

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING
RE: SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING WITH FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

April 5, 2006

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Sterling Belliveau
- Louise Halliday
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
- Eddie Nickerson
- Sean Strang

Absent was Deputy Warden Fred Bower and Councillor Larry Stewart.

- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting was to hold the semi-annual meeting with representatives of the volunteer fire departments in the Municipality.

Members present representing the fire departments were :

- Dwayne Hunt, Fire Chief, Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department
 - Eugene Stoddard, President, Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department\
 - John Nickerson, Fire Chief, Barrington 7E Volunteer Fire Department
 - Paul Thomas, Deputy Chief, Barrington 7E Volunteer Fire Department
 - Ricky Banks, Fire Chief, Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department
 - Jason Shand, Deputy Chief, Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department
 - Gordie Ross, Fire Chief, Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
 - Blanchard Chetwynd, Fire Chief, Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department
 - David Garron, Deputy Chief, Port LaTour, Volunteer Fire Department
 - Wade Christie, Fire Chief, Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department
- David Kendrick also attended on behalf of the Joint Emergency Measures Organization

The fire departments provided written reports for the 2005 calendar year indicating the number of calls during the year, and the number of active members in each fire department.

Having completed their reports, the members then discussed matters of interest with the committee.

The fire department representatives indicated that they wish to have a provision in the budget again this year for the purchase of equipment. The provision that had been placed was \$5,000.00 per department.

The fire department representatives also indicated that they would like to see an increase in the operating grant. The present annual operating grant of \$22,500.00 has been in place since the 1999 fiscal year and has not been increased since then, although the \$5,000.00 provision for equipment has been put in place since then.

Fire departments have been attempting to obtain insurance coverage at a cheaper premium at various other companies. This has not proven to be fruitful however. There is a limited number of insurance companies who will insure fire departments and they all require substantial premiums.

It was again brought up by members of the fire departments that the cell phone coverage and the TMR radio coverage is not adequate within the Municipality. The representatives would like to have Council continue to pressure the telephone service providers to improve the coverage in the area.

It was requested that a “no parking” sign be placed at the fire water hole on Brass Hill across from the sewage treatment plant so that vehicles will not be parked in front of this location.

Members were informed that there will be an EMO Planning Committee meeting held April 19, 2006 in the Conference Room.

Having completed their discussion of matters, representatives of the fire department retired from the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

It was agreed by committee members that municipal staff will make budget presentations to a Committee of the Whole Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 8:24 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary for the Meeting

On website April 6, 2006.