

**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.
Thursday, September 7, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Attendance

Brian Keizer, District 1 & 2 Fire Commission, Chair
Deputy Chief Dean Schmeisser, Dayspring & District Volunteer Fire Department, Vice Chair
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, Ex-Officio
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7
Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10
Randy Harris, Member-At-Large

Regrets

Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3
Chief Darren Mulock, Northfield District Fire Department
Captain Emily Bowers, Hebbville Fire Department
Angela Henhoeffler, REMO Coordinator

Staff

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy C.A.O. (via Teams)
Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator
Sandra Challis, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Mr. Keizer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Greek seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

3. Approval of Notes – September 7, 2023

Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Deputy Chief Schmeisser that the Notes of the September 7, 2023 Fire & Emergency Services Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried.

4. Business Arising from Minutes

4.1 Strategic Priorities

Mr. Kennedy reviewed the Fire & Emergency Services Committee Strategic Priorities report, included with the agenda. The review included:

- Draft Priorities
 - Safety
 - Capacity & Governance
 - Recruitment & Retention
 - Regional Training Facility
- Survey Results with the most support from responders including:
 - SCBA functional testing as an annual mandatory requirement of registration
 - More support for training
 - Adoption of standardized basic GOGs
 - Adoption of standard application process
 - Additional training on personnel matters
- Proposed Workplan covering the four draft priority areas.

Mr. Kennedy reviewed the recommendations in the report, noting that the workplan was developed following FESC workshops and action items were presented at the FESC AGM.

The following comments were made:

- Hesitation with grant reviews, (potential less money)
- Mandating SCBA testing as part of the 2024 registration package:
 - ⊖ 100% of survey respondents agreed to mandatory SCBA testing be included, due to firefighter safety.
 - 99% of Departments carry out SCBA testing. Approximate cost-\$85 per pack and one mask, and \$25 per additional mask.
 - Financial implication to replace or repair.
 - Council may provide financial support should costs be a barrier to testing.
 - No procedural requirement to give notice of changes to the registration package.
 - Could be presented at the 2024 FESC AGM for a vote.
- LRFES working on standardized GOGs, and LRFES, FESC and Departments need to work together to implement.

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that the Fire & Emergency Services Committee approve the proposed workplan, as amended by removing dates in Safety Item 1. Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Bolivar Getson, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Fire & Emergency Services Committee recommend to Municipal Council that: “Functional testing of self-contained breathing apparatus will be added to the annual registration package as a mandatory requirement. Carried.

Moved by Deputy Chief Schmeisser, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the Fire & Emergency Services Committee recommend to Municipal Council that: “Municipal Council approve the amount of at least \$100,000 to be placed in the account created for a Regional Fire Training Facility as an annual budget amount going forward”. Carried Unanimously.

4.2 Member at Large Applications

The vacancy for a member-at-large position on the Fire & Emergency Services Committee was advertised. One application has been received from the outgoing member, Herbert Seymour. No other applications were received. The Committee’s Terms of Reference does permit Mr. Seymour to reoffer.

Moved by Deputy Chief Schmeisser, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the FESC recommend that Municipal Council reappoint Herbert Seymour as a Member-At-Large to the Fire & Emergency Services Committee for a 3-year term, expiring on October 31, 2026. Carried Unanimously.

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

Quorum had not been reached at the last LRFES meeting, however training strategies for the upcoming year were discussed.

6. New Business

6.1 Budget 2024/25

Mr. Kennedy advised that in previous years the Committee had requested a percentage increase on MODL grants to the Fire Services.

It was suggested that requesting Council’s financial support for FIT Testing equipment could be brought to the Committee at the January meeting as it was not on the agenda.

Moved by Deputy Chief Schmeisser, seconded by Councillor Veinotte that the FESC recommend that Municipal Council increase the annual Fire Service grants by 2% for 2024/25. Carried Unanimously.

6.2 January Meeting Date

Due to the Holidays, Staff requested moving the January meeting date to Thursday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m. The Committee agreed.

7. Added Items – Nil

8. In Camera – Nil

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.