

Minutes

Thursday, June 02, 2016

Station 4 – 427 Merritt Street: Training Room at 4:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Councillor Bill Phillips
Councillor Jennifer Stevens
Shelley Chemnitz, Commissioner of Corporate Services
Kristine Douglas, Director of Financial Management Services
Mike Vail, Vice President St. Catharines Professional Firefighter's Association
Fire Chief Dave Wood
Deputy Fire Chief Monique Belair

Absent:

Councillor Sandie Bellows
Bryan Shynal, Commissioner of Operations
Ryan Madill, President St. Catharines Professional Firefighter's Association
Deputy Fire Chief Larry Jones

Staff Liaison:

Fire Chief Dave Wood

1. **Call meeting to order (Chair) S. Chemnitz**

4:38 pm

2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

None.

3. **Motion to approve the agenda**

Motion:

That the Master Fire Planning Committee approve the agenda as presented.

Moved: Councillor Phillips

Carried.

4. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**

Motion:

That the Master Fire Planning Committee adopt the minutes of the May 5, 2016 meeting.

Moved: Chief Wood

Carried.

5. Presentations (invited guests)

None.

6. Business arising from the minutes

None.

7. Business

7.1 Declarations of interest

None.

7.2 MFP Progress Update – Chief Wood

Subcommittees working towards presenting a report to the Master Fire Planning Committee on June 16, 2016.

Motion:

That the Master Fire Planning Committee receive the presentation as given.

Moved: Councillor Stevens

Carried.

7.3 Subcommittee Updates

7.3.1 Capabilities

Subcommittee is working on report for Committee.

7.3.2 Community Risk

Subcommittee has provided Program Specialists Arsenault and Lieu with capabilities information from Prevention and Training Divisions. Program Specialist Arsenault will assist in preparation of Master Fire Plan. She has experience assisting other municipalities with the same. Program Specialist Arsenault plans to attend the Master Fire

Planning Committee meeting of June 16, 2016 to present on the status of the Master Fire Plan.

7.3.3 Economic Circumstances

Kristine Douglas presented findings based on the 2014 Financial Information Returns of Council approved comparator cities. Findings include:

- St. Catharines has the 3rd lowest taxable assessment which means a smaller base to spread costs over
- St. Catharines taxpayers pay \$2.01 per \$1000 of assessment, which is less than the average
- St. Catharines Fire Services total expenses are in the middle of the range of the comparator cities
- Full time staffing numbers are in the middle of the range
- Total Fire Services Expenses per Full Time Uniform Staff for St. Catharines is less than the average and is the 3rd lowest of the comparator cities
- Each resident in St. Catharines supports Fire Services in the amount of \$182 annually, which is in the middle of the range (based on 2015 BMA Management Consulting Inc. study)

Discussion surrounding examining the services provided by comparator cities ensued. Core service differentials may skew results. City Council determines the core services offered. Not all comparator cities have Communications Centres providing dispatch service to 13 municipalities. More information on core services, number of stations, number and type of apparatus from comparator cities is required. All agreed that Councillor Haywood's motion regarding the impact on Fire Services if budgetary limitations were put in place will be

addressed in a report to Council, not as part of the final Master Fire Plan.

Motion:

That the Master Fire Planning Committee receive the presentations as given.

Moved: Chief Wood

Carried.

7.4 Readiness Checklist Update – Chief Wood

Dillon Consulting is looking into potential impacts of Fire Fighters “jumping trucks” (switching between aerial and pump trucks) on turnaround times.

Discussion ensued regarding the movement of bridges on the Seaway and its impact on response times. Chief Wood is scheduled to meet with representatives of the Seaway to discuss options.

Motion:

That the Master Fire Planning Committee receive the presentation as given.

Moved: Councillor Phillips

Carried.

7.5 Steering Committee Work Plan – Chief Wood

Steering Committee is continuing to monitor progress of the subcommittees.

Motion:

That the Master Fire Planning Committee receive the presentation as given.

Moved: M. Vail

Carried.

8. Date of next meeting

June 16, 2016

The meeting of June 9, 2016 has been cancelled.

9. Motion to Adjourn

5:38 pm