

**Fire Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2009  
Town Council Chambers**

**Present**

Councillor D. Robert, Chair  
Councillor W. Cormier  
Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis  
R. MacPherson, Chief, AVFD  
J. MacDonald, Deputy Chief, AVFD  
B. Chisholm, Secretary, AVFD  
B. Landry, Treasurer, AVFD  
D. Holmes, Member, AVFD

Mayor C. Chisholm  
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

**Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved by B. Landry  
Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier  
"That the Agenda be approved as circulated." Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis  
Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier  
"That the Minutes of the Fire Committee meeting held on June 3, 2009, be approved as circulated." Motion carried.

**Nomination of Vice-Chair**

The Chair called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Fire Committee. Mr. B. Landry nominated Councillor W. Cormier for the position. The Chair called for a second and third time for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Fire Committee. No further nominations were put forth.

The Chair questioned Councillor W. Cormier if he would accept the nomination which he did.

With there being only one nomination, Councillor W. Cormier was declared Vice-Chair of the Fire Committee.

**Committee of the Whole Issues**

None.

**Reports**

- Fire Chief's Report  
Mr. R. MacPherson, Chief, gave a verbal overview of the activities of the Fire Department for the months of July and August 2009, and presented a written report to the Deputy Clerk for information.

- **Fire Hydrant Report**

Mr. B. Landry reported that there were no changes to hydrants since his last report. He noted three (3) new installations are expected; two (2) on St. F.X. University campus and one (1) at East Main Street.

Mr. B. Landry reported that, at the request of the Town Engineer, Mr. K. Proctor, he had carried out a survey of 'snow poles', and it was noted that twenty-three (23) additional poles were identified as being required but was unsure as to how many would be done. Mayor C. Chisholm questioned whether it was the goal to have poles installed at all 116 hydrants. Mr. B. Landry agreed to check further on this matter.

Discussion took place on two (2) hydrants currently out of commission, one on Xavier Drive and one on James Street near Supersuds Laundry which may have been repaired and damaged again by a vehicle.

Moved by Mayor C. Chisholm

Seconded by B. Chisholm

"That the hydrant at or near 25 Xavier Drive be repaired as soon as possible and the hydrant on James Street at or near Supersuds Laundry be removed." Motion carried.

Councillor W. Cormier brought forth the matter of maintenance of hydrants on private properties using St. F.X. University and the Strait Regional School Board as examples. He noted that in all other areas served by the Strait Regional School Board, the Board pays the municipal unit to maintain the hydrants. Councillor W. Cormier noted he would investigate the costs of hydrant maintenance. It was suggested during brief discussion that liability would likely be an issue for the Town in maintaining hydrants not owned by them. It was further suggested that a letter be sent from the Town to the owners of private hydrants to determine if there would be an interest in the Town providing, at a cost, the maintenance of private hydrants. Mayor C. Chisholm requested Councillor W. Cormier to determine whether agreements are in place with other municipal units for the maintenance of their hydrants.

The Chair noted that following the last meeting she had requested Mayor C. Chisholm discuss fire protection for the County's District II which is served by the Town. The history of fire protection and metering points in this area was discussed.

### **By-Laws**

Chief R. MacPherson noted that he expects to review the Fire Departments By-laws for revisions over the winter months.

### **Burning Policy**

The Committee was advised by the Chair that all Town Policies are being reviewed. Chief R. MacPherson noted that a decision needs to be made on whether or not to permit burning within the Town, and if it is to be permitted that a formal form or application be developed with standards and/or conditions. He further noted that he would like to see the issue of fireworks addressed.

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier

Seconded by R. MacPherson

"That CAO D. Kampen look into Burning By-laws that other municipal units may have and provide such information to Fire Chief, R. MacPherson." Motion carried.

## **Fire Hall Usage Policy**

Moved by Councillor W. Cormier

Seconded by J. MacDonald

“That the Fire Hall Usage Policy be tabled to the next regular meeting.” Motion carried.

## **Delivery of Ladder Truck**

Chief R. MacPherson noted that an issue with the size of the ladder truck in relation to the axles needs to be addressed prior to the truck leaving Wisconsin to ensure smooth travelling through the United States and New Brunswick, and that hopefully the truck would be leaving Wisconsin in the near future.

Mayor C. Chisholm brought forth the issue of the number of people who travelled to inspect the truck, as only two (2) people were approved by Council. Chief R. MacPherson advised that the decision was made to have an additional person travel for their knowledge of such vehicles. He further noted that the cost would come out of their budget.

## **Other Business**

- Next Meeting

The Chair advised that due to a conflict in attending a conference, the date of the next meeting would need to be changed. It was generally agreed to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, at 6:30 PM.

- Ladder Truck Celebration Committee

Chief R. MacPherson noted that the addition of the new ladder truck is a tremendous asset to the Fire Department, and as such, a sub-committee has been struck to have pictures taken and invitations sent to appropriate departments to attend a luncheon that all Department Members would attend in full dress.

- Fairmont Repeater

Mr. B. Chisholm noted that the Fairmont Repeater which should be running at 100 watts is currently only running at 30 watts. The matter is being addressed with a temporary replacement repeater which runs at 50 watts. These repairs will not cost the Fire Department or the Town anything as this is part of our Mutual Aid Agreement with the Strait Area.

- Antigonish Farmers Mutual 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Mr. B. Chisholm advised that in celebration of their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Antigonish Farmers Mutual Insurance Company will be sponsoring two dances; one in St. Andrew's and the other at the Keating Millenium Centre. Both Town and County Fire Departments have been asked to assist with selling tickets and work at the dance; in return the Departments will divide the proceeds of the dances.

- Ladder Truck Additional Requirements

The Committee was advised that the new truck will need such items as the two (2) front tires switched out (as the ones on the truck are not winter worthy), and it was noted that MicMac found a tire dealer in Dartmouth who will swap or trade the two (2) front tires at a cost of \$1,000.00. Also, a 2 ½" connection is required for the mobile stand pipe which is expected to cost approximately \$3,500.00 and will come out of the Department's operating budget. Mayor C. Chisholm questioned what would become of the old fire truck, and it was suggested that the truck be put out to tender.

Mr. B. Landry left the meeting at 6:55 PM.

Moved by Mayor C. Chisholm

Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier

“That advertisements be placed in the Atlantic Fire Fighter® and Truck Trader® placing the 1971 Ford with King Sea Grave ladder truck for sale by tender.” Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Mayor C. Chisholm

Seconded by Councillor W. Cormier

“That the meeting be adjourned.” Motion carried.