

BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MARCH 12/2014

The March meeting of the Municipality of Barrington Fire Service Advisory Committee was held on March 12/2014 at the Island & Barrington Passage Fire Department.

The meeting was called order @ 8:36PM by Chairman Dave Kendrick. Fire departments represented were Port Clyde, Port LA Tour, Barrington and Island & Barrington Passage. Councillors George El-Jaki and Jody Crook were also present.

On the Agenda was the topic of the Co-Ordinators salary and expenses, Training Courses, WSHFD and their participation in tonight's meeting, recommendations of the AGM, proposed land purchase by Barrington and Port LA Tour fire departments.

Minutes of the last meeting were read along with the minutes of the special meeting of February 26/14. A motion for approval of both minutes was made by Mike Swim and 2nd by Troy Perry. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

With reference to the Co-ordinators salary and expenses, a short discussion was held and IBPFD forwarded their opinion to have it Assessment based while Barrington, Port LA Tour and Port Clyde departments wanted it based on everyone paying the same. Paul Thomas motioned that we table the discussion of the Fire Service Co-ordinators' salary and expenses for a later date. Brian Crowell 2nd it. Motion carried.

The following training courses are scheduled as follows"

-Certified Traffic Control Course-choice of two dates. April 4 or 5th. The one day training will be 4-5 hours in duration. There will be an instructor coming from Truro so names of participants are needed ASAP to ensure there will be enough to bring in an outside Trainer.

-Competency Course-April 26th. Being held at the Barrington arena grounds for truck driving skills. There will be 8 competencies that drivers will be required to work through.

-Vehicle Extrication Course-This is two weekend course. Dwayne will announce the dates and Dave will then add them to the minutes.

-EMO Mock Disaster this coming June. Mike Swim will update us on that when the time comes. Dave will make sure the information on these courses get added to the website.

There was a short discussion as to the makeup of the FSAC. It was decided that the 5 Station Chiefs would be on the committee and in their absence they would send the next Senior Officer from their department for voting and information purposes. This motion was carried by consensus.

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Next on the Agenda was a discussion around the issue of WSHFD not being represented and declining to attend this meeting. Warden Eddie Nickerson stated that he has spoken to Troy Stoddard and that Troy said he felt that they weren't being heard at the FSAC meetings and so they requested a private meeting with Dave Kendrick the Fire Co-ordinator. Another concern expressed was around the issue of area rates. Dwayne Hunt stated that the last FSAC meeting went well and that everything was well explained and no concerns were expressed at that time from members of the WSHFD. Mike Swim stated that there was talk about the proposed purchased of land by Barrington and Port La Tour fire department and no concerns were expressed at that time. There was never any mention of building a hall on the land. It was agreed that whatever the committee decided, the majority ruled.

George El-Jakl spoke and made it clear that he was not speaking on behalf of WSHFS but said members have come to his place of business to voice their concerns about how they feel they are not being heard as a Fire Department. George stated that he told them to speak their mind at a meeting. He said they want one flat rate for their area and they have concerns about purchasing trucks and that they can be denied by other departments even if they have their own tax rate. They also feel that the Fire Co-ordinator is not being fair across the board and the some members of the WSHFD feel that he favors other departments.

George also gave his own personal opinion with respect to the AGM meeting that was held previous to this meeting this evening. He felt that it was wrong to continue with the meeting without representation from WSHFD. He felt that everyone should have been represented.

John Nickerson spoke up and said that all departments had been invited to the AGM meeting and as far as the issue of Barrington and Port La Tour possibly purchasing land, that's all it was, the purchase of land. There was no talk of building a hall. The ideas to acquire the land while it was available and it would be there if and when there was even a decision to build on it at a later date. John also said that he was not necessarily in favor of WSHFD's truck proposal but he still voted for it.

Dwayne Hunt addressed the area rate issue. He stated that everyone voted on it on this committee and it has gone back to Council and we live with their decision and we move on. The time for difference of opinions and discussions are available and in place before agreements are made and then when it is forwarded to Council as a consensus it is at the next level for a decision and beyond us. Dwayne also stated that he was personally offended that anyone feels that the Fire Co-ordinator favors any department. He also stated that WSHFD should have had representation at these meetings tonight. They were invited the same as other departments.

Dwayne reminded Council that Fire Service issues have to come through this body (FSAC).

George El-Jakl again defended his position as Councillor and Fire Fighter and who he represents. George said one of the WSHFD issues was about how the rates were set. Dave set. Dave stated that there were three proposals for rates and the committee agreed on three areas rates and it was passed at Council as recommended by the FSAC and that it is a done deed. Eight months later we are still talking about areas rates and it is time to move on.

George El-Jakl said that Troy Stoddard and Peter Wade were told this; however, George indicated that the decision by Council can be rescinded even if Council passed it. There was some discussion around whether or not a motion can be rescinded. Eddie Nickerson stated that it can if there has been a new development.

Dwayne Hunt stated that we have already gone through the proper stages and there are no new developments so why rescind it.

Councillor Jody Crook stated that for him, even if ti comes back to Council he is going to stay with the three area rates. He stated that he feels this is the right decision for now and that maybe in a few years when circumstances change, then it will be a different decision.

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John Nickerson apologized to George and stated that for now three area rates are the way to go and then look at it again in the future..

George agreed that it is going to take a while to work through the bumps of any new organization and feels that eventually the same will happen with WSHFD.

Dwayne Hunt stated that the IBPFD is more willing to give up amenities and we stand to gain the least from amalgamation. The other departments need to be willing to give up some to gain some. They will see it eventually.

Dave said that for example, when it came to compressors, each department wanted their own and no one wanted them in one place, making the point that we don't always get what we want but we have to be patient and be open to embracing new ideas that will be a gain for everyone in the end. Sometimes we miss the good because we dwell on the negative. We have to recognize that what we need to be efficient is different than what we want. We need to do it at a lower cost and still give the Fire Service what they deserve in our Municipality.

Mike Swim wondered if we should let the vote be rescinded around the issue of the area rate and if we did and it went back to Council would it actually change in the end.

Dwayne Hunt disagreed with allowing it to be rescinded. He said it has been dealt with already.

Paul Thomas stated that everyone can meet after the fact and complain and express concerns about decisions but this should be done in committee and express their concerns where it will make a difference. We have to start thinking more about the community that we serve.

Eddie Nickerson stated that to rescind a motion you have to have two thirds majority of the vote at that specific meeting OR you have to have a new development and a new proposal to rescind a motion.

As for the land acquisition proposal for Barrington and Port La Tour it is only a step at working towards amalgamation. Councillor Crook stated that the "intent" of the proposal was to look into buying the land, not to do any building on it.

George El-Jakl stated that he felt we are all missing his point. He said that WSHFD is upset because they were told by the Fire Co-ordinator that the area rate is a done deal and that he won't revisit it. He continued by saying that they don't like the way Dave handles motions.

John Nickerson said that here was motion passed stating that Barrington and Port La Tour may continue unification talks. The motion was to not construct or eliminate any fire hall for two years.

Brian Crowell stated that WSHFD know better and they know they can have a motion rescinded and they should have come to the meeting and stated their concerns.

Brian Crowell called for adjournment at 10:27 PM and Dwayne Hunt 2nd it.