

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Special Council Meeting

AGENDA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2019

1:30 P.M.

Council Chambers
2nd Floor, City Hall
320 Esplanade, Sydney, NS

Cape Breton Regional Municipal Council

Special Council Meeting

Thursday, September 26th, 2019
1:30 p.m.

Council Chambers
Second Floor, City Hall

AGENDA ITEMS

Roll Call

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** (Motion Required)

2. **BUSINESS ARISING:**
 - 2.1 **Audit Committee – September 26, 2019**
 - a) **Draft Audited Financial Statements for Year Ended March 31, 2019:** Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer

Note: Recommendations from Audit Committee to be circulated at the meeting.

 - 2.2 **Fire and Emergency Services Committee – September 11, 2019**
 - a) **Medical First Responder Service by CBRM Fire & Emergency Services:** Gilbert MacIntyre, Deputy Fire Chief (See page 4)

Committee recommends that Council to support the decision of any CBRM Volunteer Fire Department to offer the Medical First Responder (MFR) program, and further, to take steps to have MFR offered by the Career Fire Service immediately.

It was **agreed** that as part of the motion, staff be directed to reach out to the Volunteer Fire Departments to determine the number of Departments that are interested in participating in the MFR program, estimate the associated costs and forecast it out as a multi-year budgetary item.

Continued...

Special Council Meeting - September 26th, 2019
Agenda (Cont'd)

3. **Councillor Ray Paruch – Membership on Committees:** Deborah Campbell
Ryan, Municipal Clerk (See page 12)

ADJOURNMENT

**Excerpt – Draft Fire & Emergency Services Committee Minutes
September 11, 2019**

Medical First Responder Service by CBRM Fire & Emergency Services

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Coombes, seconded by Councillor Eldon MacDonald, that a recommendation be made to Council to support the decision of any CBRM Volunteer Fire Department to offer the Medical First Responder (MFR) program, and further, to take steps to have MFR offered by the Career Fire Service immediately.

Discussion:

During the discussion, some of the issues raised by Committee members included:

- Cost/benefit to CBRM
- Willingness by the Volunteer Fire Departments to be involved
- Training and Certification
- Clarification on whether the previous motion must be rescinded
- Budget amount on an annual basis
- Red Cross, St. John Ambulance and in-house training available to the Fire Service
- Current Mutual Aid Agreements

It was **agreed** that as part of the motion, staff be directed to reach out to the Volunteer Fire Departments to determine the number of Departments that are interested in participating in the MFR program, estimate the associated costs and forecast it out as a multi-year budgetary item.

Motion Carried.

ISSUE PAPER

TO: Fire & Emergency Services Committee

Date: June 18 , 2019

ISSUE:

Medical First Responder Service by CBRM Fire & Emergency Services

BACKGROUND:

Starting in January of 1998, 125 out of the 271 fire departments across Nova Scotia, participated in a pilot project, responding to Medical First Responder (MFR) emergencies. This program was initiated by Emergency Health Services Nova Scotia (EHSNS). By September of 1998, EHSNS was ready for a full implementation of the MFR program across Nova Scotia.

At this time the Protective Services Committee of CBRM passed a motion that without provincial funding to cover the municipality's possible costs connected to the program, CBRM would neither become involved with the MFR program nor encourage any volunteer departments to be involved.

An issue paper presented by Fire Chief Jack Neary at that time drew attention to five concerns that should be addressed before engaging in MFR calls.

1. *There has to be a willingness in the Fire Department to provide the service;*
2. *Skill levels must be increased to meet the First Responder need;*
3. *Liability insurance is a definite requirement;*
4. *The medical service organization requires, in addition to provincial guidelines, rules of governance within their department a separate constitution and by-laws;*
5. *The medical or First responder service should be incorporated as a separate entity to provide a degree of protection to the Fire Service personnel who are not part of the delivery of medical services.*

The paper went further to recommend a fee structure:

- a) *\$100.00 per vehicle rolling*
- b) *A minimum of 2 personnel per vehicle at provincial base rate of salary. Each call out guarantees a minimum of two hours per person.*
- c) *A base rate of \$5.00 per kilometer to and from the incident.*
- d) *Replacement of all equipment and material used or damaged.*

CURRENT PRACTICES:

Today, some 20 years later there are 15 fire departments in the CBRM that offer MFR service, three more intend to by the end of 2019 (see attached). In the province of Nova Scotia 229 of the 271 fire departments offer MFR service. An additional 10 agencies, other than fire departments, offer the MFR program in N.S.

There are a variety of levels a department can choose to offer, **once they have been trained to the MFR standard**. The levels are as follows:

LEVEL 1.....Do Not Notify my department/agency for medical calls.

LEVEL 2.....Only notify my department/agency if requested by the responding paramedics.

LEVEL 3.....Notify my department/agency for "Time Critical" emergency calls only, as determined by EHS communications Officer.

LEVEL 4.....Notify my department/agency for all emergency calls in our community.

LEVEL 5.....Notify my department for cardiac arrests, motor vehicle collisions and lift assists only.

LEVEL 6.....Notify my department/agency if requested by the responding paramedics and for all cardiac arrests and motor vehicle collisions.

A fire department/agency can choose whichever level they wish to offer. This level can be changed to any other level at any time the department/agency wishes to.

Addressing the five concerns mentioned in the issue paper of 1998:

1. No department without the willingness to be involved in the MFR program should be asked to, however those who show the willingness should be supported.

2. Skill levels of the First Responder, in the departments currently involved, and in those departments wishing to get involved, are and must meet the certification training and protocol requirement of EHSNS. This is a prerequisite of becoming a department offering MFR. These qualifications must be recertified every three years.
3. Liability insurance is addressed through EHS insurance, both for the individual and the department (see attached). Also Section 300 of the MGA reads:

No liability

300 A municipality, a village, a fire protection district, an employee of a municipality, village or fire protection district, a member of the fire department of a municipality, village or fire protection district, a registered fire department, a member of a registered fire department, a registered emergency services provider and a member of a registered emergency services provider are not liable for an act or omission in providing, or failing to provide, an emergency service, unless they are grossly negligent. 1998, c. 18, s. 300.

The MGA came into effect in April of 1999, thus it would not have been a resource for the issue paper of 1998.

4. Concerns 4 & 5 aren't an issue with any of the 229 fire departments in Nova Scotia currently offering MFR services.

As for the fee schedule that was suggested in the paper of 1998, this seems to be excessive in so much as, we as a municipality, don't offer this to the departments that provide us with volunteer fire services.

However, in the fee schedule it is suggested equipment be replaced, EHS does offer supplies under the MFR program.

Speaking to the expense of training staff to an MFR level, we currently must keep our fire fighters up to date with their First Aid certification. This is a cost of \$38 a person. The MFR training, which is more in depth training, will cost \$95 per staff member, this is with qualified in-house trainers.

Also the books needed for the training are \$100 a book. These books have been purchased by two departments in CBRM that are willing to lend them out further reducing the cost to future departments training.

EHSNS offers up to \$1500 in training for departments in the first year of becoming MFR responders and up to \$300 for recertification.

We have already delivered this training to the career members, irrespective of whether we offer MFR services, this offers better protection of our employees.

EHSNS will supply an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), a fully stocked oxygen tank, spinal immobilization gear, consumable medical supplies such as masks, splints, rubber gloves etc. Any of this gear that must be replaced can be done so by accessing EHSNS online and ordering the depleted supplies **at no cost**.

The following is an excerpt from the Halifax Administrative Order for Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency in the Halifax Regional Municipality:

2.0 “Medical Emergencies” means an acute injury or illness that poses an immediate risk to a person's life or long-term health. Response to medical emergencies by first responders includes first aid, CPR skills and techniques for sustaining life, preventing further injuries, and caring for illnesses and injuries until the next level of medical care arrives.

“Advanced Medical First Responder Program” means advanced training in first aid, CPR, and the use of Automated External Defibrillation (AED). Such training provides professional first responders with the training and skills they need to respond to medical emergencies. Advanced Medical First Responder Program is the minimum level of medical response that will be provided by HRFE firefighters.

C.B. Regional Fire & Emergency Service volunteer fire departments who provide MFR responses within their communities and respond with an apparatus maintained by the C.B. Regional Fire Fleet Maintenance Division, that MFR service is almost entirely funded by EHS and CB Regional Fire.

EHS will supply all materials, supplies and equipment necessary for medical emergency responses **as well as a cash provision toward firefighter MFR certification fees**. The C.B. Regional Fire Service provides for all maintenance and repairs and a fuel allowance in volunteer department budgets and grants.

C.B. Regional volunteer fire departments that use a separate vehicle not maintained by C.B. Regional Fire Fleet are responsible for that vehicles maintenance and repairs, however C.B. Regional Fire & Emergency Service assists monetarily with maintenance and repairs when the request is made by the affected volunteer department(s).

The resulting additional financial impact on the volunteer or career fire service in providing Medical First Responses is minimal. When weighted against service provision, this is certainly a service that should be re-evaluated and considered for our CBRM citizens, especially given our aged and widespread demographic and the current level of EHSNS limitations that we are witnessing throughout Nova Scotia.

Recommendation:

Acknowledging the MGA was not a resource in 1998 nor was the EHSNS Insurance Coverage for MFRs. Also the *#code critical campaign* has drawn attention to the fact of there being a crisis in emergency health care. Also acknowledging that a majority of fire departments in Nova Scotia are offering MFR without negative impact to their departments, and providing a

positive impact on their citizens. By the end of 2019 a majority of CBRM fire departments will offer MFR as well.

With the training left for the individual fire departments to finance out of their current budget, and EHSNS suppling and replenishing needed materials, it would appear the financial impact on CBRM would be minimal and the benefit to the citizens could be substantial.

There is an increasing age demographic in our community and a decrease in the ability for trained personnel to respond to medical emergencies. We may not like where we are, but we ignore it at our own peril. Present day realities require present day solutions.

The recommendation would be to reconsider the motion of the Protective Services Committee of twenty years ago and support the decision of any CBRM volunteer department to offer the MFR program. Further, to take steps to have MFR offered by the career fire service immediately.

Attached is a detailed list of which departments in CBRM are offering Medical First Responders, as well as information on the insurance coverage for MFRs offered by EHSNS.

Deputy Chief Gilbert MacIntyre, ECFO

FIRE DEPARTMENT	MFR RESPONDER	PROCESS
Albert Bridge	NO	IN THE PROCESS OF RECERTIFYING AND REOFFERING
Bateston	NO	
Big Pond	YES	NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Birch Grove	NO	
Boisdale	YES	NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Christmas Island		
Coxheath	NO	
Dominion	YES	NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Donkin	NO	
East Bay	NO	
Florence	YES	CONTACTED EHSNS MFR AND WERE ADDED TO THE LIST
Frenchvale Road	NO	
Gabarus	NO	
George's River	YES	NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Glace Bay	YES	
Grand Lake Road	NO	
Haz Mat	NO	
Howie Centre	YES	NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Louisbourg	NO	THEY DO RESPOND TO HELP THE VOLUNTEER MFR AMBULANCE SERVICE IN TOWN
Marion Bridge	YES	NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Mira Road	NO	
New Victoria	YES	NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
New Waterford	NO	PLANS ON OFFERING BY FALL OF 2019
North Sydney	YES	NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Northside East Bay	NO	INTERESTED IN OBTAINING TRAINING
Port Morien	YES	NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Reserve Mines	YES	NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Scotchtown	YES	NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
South Bar	NO	
Southside Boularderie	YES	NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Sydney (Station # 1)	NO	
Sydney (Station # 2)	NO	
Sydney Mines	NO	
Sydney River	YES	NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Tower Road	YES?	Trained submitted paperwork to EHSNS awaiting approval
Westmount	NO	Plans on offering by fall of 2019



Emergency Health Services

Insurance Coverage for Medical First Responders (MFRs)

As a Medical First Responder (MFR), you volunteer with an MFR agency that is sponsored by EHS to provide medical assistance. You have completed the necessary training to register with EHS MFR Services and continue to meet registration requirements through competency maintenance processes.

EHS has arranged for liability insurance coverage to protect registered MFRs when they act at the direction, and with the authorization, of EHS.

ACTING AS AN MFR

You may be called upon to put your MFR skills and training to use when:

- Your Agency is notified by EHS Medical Communications Centre of an emergency requiring medical assistance in your community. You, as an MFR, provide that assistance until an ambulance and paramedics arrive.
- Your Agency is asked to provide support for a community event, such as a sporting or cultural event, by having MFRs on site in case of a medical emergency. Your Agency requests and receives approval from EHS to provide MFRs.

Any time that you provide assistance to an injured person, there is a possibility that they might allege that you have caused them harm and make a claim against you for compensation. In some circumstances you are protected by the liability insurance provided through EHS that will respond on your behalf to a claim for compensation.

WHEN DOES INSURANCE PROTECT YOU?

You are only protected by this insurance when:

- You act within the Scope of Practice; and
- Your Agency is notified by EHS Medical Communications Centre of an emergency in your community and your Agency responds to the emergency in order to provide MFR assistance; or
- Your Agency has received prior approval from EHS to provide MFR support for a community event.

No matter what the circumstances, this insurance coverage only protects you when you are performing tasks and duties within the Scope of Practice of an MFR. You will have no insurance coverage if you exceed that Scope of Practice.

WHEN DOESN'T INSURANCE PROTECT YOU?

If you come upon a person in need of first aid and you choose to provide first aid, you have limited protection under the insurance provided by EHS. You should call 911 and administer only basic first aid until EHS personnel arrive. Also, Nova Scotia's **Volunteer Services Act ("Good Samaritan" Act)** may provide you with some protection against legal liability in these circumstances.

The insurance protection provided through EHS does not apply in any other circumstances.

This Bulletin is intended for general information only. Insurance coverage is always subject to all terms, conditions and limitations of the insurance policy. Should you have any questions about this insurance coverage, or any potential claim, please contact mfrservices@emci.ca



M·E·M·O

To: Mayor Cecil P. Clarke and Council
From: Deborah Campbell Ryan, Municipal Clerk
Date: September 20, 2019
Subject: Councillor Ray Paruch – Membership on Committees

Whereas Councillor Paruch is on extended medical leave, there is a need to fill positions on the following Committees in his stead:

- Nominating Committee
- Audit Committee
- Charter Ad Hoc Committee

Thus it is recommended that Council appoint replacement(s) for Councillor Paruch on the above Committees, and it would be in order to take nominations from the floor.

Yours truly,

Deborah Campbell Ryan
Municipal Clerk

