

**Fire Committee Meeting  
April 19, 2023  
Town Council Chambers**

**Present**

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

**Also Present**

D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk  
K. MacInnis, Community Development

**Absent with Regret**

Mayor L. Boucher  
Councillor W. Cormier  
D. MacDonald, AVFD

**Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 Fire Committee minutes of November 10, 2021 as presented." Motion carried.

**Business from Minutes**

**Budget**

Copies of the proposed budget were distributed. B. Landry provided details noting little change in most areas and a slight decrease in costs associated with building repairs.

It was noted that as part of ongoing green initiatives, discussion on heat pumps has being tabled.

Brief discussion took place on the budget for truck repairs (increase) with the costs being allocated.

It was noted that the budget will decrease for fire fighting gear and that the overall proposed budget has increased 2.9%, with a special request for new hydraulic (battery operated) tools for an increase of 13.9%. Discussion took place and it was noted it is an essential tool for fire fighting.

Discussion took place on a proposed increase to the fire fighters' honorariums and the roles and responsibilities of the fire fighters.

“It was Moved and Seconded to recommend Council accept the Antigonish Town Fire Department budget as presented.” Motion carried.

### **Training**

Chief B. Chisholm noted there are 36 active fire fighters including one (1) new member and two (2) new members in training.

Elevator rescue training has taken place. Vehicle extraction training upcoming.

Brief discussion took place on training including training for elevators, vehicle extraction and electric vehicle training, and ongoing in-house training.

B. Landry presented an overview of the total calls for the 2022 calendar year.

### **Private Hydrant Bylaw**

The Chair advised that the Town has now adopted a Private Hydrant Bylaw noting it was previously begun by S. Scannell and completed by K. MacInnis. Concerns raised by the fire department have been incorporated into the Bylaw.

### **Inspection of Private Hydrants**

The Chair noted that private hydrants require a qualified person to inspect and submit a report to the Engineering Department, and that a municipal service permit is required for maintenance of fire hydrants.

Discussion took place on hydrant maintenance.

### **Old/New Business**

- Civic Addressing

R. MacPherson raised concern with the lack of or improperly posted civic addresses.

Discussion took place and it was suggested that an educational undertaken with K. MacInnis indicating she would speak with staff on the matter.

- Dispatch Services

The Chief spoke to a request for \$5,000. for Strait Area Mutual Aid, and it was noted that the amount had been approved at a recent Council meeting subject to support for the ask by the Fire Department.

Chief B. Chisholm spoke to the need for the funds and the excellent service that dispatch services provides.

It was noted that there is a lack of dispatch services throughout the province that has been identified, which puts the fire department in a precarious situation.

“It was Moved and Seconded to recommend that the Town write the province to address dispatch services within the province.” Motion carried.

R MacPherson agreed to research if there is a standardized letter that could be sent to the province.

It was generally agreed to send a copy of the correspondence to Minister M. Thompson.

“It was Moved and Seconded to acknowledge support from the Town of Antigonish Fire Department for the request for \$5,000. in financial support for Strait Area Mutual Aid.” Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.