

RICHMOND COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

January 20, 2021 7:00 PM

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

Present: Warden Amanda Mombourquette, Deputy Warden Michael Diggdon, Councillor Brent Sampson, Mr Brett Hershey (Emergency Services Coordinator) Mr. Raymond Ferguson (St.Peter's VFD), Mr. Blair Stone (St.Peter's VFD), Mr. Paul Shears (West Bay VFD), Mr. Kelvin MacKay(Grand River VFD), Mr. Stanley Sampson (L'Ardoise VFD), Mr. Evan Marchand (Louisdale VFD), Mr. Mark Skinner (Isle Madame VFD), Mr. Colin McPherson (Loch Lomond VFD), Mr. Scott Magdy (D10/Red Islands VFD), Mr. Daniel Shaw (West Bay VFD), Mr. Marvin MacLean (St.Peter's VFD).

Absent: Potlotek

1. Call to Order:

Chairperson, Brett Hershey called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Call for Items Added:

- Dry Hydrants
- \$\$
- Audit

3. Review of Last Minutes: February 12, 2020

Moved by Mr. Blair Stone, seconded by Mr. Colin McPherson that the minutes of February 12, 2020 be approved. Motion carried.

4. Business Arising from Minutes:

- Mr Paul Shears re Dry Hydrant in Cleveland - Warden Mombourquette indicated that Dry Hydrants were on the Agenda for the next regular Council Meeting. Mr Brett Hershey pointed out that there is no paperwork or agreement written on who installs, who maintains, who pays.
- **Action item:** Letter of support from Council to Parks Canada to have a boat launch built on the Parks Canada side of the St. Peter's Canal.

6. New Business:

6.1 Fire Services Committee Structure -

- It was recommended by the Fire Services Review that Fire Chiefs meet with Mr. Brett Hershey without having Council members present. Mr. Hershey indicated that he was to submit a report to the CAO and council, with recommendations from the committee of the chosen committee structure.
- Mr Kelvin MacKay indicated that he likes having council in the room. Saves time with information being given to the Fire Services Coordinator and then passed on to Council.
- Discussion re:
 - No Councillors present
 - Councillors present and they have voting privileges
 - Councillors present with no voting privileges
- Mr Paul Shears brought up that a representative from the Strait Area Mutual Aid should be part of the committee.
- Invitations to RCMP & Department of Forestry were also discussed

6.2 It was decided by unanimous vote that the committee structure stay the same as it was in the past. 2 Council Members, that having voting rights. Guests such as the Department of Forestry and RCMP may be invited.

6.3 Terms of Reference -

- Committee was asked for input on the Terms of Reference document that had been circulated by email.
- Blair Stone objected to the use of the term "shared capital" found on bullet 5 of *Specific Roles and Responsibilities* of the Terms of Reference.
- Question as to who will serve on the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia. Raymond Ferguson currently attends. He indicated that he was willing to continue attending FSANS but an alternate needs to be chosen.
- Brett to re-tool the Terms of Reference document and it will be reviewed again.

7. Items added to the Agenda

7.1 Dry Hydrants - Paul Shears indicated that he had read the section on Dry Hydrants in the Fire Services Review document. He brought up that there are regulations that govern the installation of Dry Hydrants. Brett Hershey to review that section & create a guideline document re Dry Hydrants for circulation.

7.2 \$\$ - Blair Stone had questions about free money ???? Councillor Brent Sampson was wondering about the Levy that each department receives. Why is it not on a regular schedule?

- 7.3 Fire Services Review - Discussion re the fire services review and how it would be used. Would it all be used to make changes, part of it? Certain sections? Brett Hershey indicated that some of it would be utilized but it will be discussed before any changes are made.

8. New Business

- Informational, Blair Stone indicated that the EMO Generator that was always kept at the St. Peter's Fire Hall had been moved to the Sampsonville Hall. Not sure why.
- Colin McPherson said that his department (Loch Lomond) would be interested in a generator.
- A Policy is being created to identify EMO Comfort Centers and Policy that governs them.
- Question about the Fire Services Review, what parts would be adopted - Warden Mombourquette said that council would take one thing at a time.
- Kelvin MacKay brought up that his fire hall has been a whole year without any fundraisers due to COVID 19 restriction. Grand River Fire Department is very low on funds.
- Discussion about Rate Payers Levy amount, whose money it is, does not belong to the fire departments, money belongs to all residents.
- Question was asked of all Fire Departments as to whether they were taking part in the "Nova Scotia Firefighters 50-50". Some departments were not aware.
- EHS has a program to properly fit PPE on Fire Fighters. EHS needs a contact in each Department.
 - Scheduled departments:
 - March 11, 2021 Waycobah, West Bay Rd.
 - April 1st, 2021 @ Loch Lomond Fire Hall. Includes the following Fire Departments: Framboise/Fourchu, Red Islands and Grand River
 - Fittings start at 6:30pm and take approximately 20 minutes each - only 6 members per department

9. Action Items

- Clarity on Fire Services committee structure: who to chair, who included, who can vote etc.
- When new Subdivisions are set up, water / dry hydrants need to be considered
- Letter of support from Council to Parks Canada to have a boat launch built on the Parks Canada side of the St. Peter's Canal.

10. Next Meeting:

It was the consensus of the Committee that the next meeting date be scheduled for February 17, 2021.

11. Adjournment:

Moved by Marvin MacLean, seconded by Daniel Shaw that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

MINUTES RECORDED BY: Carla Martell