number being for Medical calls.
- MODL funding through Grants & WCB to Departments overall was \$252,400.00 (over and above collected Fire Rates)

It was pointed out that call numbers would be significantly lower for medical calls in 2020 since EHS no longer required Fire Departments to attend medical calls due to Covid-19. However, it was reported this situation is changing as some departments are now being requested to attend the more serious medical calls. Due to Covid-19 restrictions it was noted that some areas were underserved.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5.1 Committee Membership – Extension to Length of Service/Committee Positions

For information purposes, the Committee was advised of Council's extension to the length of service for current FESC representatives until April 2021.

5.2 Firefighter Personnel Insurance/WCB

For information purposes, the Committee was provided details of Council's approval of the Personnel Insurance Policy.

5.3 Annual Registration (Extension)

For information purposes, the Committee was provided with information of Council's extension to the annual registration process for Fire Departments. Mr. Kennedy advised that the annual packages had been distributed to departments and updated maps were prepared and ready to be collected.

5.4 Changes to Policy MDL-36

The Committee was verbally updated that the changes to Policy MDL-36 would need to be in place before the 2021/22 registration. It would come back to the Committee when prepared.

5.5 Fire Scene Security

Fire Scene Security was requested to remain on the agenda by LRFES until it could be dealt with by the Committee.

5.6 AGM Deferred – Annual Registration changes, circulation of Special Minutes

The Committee was notified of the AGM deferral due to Covid-19.

5.7 Mutual Aid Agreement Revisions

It was reported that the revisions to the Mutual Aid Agreement are still being worked on.

5.8 Nova Scotia Power – failure to provide essential service

An FESC recommendation to Council requesting a letter be written to Nova Scotia Power had not been actioned by Council due to Covid-19. It was requested that the recommendation be resubmitted to Council for their next meeting.

6. L.R.F.E.S. Report

It was reported that LRFES had held their first meeting since February. It had been agreed that the executive committee would remain until the next AGM and a round-table discussion had been held regarding the impacts of Covid-19 to Departments, in particular, fundraising efforts. Firefighters 50/50 had been discussed, as had the Facebook group Locals Supporting Local Heroes. Not all departments were participating in the 50/50, and it was asked if the fundraiser be brought to the attention of a wider audience, suggesting that it could perhaps be included in Municipal Matters and the Municipality's social media, showcasing what departments were doing with the monies raised.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Tax Rates

The Fire Department tax rates, included with the agenda, were submitted to the Committee.

7.2 Members at Large

The Members At Large Positions memo (circulated with agenda) advised that David Fancy had resigned his member-at-large position effectively immediately. This had occurred after the advertisement for another vacancy had been issued. Mr. Keizer asked that a letter of thanks be written to Mr. Fancy for all his hard work on the Committee, especially the Insurance Sub-Committee.

Mr. Seymour had reapplied for a member-at-large position on the Committee, advertised in September 2020, no other applications had been received.

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Chief Lockwood that the FESC recommends to Municipal Council that Herbert Seymour be reappointed as a member-at-large to the Fire & Emergency Services Committee for a 3-year term (ending October 31st, 2023).

Carried unanimously.

It was agreed to advertise the new member at large vacancy, and a sub-committee of Councillor Greek, Councillor Whynot, Chief Lockwood and Deputy Chief Schmeisser was formed to review any applications received.

8. IN CAMERA (If Required)

N/A

9. NEXT MEETING – Monday, January 11, 2021

Proposed Annual General Meeting – Weds, April 14, 2021 7:00 p.m. LOCATION T.B.A.

It was suggested to tentatively book Council Chambers for the 2021 AGM as there are multi-media options for joining meetings. Chambers could meet the current Covid-19 restrictions by allowing one member per department to attend.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 7:53 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Mr. Seymour that the meeting adjourn.

Carried unanimously.