

**Fire Committee Meeting
Town Council Chambers
May 3, 2017**

Present

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier, Chair
Councillor A. Murray
Councillor D. MacInnis
J. MacDonald, AVFD
B. Chisholm, AVFD
R. Kell, AVFD

Also Present

CAO J. Lawrence
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Absent with Regret

Mayor L. Boucher
D. MacDonald, AVFD
R. MacPherson, AVFD

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda with additions." Motion carried.

Business Arising

- Fire Levy

The Chair spoke briefly to the fire levy noting the number will fluctuate, but is expected to raise approximately \$150,000. It was further noted that approximately \$120,000. is still outstanding on the pumper vehicle. CAO J. Lawrence provided additional information on the fire levy.

At 5:08 PM Councillor D. MacInnis joined the meeting.

Discussion took place on funding for fire vehicles and a policy in this regard. The CAO agreed to report back on this matter.

CAO J. Lawrence expanded on Section 80 of the Municipal Government Act and how the fire levy relates to assessment. He noted that this line would appear on a tax bill, and in some cases, will be the first time some properties will actually receive a bill.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the Fire Committee meeting held on January 11, 2017 as circulated." Motion carried.

- Review of 2017/18 Proposed Fire Department Budget

R. Kell noted that the proposed budget is \$5,000. less than last year, reflecting a decrease in repairs. He further provided comment on various aspects of the budget.

The Chair noted that historically, the Fire Department typically comes in under budget.

The Chair provided positive comment on younger members of the Department, with the Chief noting that in part, this is due to the quality of equipment that the Department has.

Brief discussion ensued on past repairs to various fire vehicles, as well as the new vehicle currently on order.

R. Kell noted page 2 of the budget clarifies specifics contained on page 1.

Brief discussion took place on repairs to the Fire Hall, with the Chief noting that eventually they would like to have a generator system that could operate the whole building. Brief discussion ensued. CAO J. Lawrence indicated he would like additional details on the requirements for a propane/diesel generator system that would operate the entire building.

"It was Moved and Seconded to recommend Council to accept the Town Fire Department Budget as proposed." Motion carried.

- Private Fire Hydrants

The CAO noted that he is in receipt of information related to private fire hydrants and will be looking into the matter further.

The Chair expanded on the need to ensure private fire hydrants are maintained. J. MacDonald provided past practices undertaken by the town in an effort to try to provide awareness to owners of private hydrants.

New Business

- Alarms: Dollarama, Piper's Pub, Kenny's Pizza (Chief B. Chisholm)

The Chief provided comments on a number of false alarms, and some frustration on behalf of the fire department in responding to false alarms.

The Chief further noted that in one particular location where an alarm is triggered, more attention to detail could help to lessen the number of alarms.

Brief discussion took place on the possibility of meeting with administration to discuss the matter.

The CAO noted that the Town has a Bylaw Respecting False Alarms, however, it requires updating. Brief discussion took place on updating the Bylaw

The Chair agreed to try to arrange a meeting with himself, a L'Arche' representative and the Fire Chief.

The CAO noted that if required, the tree would be removed to allow the fire department access.

Information Update

- Chemical Spill; Dr. J.H. Gillis Regional High School

Fire Chief B. Chisholm reported on a small spill in a chemical lab at the High School and the measures taken in response. The Chief reported on the hazmat teams that responded and their timely response.

It was further noted that the MSDS sheets are stored in the same area as the chemicals. The Chief noted that in discussion with the New Glasgow Fire Department there may be an opportunity for the town and county to provide some funding to New Glasgow as they already have a good set up.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.