

Fire Committee Meeting
Town Council Chambers
February 22, 2018

Present

Deputy Mayor W. Cormier, Chair
Councillor A. Murray
B. Chisholm, Fire Chief
R. Kell, AVFD
B. Landry, AVFD
R. MacPherson, AVFD
G Purcell, AVFD

Also Present

CAO J. Lawrence
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
J. MacDougall, Fire Inspector
S. Day, Town Planner

Absent with Regret

Mayor L. Boucher
Councillor A. Murray
Councillor D. MacInnis
D. MacDonald, 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 as presented." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Minutes of the Fire Committee meeting held on May 3, 2017 as amended." Motion carried.

Private Fire Hydrants

Councillor W. Cormier noted the matter of private hydrants has been on the agenda for quite some time. In response to a query from the Chair, B. Landry it was noted that the Town's hydrants (approximately 120-130) are flushed bi-annually. J. MacDougall provided a breakdown of private versus town-owned hydrants. It was noted that spot checks are done on occasion for flows.

It was noted the Town should have a pitot-tube kit for fire flow checks. CAO J. Lawrence stated that it would be in the best interest of Public Works to obtain this piece of equipment given the reasonable cost.

J. MacDougall presented a town map outlining public/private fire hydrants, with S. Day providing comment. Discussion took place on NFPA Standards on hydrant spacing.

Councillor W. Cormier stated that the end desire is to have something in place requiring those with private hydrants to provide proof of testing.

S. Day referred to a company that could provide testing at a cost of approximately \$150/hydrant, and suggested if the organizations got together and brought someone in for testing, they could share the costs.

S. Day suggested that a list be provided to the Town from private hydrants owners outlining that they have done due diligence with respect to ensuring their hydrants are being maintained.

J. MacDougall reported on responses received from a list-serve; and circulated a copy of correspondence sent out by the Town of Truro. It was noted that the service being offered are not to NFPA standards.

Discussion took place.

The Chair questioned whether, moving forward, the Town could create some requirement (policy) for private hydrant owners to submit confirmation on an annual basis that their hydrants have been tested, and suggested having something in this regard circulated prior to the next meeting.

Following discussion, it was generally agreed that staff come up with a draft policy or by-law respecting private hydrants.

R. MacPherson provided comment on colour coding hydrants.

Replacement Fire Helmets (Chief B. Chisholm)

Chief B. Chisholm noted that while carrying out their annual turn-out gear, some gear is still good and can be used, however, 20 of 30 fire helmets are over the 10 year mark and need to be replaced.

The Chief noted that 16-20 have expired, with the remainder to expire within three years. He provided a overview of quotes received for pricing.

It was recommended that they purchase helmets costing 327.66 (\$13,000+), and noted they have enough in their budget, however it is stretching the budget, so they are looking at purchasing 20 in March, and the remainder in April. Discussion ensued with CAO J. Lawrence encouraging the Committee to go forward with placing the order for the fire helmets.

Review of 2018/19 Proposed Fire Department Budget

R. Kell distributed copies of the proposed 2018/19 Fire Committee budget. He noted the first page lists the overall budget, with the second page providing a break down. Brief discussion took place, and it was noted that for the most part the budget is very close to last year.

G. Purcell, noted that as a member he had taken on the role of looking at some of the projects they had carried out over the last 10 and expanded on the details. He noted that they have engaged local engineers and have a new set of drawings for replacement of the exterior stairway to the rear of the building.

G. Purcell provided proposed details on ongoing maintenance and repairs to the Fire Hall., and noted they are proposing that the stair replacement be part of a capital project. The CAO noted that he was aware of the issue regarding the stairs, and that the matter would have to be looked at. The CAO agreed to have S. Scannell to determine if additional funding may be available.

G. Purcell questioned what additional information is required to move forward. The CAO indicated it is likely that three (3) quotes would be required and agreed to speak with Corporate Services further on the matter.

The CAO suggested another meeting perhaps within the next month or so, with G. Purcell, the CAO and S. Rector.

Adjournment

At 6:10 PM the meeting was adjourned.