

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL
SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING WITH FIRE DEPARTMENT**

March 3, 2010

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

- Louise Halliday, Chair
- Murray Atkinson
- George El-Jakl
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
- Cecil O'Donnell
- Cathy Stoddard

Councillor Hatfield was absent due to work commitments.

- Don Harding, Municipal Solicitor
- Brian Holland, Municipal Clerk

INTRODUCTION

The following fire department members who were present were introduced:

- Chief Walter Scott, Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department
- Eugene Stoddard, President, Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department
- Chief John Nickerson, Barrington Volunteer Fire Department
- Holly Snow, Barrington Volunteer Fire Department
- Chief Ricky Banks, Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department
- Jason Shand, Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department
- Chief Gordie Ross, Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
- Jody Goreham, Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
- Shannon Newell, Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
- Chief Ian Hicks, Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department
- Paula Sutherland, Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department
- David Orr-Laycock, Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department
- Chief Blanchard Chetwynd, Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department
- David Ellis, Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department

FIRE DEPARTMENT REGISTRATIONS

The Municipal Solicitor was present in order to discuss the requirements for fire department registration with the members of the fire departments. The primary concern with this registration are the liabilities that are related to it.

Members were informed that each fire department must register in order to be able to fight fires in the Municipality.

There then followed some discussion of the registration document with the Municipal Solicitor.

The Municipal Solicitor informed members of the limits placed on their liability in conducting fire fighting operations as provided under Section 297 of the Municipal Government Act. He also discussed Section 301(x) as requested by members. It was also indicated that the training standards circulated to the fire departments are recommendations but are not legislation and that there is no liability attached to an individual fire fighter by these standards. Members informed the Solicitor that in any case they are always cautious in their approach to fighting fires. The Solicitor indicated that by following these standards it would certainly reduce any liability and that by registering to fight fires at a lower level liability would also be additionally reduced.

There also followed some discussion regarding the Municipality's responsibility in providing fire service and criteria required for fighting fires. Some discussion also ensued regarding the Fire Service Association and the Fire Marshall's Office and the repercussions that may affect liability if the suggested guidelines are not followed.

It was generally agreed that all of this is a matter of risk management being conducted by the fire departments in the Municipality.

Having completed his discussion of these matters, the Municipal Solicitor then retired from the meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Written reports were provided by all of the fire departments. Many of the fire departments indicated that the Fire King software that had previously been purchased by the Municipality for the use of the fire departments is not operating satisfactorily. The Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department is currently investigating new software for their fire department.

FIRE CHIEF'S COMMITTEE

The Fire Chief's Committee has previously brought forward a proposal for the purchase of a ladder truck. The information that was provided by the committee is being circulated to all councillors for their perusal and consideration. The Fire Chief's Committee is currently discussing the provision of a municipal fire service and would like to see an independent study done of the provision of fire services within our Municipality.

Resolution COW100316

Moved by G. El-Jakl and seconded by C. Stoddard that it be recommended to Council that Municipal Staff obtain information on independent consultants conducting a study of fire services within the Municipality and seek funding for such a study.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was also suggested that Council meet with the Minister for Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations and inquire about the funding for the Emergency Services Provider Fund for the upcoming year.

FIRE HYDRANTS

A brief update of current activities to install additional fire hydrants throughout the Municipality was given to members. At the present time the approval from the Department of Transportation for the fire hydrant in Thomasville is not known.

It was also suggested that signs be placed on the various fire holes. Municipal Staff will investigate this matter and determine where signs are required.

OTHER MATTERS

It was brought to the attention of the committee that the Canada Revenue Agency has not provided HST rebates to the Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department. Council is being requested to provide a letter to the Canada Revenue Agency indicating that the Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department is a municipal body and is eligible for rebates.

Resolution COW100317

Moved by D. Messenger and seconded by G. El-Jakl that it be recommended to Council that the Municipality provide letters to all of the volunteer fire departments within the Municipality indicating that they are municipal bodies.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 8:32 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

On website March 5, 2010.