

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
Minutes of a Fire & Emergency Services Committee Meeting
Held virtually via Microsoft Teams
Monday, January 10 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

Attendance

Brian Keizer, District 1 & 2 Fire Commission, Chair
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9, Vice Chair
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
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
Randy Harris, Member-At-Large
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, Ex-Officio

Staff

Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator
Sandra Challis, Administrative Assistant

Regrets

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy C.A.O.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Retired Chief Patterson, seconded by Councillor Greek that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried.

3. Approval of Minutes – November 8th, 2021

Moved by Deputy Chief Schmeisser, seconded by Herbert Seymour that the Minutes of the November 08, 2021 Fire & Emergency Services Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried.

4. Business Arising from Minutes

4.1 Options for reduction in Insurance Premiums

Mr. Kennedy reported he was waiting for information from Mr. Nix.

4.2 Fire Scene Security

Mr. Kennedy reported that the Commissionaires' contract had been reviewed by Staff, Legal and Insurers. He would follow-up with Deputy C.A.O. Dumaresq for next steps.

4.3 Mutual Aid Agreement Revisions

Mr. Kennedy advised that the agreement was available at the Municipal Offices for signature by departments; some had already signed, and he would put out a reminder for remaining departments.

4.4 Air Pack Certification/Turn-out Gear Safety

This item was not yet discussed at L.R.F.E.S. but would be discussed at a future meeting.

4.5 Cell Coverage

Information was circulated with the agenda of Council's motion and subsequent letter to local political leaders regarding poor cellular service in many areas of the municipality. To date there had been no response. Mayor Bolivar-Getson advised it was on the agenda for next week's meeting with Rick Perkins M.P. It was suggested, if no responses to the letter were received, the addressees should be invited to the March meeting of the FESC.

4.6 Municipal Funding Options – Procurement of Equipment for Departments

Mr. Kennedy had received a copy of a policy from the Region of Queens enabling them to guarantee loans, up to \$275,000, for their five Fire Departments for apparatus if needed. It was noted that the MODL funding option request was not exclusively for apparatus, but for equipment too – replacement of B.A. etc. It was agreed that Mr. Keizer would bring this to the attention of L.R.F.E.S. to see if there was a wider need for low-cost financing. If the demand was high, the matter would come back to FESC to put forward a proposal to Council for their consideration.

4.7 Mandatory Vaccination Request

Information, circulated with the agenda, of Council's motion, copy of letter to provincial political leaders and the replies from Health Nova Scotia were discussed. Although the provincial replies did not support what had been recommended by Council, it was clear that departments were free to create their own vaccine policy.

Mayor Bolivar-Getson advised that the vaccination matter was on the agenda for her meeting with Rick Perkins M.P. and his office had asked if departments were asking for supplies of rapid tests; frontline workers have access to the tests, so perhaps firefighters should too.

4.8 Budget 2022/2023

A spreadsheet showing the current fire department grant amounts for 2021/2022 and a memo showing the effects of requesting a 2% increase from Council for grants in 2022/2023, circulated with the agenda, was discussed, noting the following:

- Total on the memo was incorrect - should have been \$189,803 not \$188,485.
- Was the recommended 2% set in stone? Should an increase of 2.5 - 3% be requested, considering increases to CPI?
- Council had provided Covid Emergency Grant opportunities in the last year to help departments which was in addition to last year's 2% increase.
- If FESC would be proposing to ask Council for low-cost financing, this should be taken into account when considering budget amounts.

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Retired Chief Patterson that the FESC recommend that Municipal Council approve a 2% increase (totalling \$3,723.00) over the 2021/2022 grant amounts, with the 2022/2023 fiscal year grants being:

Matching Grant	\$ 44,115.00	
Municipal Grant	\$ 66,698.00	
Training Grant	\$ 11,343.00	
Insurance Grant	\$ 56,304.00	
Personnel Insurance Grant	\$ <u>11,343.00</u>	
Total Grants	\$189,803.00	Carried.

4.9 A.G.M.

A date of Wednesday April 6th, 2022 was agreed on for the 2022 A.G.M. (Covid restrictions permitting); with three locations to be considered, depending on availability, capacity and ability to social distance – Best Western, MODL Office and Dayspring Fire Hall.

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

Retired Chief Patterson reported that the largest discussion had been around vaccination. The January meeting was to be cancelled.

6. New Business

None.

7. In Camera

Not required.

8. Next Meeting – Monday, March 14, 2022

9. Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:49 p.m., it was moved by Chief Lockwood, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the meeting adjourn. Carried.