

**Fire Committee Meeting
Town Council Chambers
April 3, 2019**

Present

Councillor W. Cormier, Chair
Councillor A. Murray
B. Chisholm, Fire Chief
R. Kell, AVFD
D. MacDonald, AVFD
R. MacPherson, AVFD
B. Landry

Also Present

CAO J. Lawrence
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
S. Scannell, Community Development

Absent with Regret

Mayor L. Boucher
Councillor D. MacInnis

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 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 February 22, 2018 as amended (Councillor A. Murray present)." Motion carried.

Business Arising

- Exterior Stairway

S. Scannell noted the exterior stairway will be six months late in completion and that they are working with R. Archibald to get start date.

- Fire Flows

B. Landry reported that 2 flow kits were ordered and noted that Public Works were unsuccessful in their first attempt at using them. He then spoke to the proper technique by using a static gauge. He further stated that testing will be carried out through public works and that K. Meisner and S. Brophy would be involved.

It was noted the next round of testing will be done during spring flushing.

B. Chisholm indicated the fire department would like to have input into which hydrants are tested.

Discussion took place. It was noted plans for the next round should run through the Town Engineer. S. Scannell agreed to co-ordinate the activity with Public Works, Engineering and the Fire Department for the next round of testing

- **Review of 2019/20 Proposed Fire Department Budget**

Copies of the proposed budget were distributed. R. Kell note page 1 is a complete overview of the entire budget. He then went through the various sections including Honorariums, fire alarms systems, public fire protection, training, fire station and buildings, asset insurance, and Workers Compensation Board.

Brief discussion took place on having the steps shovelled during winter months. It was noted that the existing apartment is being renovated into a lounge and a place for the building to be manned 24/7 in the event it is required.

It was noted that costs for individual fire trucks are reflected separately.

Fire fighting gear includes an amount of \$24,250.00. and it was noted that emergency funding is accessible, however the equipment needs to be purchased, and a receipt submitted to receive a maximum of \$20,000 which is included in the budget.

J. Lawrence noted that as long as the Town has an understanding of the flow of the budget it is fine.

R. Kell noted that the breakdown of costs is laid out on page 2.

Brief discussion took place on Workers Compensation and additional insurance for members.

Discussion ensued on testing undertaken through B & D Pratt.

B. Landry responded to a query from CAO J. Lawrence on the use of a Town truck in another area. Discussion took place.

“It was Moved and Seconded to recommend to Council accept the proposed 2019/20 Fire Department Budget.” Motion carried.

Discussion took place on fire hydrant standards.

- **Fire Service Dispatch**

R. MacPherson note that fire dispatch has been carried out through various places over the years. It was noted the Town currently uses Canso Dispatch at a cost of \$3,200 per year.

It was noted that the current dispatch is working fine, however, the current provider is one individual and there is some concern as to what would happen should that person no longer be able to provide the service.

Brief discussion took place on an issue with fire dispatch in Yarmouth.

R. MacPherson spoke to the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia. Discussion took place on fire department dispatch throughout the province and the need for it to be addressed. It was generally agreed that there is a need for formal fire service dispatch system with back-up.

Chief B. Chisholm noted there is a recommended standards checklist exists for fire dispatch service.

CAO J. Lawrence suggested that ultimately the province could end of with three (3) or four (4) dispatch services throughout the province, as opposed to current 'mom and pop' operations.

- **Private Fire Hydrants**

The Chair noted that the matter of private fire hydrants has been on the agenda for quite some time. He noted the Town probably does a good job of testing their own hydrants but should have some comfort in knowing that private hydrants are in working order.

The Chair stated that it is his sense that those who own fire private hydrants should be required to submit confirmation that their hydrants are in working order.

- **Generator**

The Chair noted that the fire department committee had previously discussed the purchase of a generator.

CAO J. Lawrence noted the importance of looking at all parameters before deciding the type of generator to invest in.

The CAO suggested that the fire department should spec out an appropriate generator.

Chief B. Chisolm spoke to having a generator that could operate everything in the fire department for at least a week

CAO J. Lawrence stated his support for a generator moving forward.

It was generally agreed to keep this matter on the agenda.

- **Medical First Response**

The Chief noted they are getting calls from EHS for patient lifts as well as for cardiac arrest. He noted they had not been registered as a medical first responder with the province in the past. He stated that when an ambulance arrives there are 2 paramedics on site. The Chief noted they are now classified as a Level 2 responder and have now formalized the process that they have been doing all along, and that there are some benefits derived from being registered.

S. Scannell noted that some fire departments are registered and some are not.

Discussion took place on a date for the next meeting, it was generally agreed that S. Scannell would look into the issue of private hydrants, and that a meeting would be set once enough information has been gathered to move forward.

- **Adjournment**

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 PM.