

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

Special Fire Committee Meeting

July 31, 2013

There was a Meeting of the Fire Committee held in the Municipal Council on Wednesday July 31, 2013. Present was Chair Margaret Whyte and Mayor Don Eady. Also present was Councillor Bob Kingsbury and Councillor Jamey Larone. Staff present was Deputy Chief Allan Cole and Mackie McLaren, CAO/Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Whyte called the Meeting to Order at 6:30 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

3. REVIEW HEAVY RESCUE (EXTRICATION) AGREEMENT WITH CHIEF LONGTIN OF RENFREW FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Guy Longtin of the Renfrew Fire Department was present and welcomed to the Council Table by Chair Whyte. Chair Whyte stated that last January Council was notified that the Mutual Aid organization was withdrawing from the supply of Heavy Extrication Equipment and we need to arrange a continuation of this service individually.

Chief Longtin reviewed early history of Mutual Aid's extrication program. 5 Municipalities applied for JEPP funding (Renfrew, Arnprior, Petawawa, Killaloe and Deep River) and these 5 municipalities agreed to cover the other municipalities throughout the County with each town having a specific area. The cost was borne by the 5 municipalities individually and they needed additional revenues. A suggestion was made by the group to offer the service to each municipality individually at a reduced rate of \$1,000 standby fee per year and \$500 per hour of call out. He noted that in Renfrew's case, it takes 13.5 hours of labour to cover a call out which includes the responding crew and the call in crew to man the fire station. \$500 is a nominal fee that doesn't cover their labour and the standby fee covers their training.

Mayor Eady asked if MTO covers the cost for a Provincial Highway response. Chief Longtin said yes, but it is still a net loss for the Department. There will be no charge to Horton for a response on Provincial Highway; they deal directly with the Province. Horton will be invoiced only for a response on Township or County roads. He added that if it was a Horton ratepayer involved in the accident they would not bill Horton as their policy is not to do this for town residents as well.

Mayor Eady asked if a Horton ratepayer and an out of Province resident were in a collision will we be billed. Chief Longtin said if the Horton person was at fault there would be no charges from Renfrew for the response, but if it was the out of Province driver's fault, they would bill us and we could go after the driver's insurance company for reimbursement. He does this for his own department and he has never been refused by an insurance company as every auto policy has this provision included.

Chief Longtin said if Renfrew is already on a response, the next closest town will cover. In this case it would be Arnprior. In the future it may be McNab-Braeside as they are equipping their own department.

Councillor Kingsbury asked who makes the call that heavy extrication equipment is required. Chief Longtin said usually the Fire or Ambulance dispatch but our local department could as well.

Mayor Eady asked if the accident is in Horton, and the Renfrew response is ½ way to the scene and called off, are we billed. Chief Longtin said yes. Mayor Eady asked about a Highway response that is called off. Any charge to Horton? Chief Longtin said no charge to Horton.

Deputy Chief Cole referred to Section 10.5 of the draft agreement. Chief Longtin reviewed the wording and said that there would be no charge from MTO under this section. Mayor Eady asked if Chief Longtin could put this in writing. Chief Longtin said he would.

Deputy Chief Cole noted that this draft agreement is a county wide document and asked if it could be changed individually. Chief Longtin said the proposed change would have to go to the County Committee. He said there have been a number of changes from the original draft but doesn't know if they would be open to more changes. Deputy Chief Cole asked if we could firm up the wording that clarifies the issue we have in Section 10.5. Mayor Eady said even a letter that Horton will not be invoiced for a called off MTO response.

Chief Longtin said he will check this and respond to the CAO/Clerk. Deputy Chief Cole said that he knows that if a response unit arrives at a scene and not needed it will be a call out that Horton pays for. He asked about a call off before Renfrew's Department was rolling to the scene. Chief Longtin said there would still be a charge as long as they are rolling, but there would not be a charge if they had not rolled their equipment yet.

Mayor Eady said Horton acknowledges that the call for extrication equipment may not come from our Fire Department where we would have no control. Chief Longtin said there are standard procedures that govern when the equipment is called out. There are 4 types of accidents that are automatic call outs. However if no personal injuries or minor injuries the response is not called out. Chief Longtin said the average number of call outs into Horton have been 5.2 call outs per year. Most of these are on Provincial Highways.

Councillor Larone noted the rates are \$250 for ½ hour and \$500 for hour. Chief Longtin said most of the calls out are less than 1 hour so the hour rate is used. However a call that lasted 1:20 would be charged for 1.5 hours of response time.

Chair Whyte asked if the agreements are to be reviewed annually. Chief Longtin said the first agreement is for 1 year, but the future agreements will have automatic renewal clauses. Mayor Eady said his fear is the rates will jump significantly. Chief Longtin said the only time the rates will change is when MTO change their call out rates. Deputy Chief Cole said that the Heavy Extrication Committee may consider increases to the standby rate. Chief Longtin said yes but he can't see the standby rate changing for quite some time.

Chair Whyte referred to Section 3.3 of the draft agreement. Chief Longtin said there would be no additional cost to Horton if Renfrew sends additional personnel.

Chief Longtin said Horton has the option of an agreement with other municipalities, each responding to different sections of the township. Deputy Chief Cole said the Department discussed this and considered Renfrew was central for the Township.

Mayor Eady said he believes that Horton will enter into a 1 year agreement with Renfrew. He would like to sit down in October or November 2014 to review where we go, if there are increases in the rate etc. Chief Longtin said this is fair as County Rescue Committee will also review the agreement after the first year. He noted that they want a commitment by September of this year to have time to put mapping in place before January 1 2014.

Deputy Chief Cole explained the difference between automatic aid service and fee for service. First response is different than Mutual Aid.

Chair Whyte thanked Chief Longtin for attending and responding to our questions. Chief Longtin said he will clarify Section 10.5. He noted that Enbridge Gas Company has a \$10,000 one-time grant program to be used for training, equipment etc. that our Department should consider.

Chief Longtin left the meeting at 7:06 pm.

Deputy Chief Cole confirmed that at this point in time this agreement is our best option. Chair Whyte noted that our Fire Department is working on a business plan for purchasing reasonably used equipment.

Councillor Larone asked if we would collect from non-residents. Deputy Chief Cole said we have a collection by-law now.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business discussed

5. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Bob Kingsbury, Seconded by Jamey Larone that this Special Fire Committee Meeting be adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Carried

CHAIR

CAO/CLERK