

Fire Committee Minutes
April 6, 2011
Town Council Chambers

Present

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts, Chair
B. Chisholm, Chief, AVFD
B. Landry, Treasurer, AVFD
D. MacDonald, Secretary, AVFD
J. MacDonald, Deputy Chief AVFD

Mayor C. Chisholm
D. Kampen, MPA, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Absent with Regrets

Councillor W. Cormier
Councillor D. MacInnis

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and roundtable introductions were made as the Chair welcomed D. MacDonald to the Committee.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mayor C. Chisholm
Seconded by J. MacDonald
"That the Agenda be approved with additions." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mayor C. Chisholm
Seconded by J. MacDonald
"That the Minutes of the Fire Committee held on September 21, 2010, be approved as circulated." Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- Old Ladder Truck

CAO D. Kampen reported that the old Ladder Truck had been sold by Tender for \$1,800.00 + HST and has been removed from Public Works.

- Long-Range Planning for Fire Department

The Chair noted that she had previously suggested that the Fire Department Members give consideration to long-range planning for their building. Mayor C. Chisholm confirmed that some funds are to be included in the upcoming budget for some work to be carried out. B. Chisholm, Fire Chief, indicated they had included extra funds for work to the building in the budget submitted to the Town. He then reviewed a number of deficiencies with the building and noted that it was built in 1962 and that much of the building is original. CAO D. Kampen suggested they put together a list of work to be carried out. Fire Chief B. Chisholm agreed to finalize a list they had been working on, and noted that the needs of the Fire Department and the functionality of the building have also changed over the years. He noted that the Department had a desire to add an 8X10' addition to the rear of the building but needed some direction. Brief mention was made of an earlier plan for an expansion of the building which did not go forward. Deputy Clerk

D. Wilson suggested the Fire Department contact the Town's Development Officer to see if an extension of the building is possible. Following brief discussion regarding an underground oil tank, the Fire Chief agreed to get an estimate from Kell's Enterprises to have it removed.

- Ladder Truck Engine Repairs

B. Landry reported that the Ladder Truck requires a computer upgrade. He noted that computer issues at Scotia Diesel had delayed the upgrade but it now just a matter of getting the work done. He further noted that this has had not impacted the use of the truck.

- By-laws

Fire Chief B. Chisholm advised that the Fire Department had begun to review the By-laws but then slowed down as their time became devoted to budget matters. He further indicated that Treasurer B. Landry has now taken the lead on the review and they are hoping to have a Draft in place by the end of June 2011 at which time it would then go to the Executive Committee of the Fire Department for consideration.

- Supply Line Crossing Hawthorne Street to Tigo Park

An update provided by Public Works Supervisor S. Brophy and distributed by K. Proctor, P.Eng., Town Engineer regarding the supply line crossing Hawthorne Street to Tigo Park was distributed and discussed briefly. The Fire Department members expressed their hope that as development or infrastructure upgrades occur in the future that consideration would be given for improvements to this line.

- Burning Policy and Outdoor Fire By-law

A Draft Outdoor Fire By-law was distributed. CAO D. Kampen noted that she had reviewed by-laws from various municipal units and that this by-law is a mixture from them. She further noted that some re-formatting is still required and requested the Committee's initial thoughts on the Outdoor Fire By-law. Fire Chief B. Chisholm indicated that the By-law had been reviewed and the only concern they had was that the role of the Fire Inspector was not mentioned. CAO D. Kampen indicated that the Fire Inspector does not play a role under this By-law. Deputy Fire Chief J. MacDonald questioned whether they could begin to enforce and/or distribute the Outdoor Fire By-law. CAO D. Kampen indicated the By-law could not be utilized until such time as it was approved by Council through First and Second reading. She further noted it would like by May 2011 before the By-law would take effect. The current Burning and Dumping Policy would be repealed upon approval of the By-law.

Moved by B. Chisholm

Seconded by J. MacDonald

"To recommend that Council give First Reading to the outdoor Fire By-law." Motion carried.

Brief discussion took place on fire pits at Whidden's Trailer Park.

Correspondence

No Correspondence was received.

Reports

- Fire Chief

On behalf of Fire Chief B. Chisholm, Treasurer B. Landry provided the following breakdown on Fire Department activities from October 10, 2011, to date, which included:

14 Fires; eight (8) motor vehicle accidents; 18 alarms; three (3) medical assists; four (4) practices; six (6) meetings; three (3) training sessions; and six (6) community events.

He further noted that the fires included two (2) pole fires; seven (7) structure fires; one (1) furnace fire; and four (4) flue fires.

Fire Chief B. Chisholm noted that with the use of the ladder truck, the Fire Department was able to save evidence at a recent house fire in Fairmont. He further noted that although there was no loss of life at an apartment fire on Braemore Avenue, they had difficulty gaining access as the basement door was blocked by bags of garbage. Fire Chief B. Chisholm provided a brief overview on three (3) fires they assisted with in the County of Antigonish. He made note on the recent loss of a jacket belonging to one of the Fire Department members.

- Hydrants

Treasurer B. Landry provided an overview on recently installed hydrants

Fire Chief B. Chisholm reiterated the concern with the lack of access to a hydrant to service Whidden Trailer Park in the event of a fire. He noted the need for a good solid plan as it is a difficult area to service. He further noted they would have to use a hydrant in the area of Pleasant Street or the Federal Building. CAO D. Kampen noted she would look into this matter further.

Treasurer B. Landry reviewed the locations of private fire hydrants within the Town. He noted they had made B. Doiron of St. FX University aware of one hydrant that was installed with the wrong thread. CAO D. Kampen noted she would review the Town's Water Utility regulations respecting private fire hydrants. B. Landry provided an overview of the type of threads required on hydrants within the Town.

Other Business

- Air Fresheners

The Chair noted she had circulated an e-mail regarding the possible fire hazard associated with using Glade® Plug-in air fresheners.

- Charred Paper in Dishwasher

The Chair displayed charred paper she had removed from her dishwasher and noted it was from a bottle that she did not remove the label from prior to putting it in the dishwasher.

- Budget

Fire Chief B. Chisholm questioned when the Department would know the status of their budget. CAO D. Kampen stated that she would advise Department Heads when the budget has been approved by Council which should be April 18, 2011.

- Next Meeting

It was generally agreed that the next meeting would be held on September 7, 2011, at 6:00 PM unless there is an urgent matter to be dealt with prior to that date.

Adjournment

Moved by Mayor C. Chisholm

Seconded by J. MacDonald

"That the meeting be adjourned." Motion carried.

