

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Notes of a Fire & Emergency Services Committee Meeting

Held in Council Chamber, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, N.S.

Monday, May 8, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Attendance

Brian Keizer, District 1 & 2 Fire Commission, Chair

Councillor Martin Bell, District 2

Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3

Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7

Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, Ex-Officio

Chief Darren Mulock, Northfield District Fire Department

Deputy Chief Dean Schmeisser, Dayspring & District Volunteer Fire Department, Vice Chair

Captain Emily Bowers, Hebbville Fire Department

Randy Harris, Member-At-Large

Regrets

Angela Henhoeffler, REMO Coordinator

Herbert Seymour, Member-At-Large

Staff

Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy C.A.O. (via Teams)

Sandra Challis, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The attendees introduced themselves.

2. Election of Officers

2.1 Chair

Mr. Kennedy called for nominations for the position of Chair. Those nominated by ballot for the position of Chair were Brain Keizer, and Dean Schmeisser. Mr. Keizer was acclaimed as Chair by majority ballot.

2.2 Vice Chair

Mr. Keizer called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Those nominated by ballot for the position of Vice Chair were Michele Greek, Randy Harris, Dean Schmeisser and Martin Bell. Deputy Chief Schmeisser was acclaimed as Vice Chair by majority ballot.

Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Councillor Oickle that all ballots be destroyed. Carried.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Greek seconded by Councillor Veinotte that the agenda be approved, with information of the Pride Parade to be added under new business. Carried Unanimously.

4. Approval of Notes – March 13, 2023

Moved by Deputy Chief Schmeisser, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the Notes of the March 13, 2023 Fire & Emergency Services Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Department Personnel Policies – Application Process & Diversity, Inclusiveness, Harassment

Mr. Keizer advised it had been hoped to discuss these matters at the recent workshops, but there had not been enough time, and the subject had not been identified as a priority for the FESC. The intent of the item would be to potentially standardize the application process and ensure all Fire Departments addressed diversity, inclusiveness and harassment in their bylaws or general operational guidelines (GOGs). It was noted that there was a current district-wide radio campaign calling for volunteers and a standard process could be beneficial.

Mr. Kennedy added that he was often asked on best practices by Departments in these matters. It was agreed to move this item to an action items chart for the Fire Services Coordinator to bring back to the committee in the future.

5.2 2023/2024 Budget Update

Council's motion 2023-058 was included in the agenda package accepting the FESC's recommendation to approve a 2% increase in the Fire & Emergency Services Grants for the 2023/2024 fiscal year (totalling \$3,797.00 increase over the 2022/2023 fiscal year amounts)

Matching Grant	\$44,998.00
Municipal Grant	\$68,032.00
Training Grant	\$11,570.00
Insurance Grant	\$57,430.00
Personnel Insurance Grant	\$11,570.00

5.3 Regional Training Facility Concept – Reserve Fund Update

Council's motion 2023-063 was included in the agenda package accepting the recommendation of the Finance Committee to establish a reserve fund in the amount of \$100,000, separate from other fire service grants and funds, for the purpose of constructing a regional fire training facility.

5.4 FESC Membership Approval

Council's motion 2023-080 was included in the agenda package appointing the following Fire & Emergency Services Representatives to serve on the FESC: Brian Keizer, Chief Mulock, Deputy Chief Schmeisser and Captain Bowers for one-year terms.

5.5 Personnel Insurance – Section III update

A motion from the 2023 AGM was included in the agenda package approving the increase in age to 67 or five years, whichever is greater, while the insured person is totally disabled under Section III, Income Protection Benefits and that the cost of increase in premiums of \$44,223 be calculated based on the number of firefighters per department.

6. L.R.F.E.S. Report

Mr. Kennedy & Deputy Chief Schmeisser reported that a presentation by Andrew McClean from Fire Underwriter's Survey identified areas where information was lacking - identifying locations of departments and dry hydrants. These gaps impacted costs of insurance coverage for residents.

Mr. Kennedy advised that much of this information had since been provided and underwriters do recognize mutual aid.

7. New Business

7.1 Priorities Discussion

Included in the agenda package was Mr. Kennedy's presentation given at the recent AGM. Mr. Kennedy went through the presentation:

- Summarizing issues facing departments:
 - Increasing equipment standard, demands and costs
 - Changing volunteer landscape,
 - Governance issues
 - Financial disparity between departments
 - Training demands
- Highlighting proposed actions:
 - Establishing minimum standards to SCBA, bunker gear etc. as part of registration process

- Expanding opportunities for local collaborative training
- Encouraging adoption of basic GOGs
- Providing additional leadership training
- Consider changes to municipal grant system
- Recruitment & Retention opportunities
- Exploring concept of potential Regional Training Facility

It was discussed that a survey to Departments be done to determine what the committee's priorities and focus would be.

It was agreed that Mr. Kennedy would send a reminder to FESC members to submit potential survey questions to him in advance of the July meeting.

It was discussed change the date of the meetings of the FESC, as Mondays were a challenge for the new fire representatives, and it was decided to change to the first Thursday of every second month, commencing July 2023. The Committee's Terms of Reference did not determine the actual date of the meeting, and there were no conflicts with booking Council Chambers for these dates.

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Oickle regular meetings of the Fire & Emergency Services Committee be moved to the first Thursday of every second month, beginning July 2023. Carried.

8. Added Items

8.1 Pride Parade

Mr. Harris advised that Lunenburg County's first Pride Parade would be held on July 9th. Mr. Kennedy would circulate this information to departments to see if there was interest in participation.

9. In Camera - Nil

10. Next Meeting - Thursday July 6th.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business at 8:13 p.m. the meeting adjourned.