

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Notes of a Fire & Emergency Services Committee Meeting

Held in Council Chamber, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, N.S.

Monday, March 13, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Attendance

Brian Keizer, District 1 & 2 Fire Commission, Chair

Councillor Martin Bell, District 2

Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3

Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7 - left meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, Ex-Officio

Deputy Chief Dean Schmeisser, Dayspring & District Volunteer Fire Department, Vice Chair

Retired Chief Steve Patterson, Cornwall Fire Department

Herbert Seymour, Member-At-Large

Randy Harris, Member-At-Large

Regrets

Chief Tom Lockwood, Indian Point Fire Department

Angela Henhoeffler, REMO Coordinator

Staff

Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy C.A.O.

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 Mr. Seymour, seconded by Retired Chief Patterson that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried.

3. Approval of Notes – September 12, 2022

Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Notes of the September 12, 2022 Fire & Emergency Services Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried.

4. Business Arising from Minutes

4.1 Fire Scene Security (update)

Mr. Kennedy reported the operational procedures for Fire Scene Security are now finalized. A package will be sent out to all departments and presented at LRFES, with some follow-up training to be provided.

4.2 Mutual Aid Agreement (update)

Mr. Kennedy reported the Mutual Aid Agreement has been signed by all departments, including the three towns.

4.3 Volunteer Intake

It had not been possible to discuss 4.3 and 4.4 at the recent workshops, so it was requested that these items stay on the agenda for future discussion, and these items are included in the presentation to LRFES.

4.4 Department Personnel Policies – Diversity, Inclusiveness, Harassment

See above.

5. L.R.F.E.S. Report

Mr. Keizer advised that LRFES is regrouping and considering many of the items discussed at the recent FESC workshops - operating procedures, air packs and bunker gear safety etc.

6. New Business

6.1 2023/2024 Budget

Mr. Kennedy presented his memo on fire service-related budget items, circulated with the agenda.

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that the Fire & Emergency Services Committee recommends to Municipal Council to approve a 2% increase in the Fire & Emergency Services Grants for the 2023/2024 fiscal year (totalling \$3,797.00 increase over the 2022/2023 fiscal year amounts)

Matching Grant	\$44,998.00
Municipal Grant	\$68,032.00
Training Grant	\$11,570.00
Insurance Grant	\$57,430.00
Personnel Insurance Grant	\$11,570.00

For a total grant amount of \$193,600.00. Carried.

6.2 Personnel Insurance

Mr. Kennedy presented his memo, circulated with the agenda, regarding the Income Protection Benefits of the group personnel insurance policy. The memo provided an increased premium option for a higher level of coverage, extending the fixed 10-year payable benefit period. Clarification was given on clause A.ii. (Covered Illness) that should a volunteer become totally disabled at age 67 or older, they would receive the weekly benefit for a maximum five years; if the volunteer is younger, they would receive the weekly benefit until they reach 67.

Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Deputy Chief Schmeisser that the Fire & Emergency Services Committee recommends the upgraded package including the extended coverage option, at the sum of \$44,223, to the Fire Departments through an update to LRFES and to members at the AGM for a vote. Carried.

6.3 Workshop Presentation

Mr. Kennedy gave a presentation summarizing the January workshops of the FESC, circulated with the agenda, and provided details on the following:

- Desired Outcomes
- Review of Past 5 Years
- Priorities
- Accomplishments
- Environmental Scan
- Importance of Fire Departments
- Issues
- Workshop Focus
- Retention and Recruitment
- Regional Training Facility

Discussion followed:

- Firefighters National Conference is to be held in Halifax this year and is a good opportunity to promote attendance.
- Training Facility
 - Opportunity for Fire Departments in southwest Nova Scotia to have a facility closer, and would allow other areas to utilize at a fee.
 - Pictou and Cumberland County have shared fire training areas, but “live fire” training is usually held by the NS Firefighters School.
 - Use of facility discussed and consensus was that this is a concept and that it be as broad as possible at this stage, to allow for opportunities that may arise and to have Council consider it at the upcoming budget deliberations.
- A brief summary of the presentation will be given at the March 16, 2023 L.R.F.E.S. meeting and a full presentation will be given at the Annual General Meeting for Fire Services in April.

Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Retired Chief Patterson that the Fire & Emergency Services Committee recommend that Council explore a regional fire training station with the Town of Bridgewater and other local municipal units for the local area; and further the Committee recommends that Council establish a reserve fund separate from other fire service grants and funds for the purposes of constructing a regional facility.

Motion to Amend

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Oickle to amend the motion on the floor to replace “local” with “regional”. Motion Carried.

Amended Motion

Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Retired Chief Patterson that the Fire & Emergency Services Committee recommend that Council explore a regional fire training station with the Town of Bridgewater and other regional municipal units for the local area; and further the Committee recommends that Council establish a reserve fund separate from other fire service grants and funds for the purposes of constructing a regional facility. Motion Carried.

7. In Camera

Not required.

8. Next Meeting – Monday May 8, 2023. AGM Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at Best Western

9. Adjournment

There being no further business at 8:10 p.m.