

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

FIRE COMMITTEE

JUNE 15, 2005

There was a meeting of the Fire Committee held in the Municipal Council Chambers on June 15, 2005. Present were Chair David Bennett, Reeve Robert A. Johnston, Councillor Bob Kingsbury, Fire Chief Randy Corbin and Captain Alan Cole.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest.

3. MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2005

Chair Bennett reviewed the Minutes of the Fire Committee meeting of May 18, 2005 with the Committee Members.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Siding on Fire Hall

Chief Corbin reported that Fire Fighters have started to complete the siding installation on the Fire Hall. Chair Bennett informed the Fire Fighters that the scaffolding must be secured in a better manner.

Emergency Generator Connection

Chair Bennett asked how the contract was going for the connection of the generator to the three buildings? Alan Cole said all the material is sitting in the Generator Room and he has started the wiring project. The generator will have to be swung around inside the building to be able to access all panels of the generator. The Fire Fighters think they can do this, without removing the generator from the building.

Fire Tanker Truck

Chair Bennett asked how the design is proceeding on the Fire Tanker Truck? Chief Corbin said the Department members are continuing to work on the specs of the truck. Reeve Johnston was asked to check with the area Reeves, at County Council Meetings, to see if they recently purchased a truck and if we could review their specs, and also to find out if any municipality was in the market for a used tanker.

Captain Cole said he was aware of departments in Quebec that are needing equipment as well.

Three-Quarter Ton Truck

The Department is still on the lookout for a good used three-quarter ton truck. Councillor Bennett asked if a half-ton truck became available, would that satisfy the requirements of the Department? Chief Corbin said they would have to beef up the suspension and springs. Councillor Bennett said this could be done through air bags.

5. JIM FERGUSON – EMERGENCY PLAN

Jim Ferguson, the Township's Emergency Coordinator, was present and also Ed Holmes, representing the Renfrew County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES). Mr Ferguson gave a brief overview of activities he has been carrying out over the winter and spring. One of the highlights, this year, will be an actual exercise rather than a table top exercise such as the one we carried out last fall. He had hoped that this exercise could be carried out with the Fire Department as they approached him last fall to do a joint exercise.

Jim Ferguson informed the Committee that he along with Lucy Hass of the Renfrew Mercury created an advertisement for emergency planning and he is pleased that it is going to be included in all the large print phone books in Ontario. He has sent a letter to the local church groups and the Women's Institute Branches asking for their assistance in the event of an emergency situation. He has received information back from Horton North Women's Institute who expressed their willingness to help should the need arise.

Jim Ferguson asked Chief Corbin if from time to time members of the public assist at Fire Scenes and if they do are they covered through insurance if they get hurt? Chief Corbin said, due to insurance, they are not allowed to have someone help them unless they are a fire fighter. Mr Ferguson said that the Emergency Plan and Response works with volunteers and there is a need to ensure insurance protection for the volunteers. All volunteers have to be signed in under the list of volunteers to be recognized.

Response Plans

Mr Ferguson told the Fire Committee that his Emergency Committee has to create Response Plans for identified emergencies that may happen in the Township. To date he has prepared Response Plans for flood control, public order, hazardous materials, atmospheric conditions, severe storm conditions, wind, rain, snow, ice, fog and electrical outages. These response plans follow similar templates. He presented a copy of the flood control plan which he asked also be forwarded to Council members. He noted that the Fire Department will be front line in most of these disaster scenarios. He asked the Fire Department what their procedure is when they arrive at a chemical spill? Both, Chief Corbin and Captain Cole said that there is procedure they have when they enter a spill scene. They try to identify the chemicals involved to the best of their ability from a safe distance. They then call in special help.

Councillor Kingsbury said his experience with working at a manufacturing plant was that they had to establish a HAZMAT crew and train them specifically for that purpose. A trained fire fighter is not sufficient.

Emergency Exercise

Mr Ferguson asked what the Fire Department considers would constitute a good exercise? Chief Corbin suggested using the property at the Valley Inn. Alan Cole said they could consider that there was a convention on the property where a large number of people would be present, who would have to be evacuated quickly. After discussion it was agreed that they would aim for the Saturday of September 24, 2005 for this event. Chief Corbin will secure approval from the new owners of the Valley Inn. It will involve the Fire Department, the Public Works Department, the St John Ambulance, the Canadian Red Cross, the Renfrew County Ambulance, ARES and the Press would be involved after the fact.

Mr Holmes discussed what ARES would require in our Emergency Room at the Fire Hall. They would need access to our tower for their antennae and they would need COAX coming into the building, so they can connect their equipment to the tower. Captain Cole asked them to inform the Department where they need the location of the COAX cables entering the building and how many connection points they need? Mr Holmes said ARES would provide the antennae requirements and the COAX information.

Chair Bennett thanked Jim Ferguson and Ed Holmes for attending the meeting and informing the Committee of their activities.

6. NEW BUSINESS

WHIMS Training

Chief Corbin reported that the Township has been the subject of a Ministry of Labour Inspection and one issue that has come up is the need to refresh the Fire Department, the Public Works Department and the Office Staff on updated WHIMS Training.

Chief Corbin noted that he has a Trainer who works with his Company, who could be approached to carry out the training for the Horton Staff. He will talk to the gentleman to get a price for an education seminar, after reviewing our work place, to determine that type of course that would be needed.

The Fire Committee supported this proposal and is awaiting the cost of the training.

Water Softener

Chief Corbin reported that a new toilet installed in the Fire Hall this spring is almost ruined due to hard water. There needs to be a water softener installed. The pressure system that serves all three buildings is located in the Municipal Office. It was suggested that a water softener be installed in the Municipal Office. Suggested cost would be \$1,000.00. There are no funds in this year's budget to approve this, so it will be put off until next year.

Fill Vacancies in Fire Department

Chief Corbin reported that there are three fire fighter vacancies in the Department. Fire fighters Bill Misener, Chad Barker and Steve Kenopic have left. The Committee authorized Chief Corbin to proceed with the advertisement process.

Next Meeting

The Committee agreed to meet Wednesday July 20, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

7. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Robert A. Johnston

Seconded by Bob Kingsbury

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

Carried.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Randy Corbin

Seconded by Robert A. Johnston

That this Fire Committee Meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Carried.