

RICHMOND COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

February 17, 2021 7:00 PM

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

Present: Deputy Warden Michael Diggon, Councillor Brent Sampson, Mr. Brett Hershey, Mr. Raymond Ferguson, Mr. Blair Stone, Mr. Paul Shears, Mr. Kelvin MacKay, Mr. Aaron Marchand, Mr. Scott Madgy, Mr. Daniel Shaw, Mr. Mark Skinner.

Absent: L'Ardoise, Loch Lomond, Potlotek, Framboise/Fourchu

Call to Order:

Chairperson, Mr. Brett Hershey called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Items Added:

Discussion re Financials found in the Fire Services Consultant Report.

Review of Minutes: January 20, 2021:

Moved by Mr. Mark Skinner, seconded by Mr. Daniel Shaw that the minutes of January 20, 2021 be approved. Motion carried.

Business arising from Minutes:

- Provincial Fire Grant - Where does the money go that is transferred from the Provincial Government to cover properties that are exempt from paying a levy. That money goes into the general revenue pot and is not given to fire departments.
- FSANS representative alternate. Mr Raymond Ferguson nominated Mr. Brett Hershey as the alternate. Nomination was seconded by Councillor Brent Sampson. Mr. Brett Hershey accepted nomination.
- Acceptance Vote on revised Fire Services Committee Terms of Reference. To be reviewed for next meeting. Discussion & Vote to be held next meeting.

New Business:

- Mutual Aid/Automatic Aid Agreement - Document to be reviewed for discussion at next meeting.
- Joint OH&S - If firefighter is injured but no longer collects a paycheque, WCB will not replace wages, but will cover benefits, medical, diagnostics etc.

- Training - Specific hydrants should be used for training in order to cause the least amount of impact on regular water users. Mr. Brett Hershey to follow up with Director of Public Works, Chris Boudreau. Mr. Brett Hershey in discussions with NSCC in Port Hawkesbury to use the Burn Building for training.
- Boat Ramp at Parks Canada side of St. Peter's Canal - Mr. Brett Hershey to put together a letter of support for Council.
- Registration of Fire Departments - Must be done ASAP, is required by the Municipal Government Act.
- Suggestion made by Mr. Blair Stone that dry hydrant parking areas be considered when new highways tenders are being drawn up.
- Discussion re Burn By-Law/Policy - Municipality has no by-law enforcement officer.
- Mr. Raymond Ferguson
 - FSANS convention is cancelled until 2022 due to Covid - 19
 - FDIC in Wolfville also cancelled for this year.
 - Charges against the Fire School in reference to the fatal accident with a fire extinguisher. Fire School will most likely be fined.
 - Next FSANS meeting will be a virtual meeting in March.
 - All departments should be receiving emails with Covid Updates.

Item Added to Agenda:

- Financials in Fire Services Consultant Report: Paul Shears in inquiring where the numbers come from and why they differ from the actual numbers at the Fire Department. Assumption that the difference is the WCB and insurance payments made directly for the Departments by the Municipality.
- Departments would like to get a detailed breakdown of reporting on Levy, insurance, WCB etc amounts.

Next Meeting:

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

Adjournment:

Moved by Mr. Paul Shears, seconded by Mr. Mark Skinner that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

MINUTES RECORDED BY: Carla Martell