

# Richmond County Fire Services Steering Committee Report - October 2021

After breaking for the summer months the committee has met once this fall to discuss the direction going forward and future plans.

It was a productive meeting in which Deputy Warden Diggdon and myself were given a series of questions from members to which we will respond with answers from staff.

Dry Hydrants remain a topic of conversation to which we updated progress on that issue in that it is working its way through policy/by-law committee.

Expectations of insurance rate increases this coming year are a serious concern for already cash strapped departments.

There was also interest in looking into possible further bulk buying options in order to save costs.

Discussion was had regarding the funding model for fire departments currently being undertaken in Pictou County. We've long known that multiple fire departments within Richmond county will be unable to survive long term given the current financial model for funding. Therefore I move that we ask staff to investigate how to enact Recommendation #39 from the Fire services review which reads as follows.

#39 GA Recommends that funding for the fire departments should come from the general taxation rate. The rationale is that fire-emergency services benefits everyone in the county, and everyone should pay an equal amount.

The committee is set to meet again on November 24<sup>th</sup> 2021.

This concludes the fire services committee report.