

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

**FIRE COMMITTEE MEETING**

January 7, 2009

There was a meeting of the Fire Committee held in the Fire Hall Meeting Room on Wednesday January 7, 2009. Present were Chair Dave Bennett, Robert A. Johnston, Bob Kingsbury, Fire Chief Randy Corbin, Deputy Chief Rick Rougier. Staff present was Mackie McLaren CAO/Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 29, 2008 COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair Bennett reviewed the Committee Meeting Minutes which had already been approved by Council.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Chief Corbin noted that the uniforms will be on order this week. Chair Bennett reported on the JEPP grant application. Following the October 29, 2008 Committee Meeting Andy Tait and Jim Ferguson of Emergency Measures Committee met with the CEMC of Bonnechere Valley and discussed their communications systems. A quote was received from a company in North Bay which increased the application from approximately \$14,000 to \$23,000, it will give a better quality of radio system. The application was made for this new amount.

Status of New Fire Tanker Truck

Chief Corbin said the new Fire Tanker Truck is in service. Several small items are needed to be added to the truck.

Chair Bennett asked about driver status? Chief Corbin said that four of the firefighters are trained, more are in the process of training. The larger truck poses a challenge for the Operators, it will take time for them to become comfortable. It was noted that the firefighter doing the training lives the closest to the Firehall and is usually the first one to take the Tanker truck out. The firefighters trained are Dave McNulty, Alan Cole, Dave McMaster and Mike Fortier.

Chair Bennett suggested that they practice on an empty truck as the less weight will allow them to get a feel of the equipment quicker. There was a suggestion that possibly the Public Works have a truck with the same transmission that they could use to practice driving on a Saturday. Chief Corbin is to check with Jeff Schruder, Infrastructure Manager.

Status of Old Tanker Truck

Chief Corbin said the old Tanker Truck is ready for delivery to the purchaser.

5. PUMPER RELAY STATUS

Chair Bennett asked where we stand with the possibility of getting Pumper Relay Status to save insurance premiums for ratepayers? Chief Corbin said we will have to decide if we want to go ahead, he expressed a concern that we can not run the shuttle on private waterfront roads. Some of the

roads are not in a condition to handle large trucks and we could be in a liability situation if we have Shuttle Service and can not perform it in some areas.

Chair Bennett suggested that the water source would be the river, along the waterfront, they would not need trucks. Chief Corbin said that the problem is that some of the roads are not brushed wide enough and the trucks would be damaged as they drive in.

Chair Bennett suggested then that they could be a separate review of how to get people to trim back brush on the road allowance, and make road allowances accessible for fire trucks and emergency vehicles.

Rick Rougier asked where a hydrant would be located?

Chair Bennett suggested the Boat Launch. Possibly negotiate with Whitewater to install a joint hydrant on their Township beach property off Payne Lane.

Chief Corbin said the Department can survey the roads this Spring. Deputy Chief Rougier noted that only single family residential houses would get an insurance premium advantage under this program.

Mayor Johnston will make a list of the area that will be covered within eight kilometers driving range from the Fire Hall, as this is a necessity as well.

Chair Bennett will ask Councillor Eady to find out more information about insurance rates for residents.

The Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief will report on private road access issues and Jeff Scruder Infrastructure Manager will report on the dry hydrant locations for the next Committee Meeting, with the exception of the road access issue.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Dan Koroscil, Fire Marshall's Office – age of apparatus

Chair Bennett reported that the replacement of vehicles after twenty years of service is insurance driven, however, there can be tests performed to ensure that older equipment meets their standards and would qualify.

Town of Arnprior – Ice/Water Rescue Agreement

The CAO/Clerk reported that the Town of Arnprior has forwarded an unsolicited offer to enter into an agreement for Ice and Water Rescue. They have that service now and will provide it to Renfrew County municipalities and West Quebec municipalities for a yearly change of \$200 and \$350 per hour if called out. After discussion the following resolution was put forward.

Moved by Bob Kingsbury, seconded by Bob Johnston

That the Fire Committee recommend to Council that the Township enter into an agreement with the Town of Arnprior for Ice/Water Rescue until such time as the Township of Horton has their own Ice/Water Rescue equipment.

**Carried.**

7. REVENUE & EXPENDITURE REPORT

The Committee reviewed the Revenue & Expenditure Report. Deputy Chief Rougier questioned where the excess 2007 revenue went and did it go towards paying the Fire half ton vehicle that was bought that year, rather than going into reserves.

8. 2009 DRAFT FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The Fire Committee reviewed the draft Fire Budget as presented previously and were satisfied that they could not cut further.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Chief Corbin informed the Committee that the Fire Fighters Association would like to hold a Public Skating Night on a Friday evening and would like to use the rubber matting to access the Community Centre. Chair Bennett said that the Change Room may be ready by the end of February and they could use that building rather than the Community Centre and Rick Rougier suggested tying this event into the night before the Winter Carnival. They were requested to contact Valerie Miller, who is organizing the Carnival.

Chair Bennett informed the Committee that there is a coin activated timer on the market that could turn on the rink lights, run them for one hour and then they would shut off automatically. He will investigate further.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Tuesday March 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall Meeting Room.

11. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Bob Kingsbury, seconded by Rick Rougier

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.**

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Randy Corbin, seconded by Rick Rougier

That this Fire Committee be adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

**Carried.**

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Chair

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CAO/Clerk