

# RICHMOND COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

March 23, 2021 7:00 PM

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

Present: Deputy Warden Michael Diggdon, Councillor Brent Sampson, Mr. Brett Hershey, Mr. Raymond Ferguson, Mr. Blair Stone, Mr. Kelvin MacKay, Mr. Aaron Marchand, Mr. Evan Marchand, Mr. Scott Madgy, Mr. Daniel Shaw, Mr. Mark Skinner, Mr. Stanley Sampson, Mr. Wayne Skinner.

Absent: Loch Lomond, Potlotek, Framboise/Fourchu

Guests: Mr. Jim Cavanagh, Strait Area Mutual Aid,  
Ms. Michelle MacPhee, Seniors Safety & Social Inclusion Coordinator.

### Call to Order:

Chairperson, Mr. Brett Hershey called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

### Items Added:

Discussion re Scotchtown looking for support for reducing cost of Firefighter funerals.

### Review of Minutes: February 17, 2021:

Moved by Mr. Daniel Shaw, seconded by Mr. Kelvin MacKay that the minutes of February 17, 2021 be approved. Motion carried.

Roundtable of Introductions for our guests.

### Agenda Items:

- 6.1 Short presentation by Ms. Michelle MacPhee, the Seniors Safety & Social Inclusion Coordinator from the WB Kingston Clinic. She would like input from Firefighters into short Fire Safety Public Service Announcements to present to Seniors. Would also like volunteers from Departments to be in those PSAs. She feels that seniors may pay attention if they recognize the people or area featured in the Ads. An overview was distributed (green sheet) as well as a brochure.
- 6.2 Dry Hydrant - The discussion of Dry Hydrants has been moved to the Budget Process. Mr. Brett Hershey to clarify that his recommendation for Dry Hydrants is that the county should proceed with planning for dry hydrants and that the funding will be taken out of the Fire

levy surpluses. Priority of new dry hydrants is required. Mr. Brett Hershey is hoping for a policy to be approved.

- 6.3 Terms of Reference - a few changes/typos were mentioned and noted by Mr Brett Hershey for change. Motion was made by Mr. Aaron Marchand to accept the Terms of Reference as amended. Mr. Kelvin MacKay seconded. Motion passed.
- 6.4 Mutual Aid Agreement needs to be signed by all participating departments.  
FYI: Agreement has been signed with Port Hawkesbury to have them cover Fire Services for Point Tupper.
- 6.5 Water Supply - document to be written determining who will be supplying water. Alternative to Dry Hydrants , Superior Shuttle Tanker could be used in exchange of or in addition to a dry hydrant program. It would require significant planning and department involvement going forward, but it would provide the most significant protection for residents and the greatest rating through FUS
- 6.7 Vehicle Insurance - as of our next insurance renewal, Insurance Companies will require Driver's License Numbers for each driver who drives a Fire Department Vehicle.

Discussion re drivers with the wrong class of drivers license driving trucks. Law is that duties include responding to a fire but NOT the return trip. Class 3 driving test is very expensive and only certain trucks can be used to take the road test. Not feasible to take a fire truck out of service to do a road test. Rental vehicle might be a solution if departments want to get multiple drivers tests done.

Mr Brett Hershey to get details from Insurance Company as to who/ when etc certain drivers are considered ok to drive and are insured.

- 6.8 Fire Department page on the website: Mr. Brett Hershey will begin adding information to this page. Departments who wish to publish information on the website, should send info to Mr Brett Hershey or Ms. Carla Martell.

#### Item added to Agenda:

A letter of support is being requested to have the NS Government to pay a portion of Fire Fighters funeral expenses. Needs clarification as to how long someone is considered a firefighter. Mr Brett Hershey to write a letter of support for this initiative.

#### Business arising from Minutes:

- Boat Ramp - Mr. Brett Hershey was in contact with Parks Canada who are checking to see if any funding available to help with this project. Both Chapel Island and SPEDO are interested. Parks Canada wants the ramp to be locked.
- Burning Enforcement- Mr. Brett Hershey discussed that he has put it out to the OFM for clarification on burning enforcement and special assistant cards. He is waiting for them to get back to him with specifics.

New Business:

- Payments to Fire Departments - Departments have stated that they want there to be a process of consistency for the delivery of levy payment amounts. It was mentioned by Deputy Warden Diggdon that it has been discussed in the past for 3 payments a year. Mr Brett Hershey said that would be payments on June 30th, October 31st and March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Mr Brett Hershey agreed that he would put together a document outlining the new payment schedule, county and department reporting requirements.

Next Meeting:

It was the consensus of the Committee that the next meeting date be scheduled for April 21, 2021.

Adjournment:

Moved by Mr. Daniel Shaw, seconded by Mr. Kelvin MacKay that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

MINUTES RECORDED BY: Carla Martell