

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

FIRE COMMITTEE

May 8, 2013

There was a Meeting of the Fire Committee held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Wednesday May 8, 2013. Present was Chair Margaret Whyte, Mayor Don Eady and Councillors Robert Kingsbury, Glen Campbell and Jamey Larone. Staff present were Deputy Chief Allan Cole and Finance Manager Jennifer Barr.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Whyte called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest expressed by the members or the staff.

3. HEAVY EXTRICATION EQUIPMENT

Chair Whyte advised those present that a letter had been received from the Renfrew County Mutual Aid group regarding removal of Heavy Extrication and then turned the meeting over to Deputy Chief Cole for his presentation regarding this matter.

Deputy Chief Cole presented a Power Point Presentation which outlined the timeline and steps which took place by the Fire Chiefs of Renfrew County in arriving at the decision to remove Heavy Extrication (H.E.) from the Renfrew County Mutual Aid Plan. Historically H.E. has been part of mutual aid. Eleven municipalities in Renfrew County currently have the equipment required to provide H.E. and eight remaining to either provide the service or contract with another to provide the service.

Horton Township has three options as follows:

- Purchase Equipment and provide H.E. service
- Provide no H.E. service
- Enter into an agreement with set fees with another municipality

The timeline to enter into an agreement with a neighbouring municipality is September 2013 to ensure policy is in place by January 1, 2014.

Deputy Chief Cole reviewed the draft agreement as submitted by Fire Chief Dan Herback, Co-ordinator of Renfrew County Mutual Aid. Deputy Chief Cole has some concerns with this draft agreement given that it is for one year leaving subsequent years open for large increases in fees. Horton Township historically receives 10 calls per year, therefore the estimate fees for 2014 would be \$6,000.00. Some of the fees can be recovered from the province if the calls are on provincial highways. Some fees can be recovered for Township and County Roads for non-residents from individual insurance companies.

Deputy Chief Cole then reviewed the basic rescue kit and heavy extrication equipment lists. Horton Fire Department is well equipped with the basic rescue but not heavy extrication. The cost to equip the department could range from \$85,000.00 to \$120,000.00 plus initial training of \$10,000.00. There would also be annual costs for equipment maintenance and ongoing training.

The department is currently recommending entering into a one year agreement with the Town of Renfrew and renew annually if necessary. The department also recommends pursuing the purchase of necessary Heavy Rescue Equipment inclusive of training and offer Heavy Extrication services as part of the departments Core Services.

Council then asked various questions of Deputy Chief Cole to ensure a proper understanding of heavy extrication and the impact to Horton residents and the department.

After the question and answer period Mayor Eady requested that a proper business plan be submitted the Horton Fire department inclusive of costs, cost recoveries, life expectancy, replacement costs etc. Mayor Eady also would a review of all neighbouring municipalities and the availability of provide Heavy Extrication service.

Deputy Chief Cole noted that once the decision is made regarding the service level, if Council chooses to over Heavy Extrication service that in then becomes part of the Core Service of the department.

Chair Whyte then close the presentation.

4. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Robert Kingsbury, Seconded by Glen Campbell

That the Committee pass this confirming resolution to cover any actions or directions given during the open portion of this Committee Meeting which are minor in nature and which were not set out in By-law or Resolution.

Carried.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Don Eady, Seconded by Jamey Larone

That this Committee Meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Carried.

Chair, Margaret Whyte

Finance Manager, Jennifer Barr