

**Fire Committee Meeting  
Town Council Chambers  
March 10, 2021**

**Present**

Councillor S. Cameron, Chair  
Councillor W. Cormier  
Councillor D. MacInnis  
B. Chisholm, Fire Chief  
R. Kell, AVFD  
D. MacDonald, AVFD  
R. MacPherson, AVFD  
B. Landry

**Also Present**

D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk  
S. Scannell, Community Development

**Absent with Regret**

Mayor L. Boucher

**Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:53 PM.

**Approval of Agenda**

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda as amended." Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the Fire Committee meeting of April 3, 2019 as presented." Motion carried.

**Introduction of Hayston Lam**

At 5:04 PM the Chair introduced Hayston Lam, Emergency Management Coordinator and round-table introductions took place.

**Business Arising**

- It was confirmed that the exterior stairway at the Fire Hall had been completed.
- Private Fire Hydrant Draft Policy  
S. Scannell spoke to efforts to ensure private hydrants would be tested and that the information from hydrant testing is current and to a consistent standard. He noted there is still some discussions to take place with the owners of various private hydrants and that staff are working on finalizing a document which would come back to the Fire Committee for discussion.

Discussion took place with B. Landry providing comment on a previous attempt to carry out hydrant testing.

- Fire Flow Testing Update

It was noted that K. Proctor would have the most recent fire flow testing numbers and that the County is in the process of building a water tank on the outskirts of Town.

- Fire Service Dispatch Issues

R. MacPherson noted that each area has a director and spoke to local dispatch services over the years.

R. MacPherson noted that Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia (FSANS) is the 'official' voice to speak to the province on fire department issues.

R. MacPherson explained the process that would be followed and how a fire call would be responded to. It was generally agreed that a more standardized procedure would benefit fire departments across the province.

It was suggested that this may be a matter that should be brought to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities.

Discussion ensued on analog versus digital pagers.

"It was Moved that H. Lam look into fire dispatch matters across the province." With there being no Secunder the motion was lost.

S. Scannell spoke to fire service coordinators across the province, a group that may be able to provide details in an effort to piece together province-wide issues.

It was generally agreed that S. Scannell and H. Lam look further into the matter of dispatch services across the province.

### **Baseline Information on Department**

- Number of Calls (Past Year) and Call Data (B. Landry)

B. Landry spoke to the details contained in the fire committee report to December 31, 2020.

Brief discussion took place on calls to District #2. S. Scannell provided comment on fire rates for the district and agreed to follow up with the CAO and provide an update at the next meeting.

Discussion took place.

- Number of Members, Membership Update (Chief Chisholm)

Chief B. Chisholm provided details from his report. Brief discussion took place on membership and recruitment.

Chief B. Chisholm provided comment on the investment cost associated with recruits.

### **New Business**

- Fire Department Response to COVID and Impact to Operations

Chief B. Chisholm noted regular meetings were disrupted due to COVID but did resume in September and provided details on meetings held to date and service awards.

- Budget Review for 2012/22

Brief discussion took place on the budget for 2021/22, and it was noted that the budget is very close to that of last year.

“It was Moved and Seconded to accept the 2021/2022 Fire Department Budget as presented.”  
Motion carried.

- **New Dates for Future Meetings**

The Chair indicated he would like to have Fire Committee meetings held quarterly on the second Wednesday of the month including May 12, September 8<sup>th</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. It was generally agreed that the meetings be held as proposed.

### **Long Range Planning**

- **Heat Pumps for Fire Hall**

It was noted that heat pumps are not a priority at this time.

- **New Doors for Fire Hall**

Discussion took place on the condition of the fire department truck doors and changes made over the years. The Chief advised that discussion has taken place.

S. Scannell indicated he was looking at presenting door replacements as a capital item for budget deliberation.

“It was Moved and Seconded that the Town consider replacement of the fire department truck doors as a priority during upcoming capital budget deliberations subject to a request for proposals on costs including replacement of the motors, doors and rails.” Motion carried.

- **Generator for Fire Department**

Chief B. Chisholm noted that a generator is not an immediate need for the Fire Department.

- **Possible Building Renovations**

Previously discussed.

### **Old Business**

- **Awarding of Service Medals - Retired Firefighters (R. MacPherson)**

R. MacPherson reported on medals that are available for various years of service from different levels of government and to a municipal medal now available for fire department members of 30 years or more. It was noted it would be up to the Town to determine if they wished to purchase them and the qualifications under which they would be awarded.

Discussion took place.

R. MacPherson provided comment on fire fighter license plates noting that those with a minimum of 15 years of service will be eligible to have free Retired Firefighter license plates and free vehicle registration.

B. Landry agreed to review the number of medals required to recognized current and retired members with municipal award medals. S. Scannell agreed to include the estimated amount in his budget details.

- **Update Minutes to Website**

Brief discussion took place.

- Civic Addressing

The Chair noted that the buildings on the Fair Grounds will have civic numbers assigned to them and the laneway named.

Discussion took place on civic addressing concerns. S. Scannell provided comment noting he would circulate information on civic addressing that is to be updated for specific addresses.

S. Scannell requested that any anomalies identified be sent to him to be flagged with the Eastern District Planning Commission. Discussion took place on various methods to advise people to have civic addresses posted.

### **Adjournment**

With no additional discussion the meeting was adjourned at 6:31PM.