

**Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
Minutes of a Fire & Emergency Services Committee Meeting**

Held via Microsoft Teams

Monday, 10 May 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Brian Keizer, District 1 & 2 Fire Commission, Chair
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9, Vice Chair
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4
Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7
Chief Tom Lockwood, Indian Point Fire Department
Retired Chief Steve Patterson, Cornwall Fire Department
Deputy Chief Dean Schmeisser, Dayspring & District Volunteer Fire Department
Herbert Seymour, Member-At-Large
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, Ex-Officio

Staff:

Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator
Sandra Challis, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Deputy Chief Schmeisser, seconded by Chief Lockwood that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 08, 2021

Moved by Chief Lockwood, seconded by Retired Chief Patterson that the Minutes of the March 08, 2021 Fire & Emergency Services Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4.1 Member at Large

The Committee's Nominating Committee recommended that Randy Harris be appointed to the Fire & Emergency Services Committee for a 3-year term.

Moved by Retired Chief Patterson, seconded by Councillor Greek that the FESC recommend that Municipal Council approve the appointment of Randy Harris, as a member-at-large to the Fire & Emergency Services Committee for a 3-year term expiring May 31st, 2024.

Carried Unanimously.

4.2 Strategic Priorities/Fire Scene Security

Mr. Kennedy reported that a policy had been drafted. He had been in contact with the Commissionaires, and they were in agreement with MODL joining the Municipality of Chester's (MOC) arrangement. MOC would be updating their standing offer later this year and MODL would be ready to join the Agreement. Mr. Kennedy explained there was no up-front costs to be included in the Agreement, fees were only applied when site security was needed on scene. This expense was generally covered by the homeowner's insurance. It would be necessary to receive approval, ideally in writing, that the fee would be covered by the insurers and then the Chief-in-command would contact the Commissionaires. If there was no insurance coverage, an order would be written by the Chief-in-command and a lien placed against the property. It was asked if Dispatch could be authorized to contact the Commissionaires, due to poor cell coverage on scene, Mr. Kennedy said he would check if that would be possible. Mr. Kennedy added that site security was only needed approximately three times a year, and often the Fire Marshall's office would be in attendance in a timely manner to mitigate the need to call additional security.

4.3 Mutual Aid Agreement Revisions

Mr. Kennedy advised that a draft copy of the revised Mutual Aid Agreement was being reviewed by Staff and it appeared to cover everything that was needed. The draft will be circulated to the Committee next week for comments and then to the Fire Departments.

4.4 Changes to Policy MDL-36

Circulated with the agenda was a memo advising that Council approved the proposed amendments to MODL Policy 036 Fire and Emergency Services as presented.

It was noted that the pump testing section of the policy would return to the Committee later, as many questions had come to light during the department renewal process.

4.5 Waive Requirement to Hold Rate Payers Meeting

Circulated with the agenda was a memo advising that Council had approved the recommendation of the FESC to waive the requirement that Fire & Emergency providers hold a rate payers' meeting for the fiscal year 2021/22 for all departments not proposing an increase in fire rates.

It was noted that due to current restrictions, some departments proposing an increase were postponing holding meetings. Mr. Kennedy was asked to find out how delays would affect the ability to impose the changes on final tax bills.

4.6 Air Pack Certification/Turn-out Gear Safety

Mr. Keizer advised that after group insurance and pump testing, air pack certification and turn-out gear standards were the next highest priority. Mr. Kennedy had added some related questions to the registration package, and it appeared that most departments were in compliance. Mr. Keizer believed that a draft policy should be developed to present to LRFES for comment. Mr. Kennedy suggested that this could be done with a small working group, or in a workshop.

5. L.R.F.E.S. Report

Mr. Keizer advised he had nothing to report. The next LRFES meeting was scheduled for May 20th.

It was highlighted that Item 9.1.1 on Council's agenda for May 11th, 2021 referenced possible changes to specific fire protection districts boundaries. This item was not requested to be added to the FESC agenda, but Mr. Kennedy reported that this had been raised by the Planning Advisory Committee and he had spoken with the Chiefs of the respective departments, neither of whom wished to change boundaries. Both Chiefs were happy for Mr. Kennedy to discuss this with Council. Mr. Kennedy was confident that the matter would go no further.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Committee Membership – Extension of Length of Service/Committee Positions

Mr. Keizer asked if there were any comments from the Committee on the report to Council, circulated with the agenda, recommending the extension of committee membership and positions due to Covid restrictions.

Moved by Deputy Chief Schmeisser, seconded by Mr. Seymour that the FESC accept the recommendation that Municipal Council approve an extension to time served by the current fire and emergency services representatives serving on the Committee until an Annual General Meeting can safely take place. Carried Unanimously.

7. IN CAMERA (If Required)

8. NEXT MEETING – Monday, July 12, 2021

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 7:30 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot seconded by Councillor Hubley, that the meeting adjourn. Carried Unanimously.