

## **Cape Breton Regional Municipality**

Fire and Emergency Services Committee Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2024

10:00 a.m. at City Hall Council Chambers

### **Committee**

Deputy Mayor James Edwards, Chair

Councillor Gordon MacDonald

Councillor Glenn Paruch, Vice-Chair

Councillor Steve Parsons

Councillor Darren O'Quinn

### **Staff**

Mark Bettens, Fire Chief/Director of Fire and Emergency Services

Chris March, Deputy Fire Chief

Marie Walsh, Chief Administrative Officer

Christa Dicks, Municipal Clerk

Bruce MacDonald, Manager of Emergency Management

Craig MacNeil, Deputy Fire Chief

Krista Dove, Fire and Emergency Services Administrative Assistant

Sharon MacSween, Senior Administrative Assistant

Kelly McDonald, Recording Secretary

The following does not represent a word for word record of the proceedings of this meeting. The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at [www.cbrm.ns.ca](http://www.cbrm.ns.ca).

**Deputy Mayor James Edwards called the meeting to order.**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Roll Call**

**Moment of Silence – Recognition of Service**

**1. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion**

Moved by Councillor Paruch, seconded by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, to approve the May 2, 2024, fire and emergency services committee agenda as presented.

**Motion Carried**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion**

Moved by Councillor O'Quinn, seconded by Councillor Parsons, to approve the Fire and Emergency Services Committee minutes from:

- January 31, 2024

**Motion Carried**

**3. Reports**

**3.1 Cape Breton Regional Fire Chiefs' Association Report**

Rod Beresford, Chair of the Fire Chiefs' Association, approached the podium for discussion on the report included in the agenda package. Discussion took place regarding the reallocation of the HazMat resources, policies, and response times. The following motions were then put forward:

**Motion**

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, to direct CBRM Legal Department to review the proper protocol procedures and to propose a policy indicating when CBRM Fire and Emergency Services makes significant decisions to involve the Fire and Emergency Services Committee as to the process and transition of the decisions.

**Motion Carried**

**Motion**

Moved by Councillor Paruch, seconded by Councillor Parsons, to recommend to CBRM Council to form a joint review committee between Fire and Emergency Services and the Cape Breton Regional Fire Chiefs' Association, with two members from the Fire and Emergency Services Committee and one member from CBRM Council, to work collaboratively for efficiencies and to sustain vibrant fire services throughout CBRM.

**Motion Carried**

**Motion**

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, to recommend to CBRM Council to form a joint review committee between Fire and Emergency Services and the Cape Breton Regional Fire Chiefs' Association, with two members from the Fire and Emergency Services Committee and one member from CBRM Council, to work collaboratively on recruitment and retention to sustain vibrant fire services throughout CBRM.

**Motion Carried**

**3.2 Director of Fire and Emergency Services Report**

Mark Bettens, Fire Chief/Director of Fire & Emergency Services, presented the report included in the agenda package.

For Information Only

### **3.3 Operations, Sydney Fire Department and Public Information Officer**

Chris March, Deputy Fire Chief, presented the report included in the agenda package. Discussion took place and the following motion was then put forward:

#### **Motion**

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, to direct CBRM staff to provide an issue paper to study the use of polygraph procedures regarding fire services applications on whether the polygraph examination should continue or not continue to be a part of the application process.

#### **Motion Carried**

### **3.4 Volunteer Coordinator, Training, Prevention, & Fleet**

Craig MacNeil, Deputy Fire Chief, presented the report included in the agenda package.

For Information Only

### **3.5 Manager of Emergency Management**

Bruce MacDonald, Manager of Emergency Management, reviewed the report included in the agenda package.

For Information Only

Christa Dicks, Municipal Clerk, noted the following action items:

- Provide an update on the student experience in Fire Departments at next FES Committee meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.**

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**Cecil P. Clarke**  
**Mayor**

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**Christa Dicks**  
**Municipal Clerk**  
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