

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

FIRE COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

There was a meeting of the Fire Committee held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Wednesday September 21, 2005. Present were Chair Dave Bennett, Councillor Bob Kingsbury, Reeve Robert A. Johnston, Chief Randy Corbin, Deputy Chief Rick Rougier and Fire Captain Alan Cole (from 7:10)

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 JUNE 15, 2005 MEETING

The Committee Members reviewed the Minutes of the June 15, 2005 Meeting. They were already approved by Council.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Chair Bennett asked Chief Corbin how the work on the design of the new tanker was progressing? Chief Corbin said that he has made arrangements with SeaGrave in Almonte to look at a truck when it is at the almost complete stage to get ideas for our truck.

Generator

Chair Bennett asked how the generator connection with the three buildings is progressing? Alan Cole confirmed that the Garage, Office and Fire Hall are now all connected and the contract work has been completed. There needs to be a vent installed on the building to exhaust and cool the motor and a muffler has to be run outside the building. In addition, a standard operating procedure on start-up of the generator must be written and staff members appointed to start the unit must be trained in this procedure.

Emergency Exercise

It was noted that the exercise schedule for September 24, 2005 as listed in the June 15, 2005 Minutes has been cancelled and will not take place until next year.

WHMIS Training

Chief Corbin reported that all the Fire Department Members who had not had up-to-date WHMIS Training have now had that training along with members of the Office Staff and Public Works Department.

New Recruits

Chair Bennett asked who the new recruits for the Fire Department were? Chief Corbin said that the recruits were Ken Landriault, Jamie Virgin, and Mike Fortier Jnr. Chair Bennett suggested that when new recruits are hired, they should attend the next Fire Committee meeting following their appointment to be introduced.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Completion of Fire Hall

Chair Bennett requested the Fire Department to complete the siding on the exterior of the Fire Hall before Hunting Season, November 1, 2005.

Purchase of ¾ Ton Truck

Chair Bennett asked what the condition of the ½ ton Truck is at this time? Deputy Chief Rougier said that the truck is in poor condition. Chair Bennett asked what we are going to do for a truck? Chief Corbin said he would start looking for prices for a good used vehicle. Chair Bennett said that all Departments have been asked to come in under budget, due to an emergency in the Roads Department, where a culvert has collapsed, which will cost \$88,000.00 plus dollars to repair. He asked if the Department could help out with the truck purchase like they did with the Fire Hall construction?

Fire Rating – Louise Taylor request for “Shuttle Service”

Chief Corbin described how in order get insurance companies’ “Hydrant Rating” Shuttle Service they must pump 300 gallons per minute for a minimum one hour. This involves arranging a shuttle service for tankers from other municipalities to be hauling. There may also be the need for a second Pumper to be involved. If approved then every resident within eight kilometers, or every business within five kilometers could be eligible, depending on the Insurance Company, for a \$150.00 deduction from their insurance policy.

Other criteria, explained by Chief Corbin, was that the roads have to be wide enough to permit two tanker trucks to pass so the water is not held up. He noted that this may eliminate some cottage private roads. Approximately \$5,000.00 in drafting equipment and four extra portatanks would be needed, plus \$2,500.00 for someone from Underwriter Laboratories (ULC) to conduct the test and notify the Insurance Companies. This would have to be coordinated with neighbouring municipalities.

Reeve Johnston questioned whether ratepayers would be interested in paying an extra \$100.00 on their tax bill, one time only, to get this benefit. The Committee Members agreed that this item be explored further.

Drawing Water to Wells that Have Run Dry

Chair Bennett said he had received a call from a ratepayer who was out of water and wanted the Department to fill his well from the Fire Truck. Deputy Chief Rougier said that the Department does not haul clean water in their trucks and does not want to become involved in filling wells. There are private individuals who do this and it was recommended that the person be directed to Scott Maguire, who hauls water.

Emergency Plans Case Study

Councillor Kingsbury reported to the Committee on a session, he attended, at the Ontario East Municipal Conference, last week in Kingston. The Township of South Glengarry Fire Department was at a house fire, they put 50,000 gallons of water on the fire plus 50 litres of class A foam to try to extinguish the fire, which they could not do. The next day they received a call from a neighbour that something was wrong with their well. Soon other calls came in and they ended up with contaminated wells, because the house on fire had a well in its basement that was not capped, and all the water and foam went down the well into the water aquifer. In the end they had to declare a state of emergency. They had to put charcoal filters on some wells, UV treatment in some houses and they had to drill new wells. To date they have spent \$750,000.00 correcting this problem. Some of the facts that came out are that two-thirds of the people did not know where their wells were and some people who had bad wells ended up getting new wells in this process.

Our Fire Department noted that we do not use foam for a house fire situation on a normal basis. Chair Bennett suggested that we send a letter to each ratepayer asking them to become familiar with where their well is located and explain the reason is because of the contaminated water situation in Glengarry Township. The Township of Horton does not want to get into the same liability situation.

The CAO/clerk was asked to email the Township of South Glengarry to see how and why they became liable in this situation.

6. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the Committee would meet Wednesday October 19, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

7. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Randy Corbin

Seconded by Alan Cole

That the Committee pass this confirming resolution to validate 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.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Rick Rougier

Seconded by Robert A. Johnston

That this Fire Committee Meeting be adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Carried.

Chair

CAO/Clerk