

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

FIRE COMMITTEE MEETING

December 15, 2010

There was a meeting of the Fire Committee held in the Municipal Council Chambers on December 15, 2010. Present were Chair Margaret Whyte and Mayor Don Eady. Staff present were Allan Cole Deputy Chief, Ghislain Bourget Fire Captain and Mackie McLaren CAO/Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Whyte called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

Mayor Eady took this opportunity to inform the Committee that he looking forward to being a member of this Committee. He would like to recognize the job that the past Chair of the Fire Committee, Dave Bennett, has done over the last ten years while he was on Council and would like to acknowledge the work that he did. The Fire Department has improved under his leadership.

Mayor Eady introduced Councillor Margaret Whyte as the new Chair of the Fire Department and asked the Committee for their cooperation with her. Mayor Eady stated the reason he is on the Committee is financial and he will work with the staff. He intends to be responsible to the people of Horton on financial matters.

3. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2010

Chair Whyte reviewed the Meeting Minutes which had been approved by Council.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Signs for 911

Deputy Chief Cole said that the suggestion of Firefighter David McMaster was discussed at the Officer level and no recommendation has been made. He acknowledged that they cannot make changes to 911 signs without County approval. What Firefighter McMaster had suggested was different directional signs that are associated with 911 signs.

Mayor Eady said he would be happy to take any issue, members of the Fire Department have, to Mike Nolan of Emergency Services at the County, or they can go direct if they wish.

Deputy Chief Cole said if the Officers decide to put a package together they will come to the Committee first and would appreciate the Mayor presenting it to the County.

Mayor Eady added that Mike Nolan does offer to come to meet Departments and discuss any issues that they may have.

5. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

6. FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Deputy Chief Cole presented the report for the second six months of 2010 (June to November):

18 calls - 3 of which were structure fires
2 fire alarm activations
4 false alarms –or controlled burns

1 mutual aid call to McNab/Braeside for a structure fire
 6 motor vehicle collisions
 1 vehicle fire
 1 carbon monoxide call

Some of these calls were extended calls, particularly the structure fire and the motor vehicle accident.

Deputy Chief Cole said the Department has a concern with a resident who is in behind the old Horton School at the end of Goshen Road. He has had a number of large controlled burns, where large piles of brush, pushed up by heavy equipment, are lit at the same time. The size of the piles greatly exceeds the minimum required by our by-law. He has been spoken to twice by the Chief and the Deputy Chief and he suggests that ultimately we rescind his burning privileges.

Chair Whyte asked if we have a documented procedure for fining people.

Deputy Chief Cole said that our Burning By-law has penalty clause of \$250 for a by-law infraction and \$3,000 under a Provincial Offenses Act, and the Township could recover costs. After discussion the Fire Chief was directed to send a letter to the owner advising him of the cost for the Township to attend these two call outs which were called in by passersby on cell phones and if he starts another fire that is against our by-law he will be charged the cost of the Township to attend the fire scene and his right to burn will be revoked.

Moved by Don Eady, seconded by Gus

That the owner be advised of the cost by this Department to date to respond to the calls outs and this would be a warning that for future call outs he will be charged the cost of the response.

Carried.

Deputy Chief Cole reported that four sets of bunker gear have failed their safety and compliance test, we need to order new sets as there are now four firefighters who are not properly suited up.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

All Radios Installed

Deputy Chief Cole said that he has been corresponding with TAS Communications of Belleville who have the contract to install the radios to find out when they are coming back to put the new base radio in the Fire hall and move the old one to the Municipal Office. All the approvals are in place. The Municipal Office is wired with an antenna on the roof waiting for the transfer of the equipment, he is getting evasive answers from this Company. The systems are working well, Deputy Chief Cole said.

8. BUDGET vs. ACTUAL AS OF DECEMBER 14, 2010

The Committee Members reviewed the budget vs. Actual Report for the Fire Department as of December 14, 2010. Deputy Chief Cole reported on a conversation he had with the Fire Chief in Whitewater Region, who advised that their WSIB costs have gone up due to some situations with past firefighters who have developed health problems related to fire fighting after they left the department which were deemed to be Fire Department related. The Committee requested that the CAO/Clerk check into this.

Mayor Eady expressed concern that \$28,250 of Fire Reserves was set up as a revenue this year and reviewed his wishes for the use of the reserve account. The CAO/Clerk is to see where this reserve fund came from, if it was from unused capital money in years past or if it was for purchase of future trucks.

Mayor Eady suggested that the budget could be analyzed to see if there are funds available within the existing budget for the Bunker Gear that is required in emergency situations, knowing that \$11,000 of revenue from a Highway 17 fire is yet to come in.

Deputy Chief Cole suggested that the overall budget will work out to zero with the four sets of Bunker Gear to be purchased.

Mayor Eady commented that equipment seemed to be purchased late in the year – why could this not be done earlier? Deputy Chief Cole said that under his term which began in February he had purchased equipment as the need had arisen, he cannot speak to the former Deputy Chief's program. He noted that the Budget was not approved until summer this year which curtailed some of the purchases and said that if there is a health and safety issue he will purchase as required.

Chair Whyte asked how the budget is usually prepared. Mayor Eady said that he would like a different process this year, which will start with the Mayor and CAO/Clerk preparing an initial review, which will then be sent to the Fire Department for input. Chair Whyte suggested that the Fire Department could prepare their own and compare with the Mayor and Clerk.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Northeastern Fire Education Conference 2011 – North Bay

Deputy Chief Cole reported that the Fire Chief and one Officer have attended this Conference in the past, but no one is attending this year as accommodations need to be booked by April 1st. It is too late to attend this year but someone should attend this very popular Conference in the future.

Long Term Capital Forecast

Deputy Chief Cole suggested the Committee should review the Fire Department's long term capital forecast, which has not been looked at for a number of years. It was agreed to do this during the Budget Review.

Mayor Eady reviewed the proper titles, names and phone numbers for Fire Department business cards.

Chair Whyte asked about flooding the Rink. The initial flooding is provided by the Fire Department and that is now ongoing.

Quote for Fuel

Deputy Chief Cole presented a quote from Stinson Fuels for propane fuel for the Fire Department. The Fire Hall is the only building in the Township that has propane heat. This quote seems to be below the current supplier price. Chair Eady agreed to present this to the Infrastructure Committee of Councillors Glen Campbell and Jamey Larone. The Fire Committee accepted this for information purposes.

Thermal Imaging Camera

Deputy Chief Cole said that at the last structure fire they encountered a situation where there was a need for a Thermal Imaging Camera. The prices have come down. Three quotes have been received in the range of \$8,000 to \$13,500. There was a discussion on fund raising for this. Deputy Chief Cole said other Departments have canvassed local insurance companies who have made donations as it is to their benefit. The Committee authorized Deputy Chief Cole to pursue these options. Deputy Chief Cole said they would like to use highway fire revenue for this in the future.

10. NEXT MEETING

Mayor Eady noted that the Committee has been meeting bimonthly and suggests that for the next two or three meetings they be held monthly until we are established as a new committee. Therefore, the Committee agreed to meet on Wednesday January 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Deputy Chief Cole asked if the Fire Officers should continue to attend this Committee Meeting along with the Chief and Deputy and the Committee said yes.

11. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Don Eady, seconded by Allan Cole

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 Allan Cole, seconded by Don Eady

That this Committee Meeting be adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Carried.

Chair

CAO/Clerk