

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL  
SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING WITH FIRE DEPARTMENTS  
March 7, 2012**

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:

- George El-Jakl, Chair
- Murray Atkinson
- Donna LeBlanc-Messenger
- Cathy Stoddard

Absent were members Louise Halliday due to illness, Cecil O'Donnell on leave of absence, and Shaun Hatfield due to work commitments.

**PURPOSE OF MEETING**

This meeting was the Semi-Annual Meeting with Fire Department Representatives. Attending the meeting on behalf of the fire departments were:

- Chief John Nickerson, Barrington Volunteer Fire Department
- Deputy Chief Paul Thomas, Barrington Volunteer Fire Department
- Eugene Stoddard, President, Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department
- Chief Morris Nickerson, Jr., Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department
- Graham Dixon, Island & Barrington Passage Volunteer Fire Department
- Chief Ian Hicks, Port Clyde Volunteer Fire Department
- Chief Ricky Banks, Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department
- Deputy Chief Jason Shand, Shag Harbour/Bear Point Volunteer Fire Department
- Troy Stoddard, President, Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
- Chief Gordie Ross, Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
- Deputy Chief Jody Goreham, Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
- Shannon Newell, Secretary, Wood's Harbour Volunteer Fire Department
- Chief Troy Perry, Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department
- Deputy Chief Franklin Chetwynd, Port LaTour Volunteer Fire Department

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

All of the fire departments provided written reports for the year ended December 31, 2011 and for the first two months of 2012.

**FIRE SERVICE STUDY**

Members indicated that they are all working towards the objectives that were provided in the Fire Services Study. The Fire Services Committee, as yet, has not requested any funds for ice rescue equipment. The Municipality has budgeted \$5,000 for the purchase of ice rescue equipment. These funds will be accrued by the Municipality in order to be provided to the Fire Services Committee when the related equipment is purchased.

### AMALGAMATION OF WOOD'S HARBOUR/SHAG HARBOUR FIRE DEPARTMENTS

The members of these two fire departments indicated that they have been having regular meetings since January for the purpose of amalgamating fire departments.

President Troy Stoddard spoke on behalf of the amalgamation efforts. He indicated that a draft budget has been prepared and submitted this evening for the combined fire departments. A new fire department is being incorporated and the two previous fire departments are in the process of being dissolved. The proposed budget is based on the operation of:

1. Building for fire services in Wood's Harbour. All vehicles will be located in that one location.
2. New pagers will be required and these will be adapted so that one less radio licence will be necessary.

It is anticipated that the Shag Harbour building and at least two fire trucks will be disposed of sometime in the near future. Method of disposition is yet to be determined.

The fire departments are requesting approval from Council of the proposed budget and of the proposed amalgamation.

It is currently estimated that an Area Fire Rate of \$0.12/\$100.00 of assessment will be put in place across the entire new fire district.

It was also indicated that financial information for the two fire departments has already been submitted to their auditors for completion of financial statements.

Both fire departments will provide a request from each of the departments for amalgamation in order for the amalgamation to be approved by Council.

### OTHER MATTERS

It was indicated that members of a fire department had been paged to a car fire at which they were warned there may be an "armed" individual present. The RCMP were notified and were on route to the fire, however the RCMP did not attend the fire until a few minutes after the fire fighters had arrived. This matter will be brought up at the Joint Police Advisory Board for further discussion in order to determine the proper protocol to be followed in such instances.

It was also indicated that both fire departments in Wood's Harbour and Shag Harbour have been responding to all fire alarms since the end of October 2011.

It was suggested that some informal discussions of amalgamation of the remaining fire departments in Barrington, Port LaTour and Port Clyde be initiated. These will be exploratory discussions only, with no commitment required.

It was indicated by the representatives of the Barrington Volunteer Fire Department that they are in the process of selling their old meeting hall. They also wish to divest themselves of the Barrington Minor ball field. A letter from the fire department will be forthcoming to the Municipality for this purpose.

MUTUAL AID AWARDS

The Shelburne County Mutual Aid Association will be meeting at the Wood's Harbour Community Centre on March 17, 2012 for the presentation of awards.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent of members at 7:56 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary for the Meeting

**On website March 8, 2012.**