Fire Committee Meeting
August 27, 2024
Town Council Chambers

Present
Councillor S. Cameron, Chair
B. Chisholm, Fire Chief
R. Kell, AVFD
R. MacPherson, AVFD
B. Landry
Mayor L. Boucher

Also Present
M. Fougere, Deputy Clerk
K. MacInnis, Community Development
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services

Absent with Regret
Councillor D. MacInnis
D. MacDonald, AVFD

1. Call to Order
The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda
"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the agenda as amended." Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes
"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Fire Committee minutes of April 19, 2023, as presented." Motion carried.

4. Business from Minutes

4.1 Commercial & Residential Civic Addressing

A summary sheet on the Civic Addressing By-law was circulated. Brief discussion followed:

R. MacPherson emphasized the importance of clearly displaying civic addresses on homes, noting that blue reflector signs placed at or above eye level work best.

R. Kell recommended improving communications around civic addressing to raise awareness and ensure updates.

5. New Business

5.1 Fire Truck Vehicle Replacement Schedule – M. Barkhouse

M. Barkhouse presented the financials on the fire vehicle replacement schedule.

R. MacPherson asked about the breakdown of fire levy, specifically how much is allocated to the fire department. M. Barkhouse provided clarification.

R. Kelly asked about increasing the fire levy. The levy is tied to the uniform assessment by the utility and review board and adjusted every three years.

Discussions ensued.

R. MacPherson noted that provincial support offers up to $20,000 every three years for new firefighter gear, but this does not apply to trucks.

B. Chisholm mentioned upcoming 2027 emissions standards that will increase truck costs by $70,000.

Discussion ensued about the new pumper truck.

R. MacPherson highlighted concerns that younger members might find the pump system intimidating, highlighting the importance of ensuring that equipment is user-friendly for all members.

5.2 Pumper/Tanker Tender Overview & Specifications – G. Purcell

Gerard Purcell presented details on the new pumper truck, including the focus on the new SAM system - a touchscreen control system, offering easier operation and water level monitoring.

G. Purcell and B. Chisholm had the chance to see the SAM system during a visit to Salmon River and shared a brief video demonstration.

It was noted that adding this SAM system aftermarket would not be feasible, therefore, it is recommended to include this system during the truck's initial purchase.

Fire Chief B. Chisholm will meet with the county to discuss hydrant services in District 2, where port-a-tanks are currently necessary.

B. Chisholm asked about the timeline for ordering new trucks, given emissions controls. The Request for Proposal (RFP) must be submitted by October and presented to council for approval.

Motion

It was Moved and Seconded "to ask council for approval of the RFP go out as quick as possible for the specs as outlined in the delivery. "

Motion Carried

The Fire Department recently hosted a group of enthusiastic children as part of a town summer camp visit. CAO, R. Delorey thanked the volunteers for their efforts.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.