



FIRE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 18, 2019, 7:00 pm
Vineyards Room, Municipal Complex

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes April 18, 2019
4. Business Arising from Minutes April 18, 2019
5. Discussion of EAP and billing
6. Update on False Alarm By-law
7. Bulk Purchasing update
8. Fire Services briefing (*presentation for information purposes*)
9. Dispatch presentation by Terry Canning
10. Roundtable Discussion
11. Correspondence
12. Other Business
13. Next Meeting
14. Comments from the Public
15. Adjournment

FIRE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 18, 2019
MINUTES

**Meeting Date
and Time**

A meeting of the Fire Services Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 7:00pm in the Orchards Room, Municipal Complex, Kentville, NS.

1. **Call to Order**

District	Name	Title
Aylesford	Shawn Carey	Chief
Berwick	Laurie Saunders	Chief
Canning	Jeff Skaling	Chief
Greenwich	Doug Clark	Chief
Hall's Harbour	David Watson	Chief
Hantsport	Paul Maynard	Deputy Chief
Kentville	Brian Desloges	Chief
Kingston	Watson Armstrong	Chief/ Chair
New Minas	James Redmond	Chief/ Vice-Chair
Port Williams	Philip Porter	Chief
Springfield	Thomas Lowe regrets	Chief
Waterville	Wayne Johnstone	Chief
Wolfville	Todd Crowell	Chief
District 3	Brian Hirtle alternate	Councillor
District 7	Emily Lutz	Deputy Mayor
District 9	Peter Allen	Councillor
Western Area	Mike LeRue	Citizen Member

Also in attendance were:

- Rob Frost, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- Terry Brown, Manager, Inspection & Enforcement Services
- Chloe Austin, Recording Secretary

2. **Approval of Agenda**

On motion of Deputy Chief Maynard and Chief Skaling, that the April 18, 2019 agenda be approved as circulated.

For: 16
Against: 0

MOTION CARRIED.

3. **Approval of Minutes
January 17, 2019**

On motion of Deputy Chief Maynard and Chief Skaling, that the minutes of the Fire Services Advisory Committee meeting held on January 17, 2019 meeting be approved as circulated.

For: 16
Against: 0

MOTION CARRIED.

4. **Business Arising from Minutes January 17, 2019** There was discussion as to whether all departments are registered with the County. The only outstanding department is Hall's Harbour. The paperwork will be submitted next week.
5. **False Fire Alarms** The Chief Officers Working Group reviewed of statistics on false fire alarms. After consulting Chief Desloges, the consensus was that it is worth investigating a false fire alarms by-law as a means to help decrease the number of nuisance calls. Terry Brown will take this request to the CAO and the Deputy CAO for consideration.
6. **Bulk Purchasing** Chief Saunders has been gathering information and talking with other departments about this but is not prepared to discuss it yet and would like to see this item tabled until the next meeting.

On motion of Chief Saunders and Chief Carey, that this item be taken to the Chief Officers Working Group for a report to be brought back to this committee at the next meeting.

For: 16

Against: 0

MOTION CARRIED.

7. **WCB Coverage** Terry Brown: the municipality funds WCB coverage for most departments but does not always receive confirmation that the coverage has been purchased. He requests that a copy of the WCB quarterly statements be sent to the municipality to be kept on file. The list of names and rates provided to the WCB should also be shared with the municipality.
- Chief Skaling inquired as to whether all departments receive the same minimum coverage or do the departments decide on their coverage individually. Chief Desloges confirmed that all departments are covered under the same rates.
8. **Fire Hydrants** Terry Brown: EPW manager Thoren Pelly indicated that there was a recent water main break that may have been caused by opening or closing a fire hydrant too quickly. It would be a good practice to let EPW know when practicing and taping into a fire hydrant. A water main break is very costly but is sometimes preventable if unusually fragile infrastructure is identified beforehand.
- Chief Desloges commented that it is also helpful to know when fire hydrants are being accessed in order to account for the increased volume of water usage that might otherwise be attributed to a leak etc.

- 9. Notification When Practicing (Village/Town/Municipality)** Discussed under item 8.
- 10. Roundtable Discussion** There was discussion around the fire department operating budget. Chief Desloges noted that the recommendation to council was for an increase of 1% while the Kentville Joint Fire Services committee proposed a 3% increase to the budget. This was approved by Kentville but not approved by the County of Kings. Council did approve a 1% increase. However, in the current numbers, the increase for Kentville is not 1%, the actual increase received by Kentville is currently 0.23%. Chief Desloges would like an answer to the question: why has Kentville not received 1%?
- Wolfville and Kentville have separate agreements which may have impacted the way the numbers were calculated. Deputy Mayor Lutz commented that it is difficult to make decisions when there is a two-tier system with different contracts that result in the fire departments being treated unequally. The discussion in Council was that Kentville would receive 1% the same as everyone else.
- Councillor Hirtle commented that the 1% applies to the portion of the Kentville budget that is supplied by the County of Kings. Chief Desloges indicated that the current number does not amount to a 1% increase over last year and that because Kentville is on a rolling average, the Town of Kentville will not make up the difference so the total budget amount is decreased.
- Deputy Mayor Lutz and Councillor Hirtle both stated that the intention was for Kentville to receive the 1% increase. Deputy CAO Frost will undertake a review of the numbers to determine why 1% is not been reflected in the current amount.
- 11. Correspondence** A letter of thanks was received from the RCMP following assistance provided on March 1, 2019. The Hoovercraft provided was an exceptionally helpful piece of equipment and it was noted that the Hoovercraft was purchased entirely with funds raised through fundraising efforts. No tax dollars.

12. Other Business

Councillor Allen inquired about the status of filling the vacant positions for citizen members. 3 citizen appointees, currently have 1 (Mike LeRue, West)

On motion of Chief Skaling and Deputy Chief Maynard, that the Fire Services Advisory Committee advertise the two vacant positions, Central and East.

**For: 16
Against: 0**

MOTION CARRIED.

13. Next Meeting

Thursday, July 18, 2019
7:00 - 9:00pm
Council Chambers, Municipal Complex, Coldbrook Village Park

14. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

15. Adjournment

On motion of Chief Remond, there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

**For: 16
Against: 0**

MOTION CARRIED.

Approved by:

Chief Watson Armstrong
Chair

Chloe Austin
Recording Secretary



Municipality of the County of Kings

Briefing

TO Committee of the Whole

PREPARED BY Rob Frost, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

MEETING DATE July 16, 2019

SUBJECT Fire Services in the Municipality of the County of Kings

ORIGIN

- Recent discussions have occurred regarding authorities of Fire Commissions
- Work of the Fire Services Advisory Committee, as well as the Nova Scotia Joint Municipal Fire Services Committee

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee of the Whole receive the Briefing on Fire Services in the Municipality of the County of Kings as attached to the July 16, 2019 Committee of the Whole agenda for information.

INTENT

To provide Committee of the Whole with information on Fire Services in the Municipality of the County of Kings, and create an opportunity for discussion.

DISCUSSION

Fire services are a part of the fabric of the community in every municipality. Many fire departments in Nova Scotia have been in operation for over a hundred years, providing a critical service to residents, and almost all being done by extremely dedicated volunteers. The mechanism of how fire departments have been created and currently operate is as diverse as the Municipalities in Nova Scotia themselves, and it is important to understand how the fire service operates in Nova Scotia, and more specifically in the Municipality of the County of Kings.

Under the Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act (Part X) 293 A *municipality may maintain and provide fire and emergency services by providing the service, assisting others to provide the service, working with others to provide the service or a combination of means. 1998, c. 18, s. 293.* This particular section of the NS MGA has always been a topic of debate as some are surprised that fire service is not a service that is required to be provided by a Municipality. *(In reality there is very little that a Municipality is required to provide.)* This section of the MGA gives general guidelines as to how a Municipality may provide fire service for residents.

Additional legislation that affects fire service includes the *Rural Fire District Act (Chapter 406 of the Revised Statutes, 1989)*, *Fire Safety Act (Chapter 6 of the Acts of 2002)*, *Volunteer Fire and Ground Search and Rescue Services Act (Chapter 13 of the Acts of 2002)*, *Firefighters' Compensation Act*; *Fire protection acts introduced via private members bills*; *Workers Compensation Act*; *Occupational Health and Safety Act*; *Volunteer Service Act*; and *Volunteer Benefits Act*.

The Rural Fire District Act was created to provide for the incorporation of fire protection commissioners in rural districts. Through this Act community members are able to form an incorporated body that is responsible for provision of fire services. The powers under the Rural Fire District Act include the ability to



Municipality of the County of Kings

Briefing

be able to set a rate to be collected by a Municipality on behalf of the Commission. A Commission then uses the funds secured to either provide or pay for the provision of a fire service. Of the thirteen fire departments that provide fire service in MoK six have commissions that were created through the Rural Fire District Act, or through special legislation. Those fire departments that were created through the Rural Fire District Act or other legislation had areas defined in legislation as to the area where they would provide fire coverage. In terms of MoK this area would be what we call the Inside Rate Area. The Outside Rate Area would be an area that they may provide fire protection, but is not governed by the related commission.

Fire Service in the Municipality of the County of Kings is provided by the following Departments:

1. Aylesford and District Fire Department
2. Berwick and District Volunteer Fire Department
3. Canning Volunteer Fire Department
4. Greenwich Volunteer Fire Department
5. Halls Harbour District Firefighter's Association
6. Hantsport Fire Department
7. Kentville Volunteer Fire Department
8. Kingston District Fire Department
9. New Minas Volunteer Fire Department
10. Port Williams Fire Department
11. Springfield and District Volunteer Fire Department
12. Waterville and District Fire Department
13. Wolfville Fire Department

Of the thirteen fire departments, there are two that fall under the Rural Fire District Act and also have a society, three that had special legislation and a society, one that was created through special legislation, three that are owned by other governments, and four that are registered solely through the Societies Act.

In order to provide the most fair and equitable fire protection for the residents of the Municipality of the County of Kings a review of fire protection should be completed with the Fire Services Advisory Committee. Areas to be discussed and reviewed would include funding models (and revision to our Fire Grants Policy), annual registration, contracts with individual Departments, and long term capital plans and capital funding.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- For information only

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Check Applicable	Strategic Priority	If Checked, Provide Brief Explanation
✓	Good Governance	Discussion regarding how fire services are provided in a fair and equitable manner relates to good governance, and policy review.
	Environmental Stewardship	
	Economic Development	
	Strong Communities	



Municipality of the County of Kings

Briefing

	Financial Sustainability	
	Supports a Strategic Project	
	Supports a Core Program Enhancement	

ALTERNATIVES

- For information

IMPLEMENTATION

- Discussions will be held with the Fire Services Advisory Committee

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Discussions will be held with the Fire Services Advisory Committee which now has three citizen members.
- Current Area Rate Policy means there is engagement for those areas required to have area rate meetings.

APPENDICES

- None

APPROVALS

Scott Conrod, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: July 8, 2019