

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

Fire Committee Meeting

July 10, 2013

There was a Meeting of the Fire Committee held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Wednesday July 10, 2013. Present was Chair Margaret Whyte, Mayor Don Eady, Fire Chief Randy Corbin and Deputy Fire Chief Allan Cole. Staff present was Mackie McLaren, CAO/Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Whyte called the Meeting to Order at 6:35 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest by Members of the Committee or Staff.

3. MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2013 AND MAY 8, 2013 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Chair Whyte asked the Members to review the Meeting Minutes.

4. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Fire Chief Corbin requested that information from the Enbridge donation to the Department be added to the agenda.

Moved by Allan Cole, Seconded by Randy Corbin that the agenda be adopted for the July 10, 2013 Committee Meeting.

Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising discussed from the above meeting minutes.

6. BUSINESS PLAN FOR EXTRICATION EQUIPMENT AND HEAVY RESCUE EXTRICATION AGREEMENT

Mayor Eady said in the May 8th Minutes he was to contact municipalities. He spoke with Mile Nolan of the County Emergency Response Department about the \$500. He said it was a communication issue that would come to a meeting to determine if the department responded to a Highway 17 scene would they be billed if Renfrew was called back.

Chair Whyte noted we have to have the service in place by December 31, 2013. Deputy Chief Cole said a decision has to be in place by September 30. This gives time to set up mapping so the service is in place by January 1, 2014. Ideally the agreement should be in place by October 1 at the latest. Deputy Chief Cole said the standby fee is \$1,000 for the year and the call out charge is \$500 per hour. The Department anticipates the standby fee might increase in 2015. He said we have no choice but to enter into agreement for 2014. Mayor Eady agreed.

Deputy Chief Cole said the Department has found a source for used extrication Equipment from the States. He said as we are currently sitting we have a fair bit of equipment. He added that if we choose to purchase the used equipment we could get what we need for \$15,000 compared to \$12 - \$15,000 for each piece of new equipment. Mayor Eady suggested they use a 20% increase to offset exchange and transportation.

Deputy Chief Cole said this is very preliminary. There is no price on training. He estimated \$10,000 would be needed for training. Chief Corbin said the Department would look into a “train the trainer” course. Mayor Eady thanked them for this work on costs and availability.

Chair Whyte said we will still need to sign the agreement for 2014. Does the Committee recommend we purchase equipment and training in the 2014 budget? Deputy Chief Cole said training is in the budget in the past years and it all hasn't been used. Would only need to bump up training budget in 2014.

Mayor Eady said that a business plan needs to be developed and finalized before a decision can be made of the future of extrication. He said speaking for himself he would like to examine this used equipment to do our own program in the future. Deputy Chief Cole said that once we start this program we can't turn back as it will be hard to stop a service we were already providing. We will be committed to go down this road if we can do it with reasonably priced equipment. He noted that estimated cost would be \$22 per Horton resident to purchase all new equipment. Mayor Eady said there has to be advantages other than monetary for the Township to go ahead on our own.

Chair Whyte said we are close to the crunch time. The Department has done a lot of work so far. She asked if there is a need for another Committee of the Whole Meeting with Council Members.

Deputy Chief Cole asked what we have to show for ourselves if we enter into an agreement with Renfrew for 10 years. Mayor Eady agreed and said we also need to know what revenue this service generates. Deputy Chief Cole said there would be no revenue from an accident between one ratepayer and another ratepayer. There would be revenue from an accident between one ratepayer and a non-ratepayer based on our cost recovery by-law.

Mayor Eady said that this purchase would be eligible for lot development fund revenue. The Committee would need to get financial information from the Finance Manager of what the fund would cover and how much is in the fund for Fire Department now.

Moved by Randy Corbin, Seconded by Don Eady that the Fire Committee recommend to Council that they enter into a 1 year agreement with the Town of Renfrew Fire Department to provide Heavy Extrication Service to the Township for the year 2014.

Discussion

Mayor Eady would there be an opportunity to contact McNab-Braeside. Deputy Chief Cole said they have been in communication and they can't provide for 2014. Chief Corbin said Whitewater Region may be able to supply this service but recommended the contract with Renfrew as they are centrally located.

Carried

Moved by Don Eady, Seconded by Allan Cole that the Fire Committee recommend to Council that they authorize the Horton Fire Department to prepare a business plan for the possible purchase of equipment and training to provide our own Heavy Extrication Equipment in the future.

Carried

Mayor Eady said he is concerned with the fee for cancelled service set out in Schedule “C” to the agreement if a call is called off and Horton gets an invoice from Renfrew because MTO will not cover. Deputy Chief Cole

said this item should be negotiated. Chief Corbin said the protocol now is all services are called to a scene including extrication and that is why Departments are called off when it is realized extrication is not needed.

Mayor Eady asked if the Department was satisfied with the agreement except for Schedule "C", then there should be an opportunity to meet and discuss this issue and include Mike Nolan. Chair Whyte asked how we negotiate Schedule "C". Mayor Eady suggested we meet with Fire Chief Guy Longtin of the Renfrew Fire Dept. and Mike Nolan of County dispatch. Deputy Chief Cole suggested we meet with Chief Longtin and review the draft agreement line by line and raise the question on fees. The Committee agreed to arrange to meet with Chief Longtin in August depending on the holiday schedules.

7. BY-LAW TO REGULATE USE OF FIREWORKS

Chair Whyte informed the Committee Members that we have had issues regulating fireworks under our draft noise by-law. Planning Committee met last evening and a recommendation was made to have a separate Fireworks by-law. She suggested that we continue to plan to issue permits and that the property owner show proof of property insurance. The CAO/Clerk said the Fire Department does not want to have to inspect property prior to the issuance of a permit, however our online fire permit application works well, so a similar online fireworks permit application should work as well. In both cases, the applicant can't submit the application until they have ticked the box indicating they have read the rules. Chief Corbin agreed. The CAO/Clerk said he would work on a draft by-law for the next Committee Meeting.

8. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

The Members review the Revenue and Expenditure Report as of July 10 2013. Mayor Eady referred to the training budget. Deputy Chief Cole said a large percentage of the budget will be spent in late fall as courses are coming up.

9. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Corbin said the fire fighters have been training on driver training, communication code system (not using codes anymore) and hydrant training. They have had the following call outs: False alarm at Valley Inn Suites, control burn seen from Highway 17, brush fire (\$7,613.26 cost to the Township to fight), tree after a lightning strike.

The Members discussed the brush fire. The property owner had a fire permit that started at 6 pm but the fire was in the afternoon. It was shortly after the burning times changed from 24 hours to 6 pm. He said the Department spent 5 hours on scene and 7 men spent an additional 2 hours repacking hose. The next day 8 firefighters spent 2 more hours cleaning hose on the day after that. The Members requested that the Fire Chief send the property owner a letter showing a report of our costs and advise that any fires in the future will be subject to cost recovery and a fine.

Chief Corbin was asked if the Fire Trucks have a defibrillator on board. Chief Corbin said no. The Members questioned why and Chief Corbin was directed to contact the Recreation Program Manager who has been able to get two for the Community Centre and outdoor rink.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Chief Corbin informed the Committee Members that he has received a skid of combination smoke detectors and carbon monoxide sensor. 134 units were donated through Enbridge Gas to be installed in high risk areas, social assistance and elderly. A photo opportunity is to be set up along with a news release. Chief Corbin will attend to this within the next two weeks.

11. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The Members agreed that the next Fire Committee Meeting will be Wednesday September 18, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Allan Cole, Seconded by Randy Corbin that this Committee Meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Carried

CHAIR

CAO/Clerk