

**Fire Committee Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2009
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Councillor D. Roberts, Chair
Mr. R. MacPherson, Fire Chief
Mr. B. Chisholm
Mr. B. Landry
Mr. J. MacDonald
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Absent with Regrets

Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis
Mr. D. Holmes

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Nomination of Vice-chair

Moved by Mr. J. MacDonald

Seconded by Mr. R. MacPherson

“That nomination for Vice-Chair of the Fire Committee be Tabled until the next meeting.” Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mr. B. Landry

Seconded by Mr. R. MacPherson

“That the Agenda be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

- April 22, 2009

Moved by Mr. R. MacPherson

Seconded by Mr. J. MacDonald

“That the Minutes of the Fire Committee Meeting held on April 22, 2009, be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- Ladder Truck

Fire Chief, Mr. R. MacPherson noted that initially the purchase of a ladder truck was looked at in 2004, and that he had not discussed the purchase with Strait Mutual Aid.

For clarification, the Committee was advised that Ms. N. Jagodic is in fact a full time member of the Department and that the two new members were replacing outgoing members.

Moved by Mr. B. Chisholm.

Seconded by Mr. J. MacDonald

“That paragraph three regarding a ladder truck be stricken from the Minutes.” Motion carried.

With respect to the inclusion of an independent third party for review of ladder truck requirements, it was noted that a meeting between the Fire Committee and Council did not

materialize. Discussion then briefly turned to the recent approval of the Town's budget, which now includes \$750,000.00 for the purchase of a ladder truck. The Fire Committee agreed to look at what is now available in this price range and apprise Council. Councillor D. Roberts suggested Chief R. MacPherson contact CAO D. Kampen to arrange a meeting.

To clarify the number of members responding to alarms the following motion was put forth:

Moved by Mr. B. Landry

Seconded by Mr. B. Chisholm

"That twenty (20) members are usually available to respond to calls." Motion carried.

- **Hydrant Reports – Strait Regional School Board**

No information was received from Councillor W. Cormier to advise whether the Strait Regional School Board is providing the Town with records regarding hydrant maintenance.

- **Hydrant Flow – County Fringe Area District #2**

No information has been received whether discussions have taken place between the Town and County respecting hydrant flows in the County Fringe Area, District #2.

- **Access to Funding re Ladder Truck Purchase**

Fire Chief Mr. R. MacPherson requested Chair, Councillor D. Roberts speak with CAO D. Kampen with respect to accessing funds for the purchase of a ladder truck for the Fire Department.

Committee of the Whole Issues

Fire Chief, Mr. R. MacPherson raised concern with some information included in the previous meeting minutes which were distributed to both, the Fire Committee, Town Council and Department Heads. Deputy Clerk D. Wilson noted that the distribution of the Minutes was in keeping with other Committee Minutes.

Fire Chief's Report

Mr. B. Landry offered a verbal outline of activities undertaken recently by the Fire Department.

Hydrant Report

Mr. B. Landry noted two hydrants are currently out of commission – one near 'Super Suds' on James Street, the other on Xavier Drive, which was apparently hit by a plow.

Other Business

- **Number of Firefighters with Fire Department**

To clarify the reasoning behind '50' members requested to be on the Fire Department, it was noted that it is hard to secure membership and that attaining 50 members would be difficult at best. It was further noted that regardless of the number of members, this would not change the amount of stipend received by the Department from the Town.

Other Business

- **Meeting Schedule**

Moved by Fire Chief R. MacPherson

Seconded by Mr. B. Landry

"To recommend Council amend the 2009 Council and Committee Schedule to reflect that in the future the Antigonish Volunteer Fire Department Committee meetings will begin at 6:00 PM."

Motion carried.

- Fire Department By-laws

Fire Chief R. MacPherson noted that when he first began as Fire Chief he was tasked with gathering and updating information related to the Department, such as the By-laws. He noted that the By-laws are now on their radar and expects them to be reviewed over the next while.

- Burning Policy

The Chair reviewed the existing Burning/Dumping Policy and it was generally agreed that the issue of burning within the Town should be administered through a By-law. Discussion took place on how and when burning is permitted within the Town. It was generally agreed that the Fire Department would draft a Burning By-law. It was noted that environmental issues must also be taken into consideration.

- Letter to County Fire Chiefs

Chair, Councillor D. Roberts agreed to speak with Mayor C. Chisholm regarding correspondence recently received by the County Fire Chiefs from the County of Antigonish.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. J. MacDonald

Seconded by Fire Chief, R. MacPherson

“That the meeting be adjourned.” Motion carried.