

## SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING WITH FIRE DEPARTMENTS

September 22, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Louise Halliday, Chair
- Murray Atkinson
- George El-Jakl
- Shaun Hatfield
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
- Cecil O'Donnell
- Cathy Stoddard
  
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk
  
- Paul Thomas, Barrington Volunteer Fire Department
- John Nickerson, Barrington Volunteer Fire Department
- Shannon Newell, Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
- Gordie Ross, Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
- Blanchard Chetwynd, Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department
- David Ellis, Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department
- Walter Scott, Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department
- Eugene Stoddard, Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department
- Ricky Banks, Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department
- Jason Shand, Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department
- Troy Stoddard, Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department

### PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting was for members to discuss various fire department issues with representatives of the volunteer fire departments. The only fire department not represented this evening was the Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department.

### ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following item was added to the agenda:

- Sirens.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Moved** by C. O'Donnell and seconded by G. El-Jakl that the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Fire Departments Reports were received from the following fire departments who indicated the total number of calls received, to date, this year, and the number of members:

- |   |   |                      |
|---|---|----------------------|
| - Barrington Volunteer Fire Department                  | - | 32 calls, 28 members |
| - Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department | - | 36 calls, 64 members |
| - Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department                 | - | 16 calls, 28 members |
| - Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department     | - | 30 calls, 33 members |
| - Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department              | - | 55 calls, 34 members |
| - Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department, no report       |   |                      |

### LADDER TRUCK

Members were presented with a written proposal from the fire chiefs of the various fire departments. The proposal included letters of support from four (4) of the six (6) fire departments. No letter of support has yet been received from the Port Clyde Fire Department although they have verbally indicated their support for this proposal. The Port LaTour Fire Department is opposed to this proposal.

There then followed much discussion regarding this proposal. During their discussion it was indicated that the Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department could eliminate two of the trucks it now has if the aerial truck was purchased. In this proposal the fire chiefs are requesting that Municipal Council endorse the purchase of the aerial truck, in principle, and are asking that Council accept the Chief's Committee as being the body to make fire department related issues in the Municipality. Although it is not mentioned in the report, it was also verbally requested that the Municipality set minimum standards for municipal volunteer fire departments. The Fire Chief's Committee is requesting the Municipality to endorse this concept, in principle, so that they can continue to obtain additional information regarding the purchase of an aerial truck.

### Resolution COW090922

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality endorse the idea, in principle, of purchasing an aerial truck with a pump for the Municipality as requested by the Fire Chief's Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

The fire chiefs emphasized that they will not be holding any public meetings in the fire departments for this purpose, and are not asking that an area rate be put in place. They are asking that the vehicle be bought by the Municipality. The Chief of the Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department indicated that his department is not in favor of the purchase because their fire fighters are in need of other equipment that they do not now have. It is the intention of the Chief's Committee to operate so that they can get the participation of all of the fire departments in the Municipality.

Resolution COW090923

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. O'Donnell that it be recommended to Council to accept the Chief's Committee as being the body to make fire department related issues in the Municipality.

Motion carried unanimously.

There then followed some discussion as to how this will affect various policies of the Municipality.

Resolution COW090924

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by D. Messenger that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the volunteer fire departments in the Municipality requesting that they appoint a member to the Fire Chief's Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

SIRENS

Emergency vehicles are required to use sirens by a section of the Motor Vehicle Act. This section requires the use of sirens by fire trucks if they are proceeding to an emergency and may be breaking any of the normal driving regulations.

STANDARDS FOR MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

It was suggested that standards should be applied to municipal fire departments under the Municipal Fire Fighters Act, and including MFPA standards.

Resolution COW090925

**Moved** by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff investigate the use of minimum standards for volunteer fire departments.

Motion carried unanimously.

WATER HOLES

The water hole at Hirtle's Pond, at The Hawk, has not been completed. Eugene Stoddard will talk to the Department of Transportation and to property owners in order to make arrangements to complete the water hole at this location.

The next water holes to be worked on are two for the Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department, and then one in the Port Clyde/Port LaTour area.

Resolution COW090926

**Moved** by S. Hatfield and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that a letter be sent to the Emergency Management Organization requesting that copies of correspondence sent out by EMO also be sent to the Chair of the Fire Chiefs Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 8:47 p.m.

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Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

**On website September 24, 2009.**