

APPROVED

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Notes of an Annual General Meeting of the Fire & Emergency Services Committee

Held at Best Western Hotel, Bridgewater

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Blockhouse & District Fire Department

Cornwall & District Fire Department

District 1 & 2 Fire Commission

Hemford & District Fire Department

Italy Cross/Middlewood & District Fire Department

Midville & District Fire Department

Northfield & District Fire Department

Petite Riviere Volunteer Fire Department

Tri-District Fire & Rescue Services

Walden Fire Department

Conquerall Bank Fire Department

Dayspring & District Fire Department

Hebbsville Fire Department

Indian Point Fire Department

LaHave Fire Department

New Germany Volunteer Fire Department

Oakhill & District Fire Department

Riverport & District Fire Department

United Communities Fire Commission

Council:

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson

Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1

Councillor Martin Bell, District 2

Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3

Deputy Mayor Pam Hubley, District 4

Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5

Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7

Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Fire & Emergency Services Committee:

Brian Keizer, District 1 & 2 Fire Commission, Chair

Chief Tom Lockwood, Indian Point Fire Department

Retired Chief Steve Patterson, Cornwall Fire Department

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

Randy Harris, Member-At-Large

Staff:

Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator

April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk

Sandra Challis, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Keizer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. It was agreed to move item 10.1 to follow item 5.

2. MAYOR'S WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Bolivar-Getson delivered a welcome to all persons present and provided opening remarks including the following:

- Recognized the out-going members of the FESC, Chief Tom Lockwood and Retired Chief Steve Patterson for their 7 and 10 years of service to the committee respectively.
- Four 50-year service awards awarded in 2022.
- Thanked firefighters for their volunteerism and sacrifices of their time.
- Highlighted the way MODL supports the Fire Services including:
 - Fire Scene Security Agreement with the Commissionaires to protect a fire scene for evidence.
 - Mutual Aid Agreement, signed by all departments including the Towns.
 - Grants for Fire Services including the Annual Recognition Grant and Leadership Training Grants.
 - Approval of \$100,000 reserve fund in the 2023/24 budget for a possible Regional Training Facility. This is currently in the concept phase and consultation between the Fire Services and municipal units would be required.
 - The funding of an MFAP program for fire department personnel and their families.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF APRIL 07, 2022

Moved by Chief Tom Lockwood, seconded by Chief Larry Blacker that the Minutes of the April 7, 2022 Annual General Meeting be approved as circulated. Motion Carried.

5. CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Keizer presented his Chair's Annual Report for 2022 (included with the agenda).

Moved by Mr. Brian Keizer, seconded by Deputy Chief Nancy Llewellyn-Rafuse that the Chair's Annual Report for 2022 be accepted as circulated. Motion Carried.

10.1 Personnel Insurance

Mr. Kennedy presented his memo and report on the Personnel Insurance, Section III, included with the agenda. The proposed enhancements had been sought following suggestions by a number of Fire Departments. Mr. Kennedy provided examples of how the change would benefit members.

Moved by Chief Corey Zinck, seconded by Chief Dylan Eisenhauer that representatives present at the April 12, 2023, Annual General Meeting approve the increase in age coverage to 67 or five years, whichever is greater while the insured person is totally disabled under Section III, Income Protection Benefits and that the cost of increase in premiums of \$44,223.00 be calculated based on the number of firefighters per department. Motion Carried.

6. FIRE SERVICES COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kennedy gave a presentation summarizing the workshops that were held by the FESC in 2022/23. The slide deck was circulated with the agenda and included:

- Desired Outcome – Goal is to establish a draft strategy document to share with Fire Service and Council to guide the work of the FESC for the next four years.
- Background
- Previous Priorities
- Major Accomplishments
- Challenge Coin to mark 50-year service
- Importance of Fire Departments
- Issues Facing Fire Services
- An example of what 1% of assessments means to each Fire Department
- Focus Areas from Workshops
- Safety – Proposed actions:
 - Establish minimum safety standards for equipment and apparatus
 - Explore expanding automatic mutual aid
 - Expand opportunities for local collaborative training
 - Encourage adoptions of basic GOGs
 - Additional leadership training
 - Explore regional training facility
- Capacity & Governance through continued respect for autonomy and independent leadership within individual fire departments – Proposed actions:
 - Explore changes to municipal grants system
 - Continue to support governance improvements in departments
- Recruitment & Retention – Proposed actions:
 - Continued R&R supports
 - Explore enhancements to R&R
- Explore Regional Facility
- Next Steps

There were no questions from the floor following the presentation.

7. ITEMS CIRCULATED WITH REGISTRATION PACKAGE

7.1 Checklist for Registration

7.2 Annual Fire and Emergency Services Provider Update Form

7.3 Fire Tax Rate/Money Request Form

7.4 Officer Information Form

7.5 Matching Grant Form

7.6 Mutual Agreement

It was noted that the above listed items are to be returned to Mr. Kennedy no later than June 15, 2023. 7.6 was on the agenda in error.

8. OTHER ITEMS CIRCULATED/AVAILABLE

8.1 Application for Fire Department Recognition (Plaques and Helmets)

8.2 Updated Civic Maps

8.3 Updated Maps for Road Map Series Book

Mr. Kennedy noted items 8.1 & 8.2 were distributed with the packages each Department received at this meeting. Should members require 8.3, please contact Mr. Kennedy following the meeting, and this can be arranged.

9. APPOINTMENT OF FOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mr. Kennedy referenced his report, circulated with the agenda, noting that Retired Chief Steve Patterson was not re-offering for a position on the FESC. Mr. Kennedy asked if there were any nominations from the floor to be included in the list of nominees and Chief Corey Zinck was nominated and added to the list. Each department was requested to vote, by ballot, for four of the nominees to join the FESC as Fire Service Representatives.

The nominees were:

Captain Emily Bowers, Hebbville F.D.

Chris Dares, Dayspring & District Fire Department & President of LRFES

Brian Keizer, District 1 & 2 Commission

Chief Darren Mullock, Northfield & District Fire Department

Chief Doug Peveril, Hebbville Fire Department

Deputy Chief Dean Schmeisser, Dayspring & District Fire Department

Chief Corey Zinck, Oakhill & District Fire Department

On the first ballots the successful nominees voted by majority to the FESC were:

Captain Emily Bowers, Brian Keizer, Chief Darren Mullock and Deputy Chief Dean Schmeisser.

The attendees congratulated the new and returning members to the FESC.

Moved by Chief Corey Zinck, seconded by Chief Ed Arab that the ballots be destroyed. Motion Carried.

3. INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS & COUNCILLORS

Mr. Keizer asked that the attending Councillors and FESC members introduce themselves.

10.2 Set Date for 2024 Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday April 10, 2024.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 8:09 p.m., the meeting adjourned.