

APPROVED

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Minutes of an Annual General Meeting of the Fire & Emergency Services Committee

Held at Best Western Hotel, Bridgewater

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Blockhouse & District Fire Department

Dayspring & District Fire Protection Commission

Hebbs Cross Fire Department

Hemford & District Fire Department

Martins River Fire Commission

Northfield & District Fire Department

Pleasantville & District Fire Department

Tri-District Fire & Rescue Services

Walden Fire Department

Cornwall & District Fire Department

District 1 & 2 Fire Commission

Hebbville Fire Department

Italy Cross/Middlewood & District F.D.

New Germany Volunteer Fire Department

Oakhill & District Fire Department

Riverport & District Fire Department

United Communities Fire Commission

Council:

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson

Deputy Mayor Wendy Oickle, District 3

Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1

Councillor Pam Hubleby, District 4

Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5

Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7

Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8

Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Fire & Emergency Services Committee:

Brian Keizer, District 1 & 2 Fire Commission, Chair

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

Chief Darren Mulock, Northfield District Fire Department

Patricia Sharpe, Member-At-Large

Staff:

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.

A moment of silence was held in honor of fallen firefighters.

2. MAYOR'S WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Bolivar-Getson introduced the Councillors in attendance and welcomed all persons present. Her opening remarks included:

- Thanked members of the Departments for the considerable volunteerism in keeping our communities safe.
- Individual acknowledgement of the ten 50-year service awards given out this year.
- In what ways MODL supports the Fire Services including:
 - Collecting the Fire Tax rate on behalf of Fire Departments and dispersing the full amount back to them.
 - Council approved a budget in excess of \$400,000 to provide additional services to Fire Departments through:
 - Fire Services Coordinator Position
 - Grants
 - EFAP Program for all firefighters and their families
 - Recruitment & Retention program
 - Personnel Insurance
 - WCB
- Budget recently passed including \$100,000 to be placed in reserve for a regional training facility, this reserve now stands at \$200,000. This is still a future concept, and a great deal of consultation with the Fire Service Providers and other municipal partners is required.

3. INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Keizer introduced the Committee members in attendance.

4. PRESENTATION: Automatic Mutual Aid – Andrew MacLean, CD Fire Protection Specialist, Fire Underwriters Survey

Mr. MacLean was unable to attend. Mr. Kennedy would see if he were able to attend a future FESC meeting.

5. CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Keizer read his annual report, circulated with the agenda. In addition to his report he:

- Praised the commitment of committee members.
- Thanked MODL staff in their support to the FESC.
- Noted there were two new fire services representatives on the Committee.
- Health & Safety of Firefighters is the Committee's priority.

6. FIRE SERVICES COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kennedy gave a presentation summarizing his workplan for the next 4 years. The slide deck was circulated with the agenda and included:

- Key Items from 2023 Survey Results
- The introduction of mandatory SCBA function testing to be part of registration package from June 2025. Amendments to Policy MDL-36 are due to go to Council shortly.
- The possibility of a standardized application process, working with LRFES
- Collecting additional information on the number of Level 1 Certified, or Trained firefighters with each department.

- Working with LRFES on standardizing specific GOGs – Accountability could be a first step.
- Planning on doing more soft-skills leadership training this year.
- Visiting departments to promote the EFAP program.
- Looking on how to address training gaps.
- Encouraging Mutual Aid.
- Continue implementing the Recruitment & Retention strategy.
- Looking at IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility) in relation to departments' intake processes
- Fire Scene Security procedure in place – departments can call Commissionaires to provide service.
- CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) Teams are available to assist after any line of duty critical incident.

One question arose from the presentation as to the expected response time of the Commissionaires when needed for Fire Scene Security. Mr. Kennedy had been advised that they should respond in an hour.

Mr. Kennedy read an email from Andrew Maclean, Fire Protection Specialist, Fire Underwriters Survey regarding the benefits of Automatic Aid from an insurer's perspective:

- Automatic Aid is a requirement for the Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation.
- Automatic Aid allows insurers to map Fire Protection Areas, based on the contracts between departments.
- Automatic Aid is safer, removing delay between departments for response to structure fires.
- Automatic Aid clarifies a minimum of what to bring to scene for different scenarios.
- Automatic Aid allows insurers to put a station as a Satellite Station, increasing the grade to a higher-rated station within 16kms if they both have automatic aid to each others fire protection area.

7. ITEMS CIRCULATED WITH REGISTRATION PACKAGE

Mr. Keizer highlighted the items provided with the registration package, and if ratepayers information is needed, Departments need to contact Mr. Kennedy.

8. OTHER ITEMS CIRCULATED/AVAILABLE

Mr. Keizer advised the following items were also available to departments, on request.

- Application for Fire Department Recognition (Plaques and Helmets)
- Updated Civic Maps

10. NEW ITEMS

10.1 Mandatory SCBA Functional Testing as part of registration effective June 2025

Mr. Keizer reported that the fire service members, who responded to the 2023 Survey, had all wanted the introduction of mandatory SCBA Functional Testing as part of the registration package. This has been implemented, to become effective June 2025.

10.2 Fire Services Annual Newsletter

Mr. Kennedy read a request from Sarah Kucharski, Manager of Corporate Services and Communication, for departments to contact her with details of projects, news, volunteer stories and anything else that may be of interest to be included in the Annual Fire Service newsletter which is written over the summer to be released in the fall.

10.3 Date for 2025 Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday April 9th, 2025, location TBA.

9. APPOINTMENT OF FOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

9.1 Report of Nominations

Mr. Kennedy referenced his report, circulated with the agenda, noting that all current members of the Fire & Emergency services are re-offering for 2024/2025. No other advance nominations had been received, and after three calls, there were no nominations from the floor. There being no additional nominations, Brian Keizer, Chief Darren Mullock, Deputy Chief Dean Schmeisser and Captain Emily Bowers were acclaimed as the fire service representatives to the Fire and Emergency Services Committee.

Moved by Deputy Chief Sheldon Macleod, seconded by Chief Nancy Llewellyn-Rafuse to approve the fire service representatives as stated, to serve on the Fire & Emergency Services Committee. Motion Carried Unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 7.34 p.m., the meeting adjourned.