

# RICHMOND COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

October 17, 2018 7:00 PM

Location: St. Peter's VFD Fire Hall, St. Peter's, NS

Present: Raymond Ferguson, Warden Brian Marchand, Blair Stone,  
Terence Terrio, Douglas Morrison, Constable Travis MacDonald RCMP,  
Wallie Owens, Kelvin MacKay, Rodney LeBlanc, Quentin Doucette,  
Trevor Snowdon, David MacLeod, Jim Prince (VFIS)

Departments Missing: Louisdale, District 10, West Bay Road

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and welcomed all in attendance. Introductions were made around the room.

Review of Minutes from the July 4, 2018 Meeting: Minutes adopted as presented. Moved by Councillor Marchand, seconded by Kelvin MacKay.

Items to add to agenda: Discussion re: Paging System  
Moved by Councillor Marchand and seconded by Kelvin MacKay to adopt agenda as presented

Business Arising from the July 4, 2018 Meeting:  
Fire Marshalls online system delayed again. Fire Marshall says it will be ready before end of the year. Currently being tested in the Fire Marshalls office.

New Business:  
Jim Prince - VFIS Insurance.  
Discussion re: New Off Duty Benefits (cost: \$73/yr to cover member or \$132/yr to cover family.)  
New EAP Program (cost: \$2 per member/month)

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Constable MacDonald - Move Over Law. If EHS or FD are on side of the road, RCMP (if not required at the incident) will use radar to catch those who do not slow down or don't pull out. Fines are high. Vehicles must slow down to 60km/hr or to speed limit if lower. Vehicles must move over if lane is available.  
Fines for not slowing down or not moving over start at over \$350.00 for a first offence however a judge can impose a higher fine if it goes to court.

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Updates from Raymond Ferguson:  
- Currently, Canso Dispatch is used to receive and forward calls for Fire Departments. Pagers do not work well, further you get from Port Hastings. Price is \$280/month/department + dues for year.

Committee is looking at forming a Central Dispatch for the whole province.

- Annual General Meeting of Fire Services Association: Dispatch was the #1 item being discussed.
- FSANS Spring Conference - Will be held in Truro, April 12-14, 2019 at the Holiday inn. Rooms are \$119 per night. There will be Vendors, presentations etc.
- Insurance Levy from Province has been caught up. 4 year plan presented to the Provincial Finance Dept.
- Courses - HASMAT operations added - required for Level 1 firefighter course. Vehicle Extrication not available. HASMAT & Extrication will rotate yearly.
- Critical Incident Stress Team - 26 years in operation. Traumatic event can call 1-800 number and debriefing can be set up. Covered by VFIS. Members of CISM Team can come to Department meetings to explain what they do.
- Funding for the Emergency Services Provider Fund is ready for 2019. Each Fire Department has to apply for money before buying gear. Money only available every 3 years/department.
- Scene Security - changes to who is responsible for scene security when required by Fire Marshall.
- Interoperability Forum (Oct 16th). Discussed communications with other first responders. TMR mutual aid channel to communicate with all responsible. Public Safety and Field Communications looking for second vendor/distributor. Radios have to be specially programmed to run programs which is very expensive. This should lower costs of buying additional units.
- Fire Marshall's award given to firefighters or regular members of the public.  
<http://www.fsans.ns.ca/pdf/Fire%20Marshal%20Award%20Form.pdf>

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Adjournment:

There being no further business Rodney LeBlanc moved that the meeting be adjourned, Kelvin MacKay seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Next Meeting: December 5th, 2018.