

MINUTES

FIRE SERVICES AND EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Fire Services and Emergency Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday November 5, 2015, at 10:30 a.m., in the Esquering Room, Halton Hills Civic Centre.

Members Present: Mayor R. Bonnette; Councillors B. Lewis (Chair), M. Johnson (left 11:27 am), M. Albano

Regrets Councillor B. Inglis

Staff Present: H. Olivieri, Deputy Chief; J. Martin, Deputy Chief; B. Morrison, Assistant Deputy Chief; A. Prueter, Financial Analyst; R. Brown, Committee Clerk

1. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

2. Closed Meeting/Confidential Reports from Officials Delegations

NIL

3. Delegations/Presentations

- A. John Martin, Deputy Chief was present and made a presentation to Fire Services and Emergency Planning Committee regarding Department Budget Overview – Fire.

J. Martin provided the Committee with an overview of the budget for the Halton Hills Fire Department. He noted that the Fire Department currently consists of 30 full time suppression staff, 96 part-time staff and 7 administrative staff. The 2016 preliminary operating budget for fire comes in at an increase of 4.6% above the 2015 operating budget for fire, 4.1% of that increase can be attributed to compensation changes.

J. Martin noted that consistent with the Fire Master Plan approved by Council in 2014 the hiring of two new full-time firefighters is included in the 2016 preliminary budget. There are also 7 capital projects valued at \$246,000 that are part of the preliminary Capital Budget. Two of the Capital projects of note are improvements to the training center and upgrades to the Acton Fire Hall to create an alternate Emergency Operations Centre. Currently the alternate Emergency Operations Centre is in Oakville.

- B. Harry Olivieri, Deputy Chief was present and made a presentation to Fire Services and Emergency Planning Committee regarding TransCanada Energy Exercise. (refer to Item 4A)

H. Olivieri provided the committee with an overview of the training exercise that Halton Hills Fire Department participated in at the TransCanada Energy facility on Steeles Avenue.

TransCanada requested the Fire Departments participation in an exercise that had evening staff dealing with an explosion at the plant that included a rescue of an unconscious person on the third storey of a five storey structure.

Twenty full time and part time fire fighters participated in the exercise which required the use of a stokes basket for the rescue portion of the exercise. The exercise was well received by both fire staff and TransCanada staff and has led to potential improvements in emergency protocol for plant staff and Halton Hills Fire Department.

- C. Bruce Morrison, Assistant Deputy Chief was present and made a presentation to Fire Services and Emergency Planning Committee regarding a structure fire at 44 Meadowglen Blvd. (refer to Item 4B)

B. Morrison provided the committee with an overview of the structure fire that occurred at 44 Meadowglen Blvd., on September 12, 2015. The home is a 2 storey wood frame construction with vinyl siding, the fire occurred in the kitchen with considerable damage to the kitchen area and smoke damage throughout the house.

There were no residents at home when the fire occurred a neighbour spotted the smoke and called 911. Fire staff searched the house and applied agents to stop the fire, in their search they discovered the family cat but were unable to revive the cat.

4. Reports & Memos to be considered by Committee

- A. rpt-FIRE-2015-0003 dated October 26, 2015 regarding TransCanada Energy Ltd Emergency Planning Exercise. (Deputy Chief H. Olivieri)

Recommendation No. FIRE-2015-0031

THAT Report No. FIRE-2015-0003 dated October 26, 2015 regarding the TransCanada Energy Ltd. Emergency Planning Exercise be received.

CARRIED

- B. MEM-FIRE-2015-0031 dated October 27, 2015 regarding a structure fire at 44 Meadowglen Blvd. (Assistant Deputy Chief B. Morrison)

Recommendation No. FIRE-2015-0032

THAT MEM-FIRE-2015-0031 dated October 27, 2015 regarding a structure fire at 44 Meadowglen Blvd be received for information.

CARRIED

- C. rpt-FIRE-2015-0002 dated October 16, 2015 regarding Fire Prevention Week 2015. (Deputy Chief H Olivieri)

H. Olivieri noted that Fire Prevention week was the week of October 4-10 and was a great success. The theme this year was 'Hear the Beep Where You Sleep' with the goal of promoting smoke alarms on every floor and in each bedroom as well.

Recommendation No. FIRE-2015-0033

THAT Report No. FIRE-2015-0002 dated October 16, 2015 regarding Fire Prevention Week 2015 be received.

CARRIED

- D. rpt-FIRE-2015-0004 dated October 28, 2015 regarding Open Air Burning. (Assistant Deputy Chief B. Morrison)

DEFERRED TO FEBRUARY 2016

- E. MEM-FIRE-2015-0032 dated October 26, 2015 regarding CO Awareness Week 2015. (Deputy Chief H. Olivieri)

H. Olivieri advised that the week of November 1-7 is CO Awareness Week in Ontario and Halton Hills. The theme is 'Beat the Silent Killer' with promotion of CO detectors in the home especially on the bedroom level.

Another component of awareness is understanding the different sounds that CO detectors can make so that citizens can respond accordingly.

Recommendation No. FIRE-2015-0034

THAT MEM-FIRE-2015-0032 dated October 26, 2015 regarding CO Awareness Week 2015 be received for information.

CARRIED

5. Communications/Updates/Discussion Items

Councillor Lewis asked staff for clarification regarding the circumstances surrounding the fire call to 303 Armstrong Avenue, roof fire at the Upper Canada construction site and Halton Hills Fire Departments position with respect to radon gas.

303 Armstrong Avenue

Staff advised that a dust filter within the machine caught on fire, the fire was limited to the unit and the unit had been serviced only ten days prior to the incident. The company is to follow up with their service technician.

Upper Canada Roof Fire

The fire was caused by the use of a torch in the process of laying a roof membrane by a contractor an isolated incident.

Radon Gas

The fire department has no jurisdiction with respect to radon gas and noted that it may fall under the building department.

Mayor R. Bonnette requested that the committee be canvassed to determine if a return to a 9:30 am start for Fire Services and Emergency Planning Committee meetings would be acceptable in 2016.

6. Next Meeting

Thursday, December 10, 2015 – 10:30
Halton Hills Civic Centre – Esquesing Room

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Rick Bonnette

MAYOR

Suzanne Jones

CLERK