

\Cape Breton Regional Municipality
Fire & Emergency Services Committee

**Wednesday,
March 8, 2023
10:01 a.m.
Council Chambers
2nd Floor, City Hall
320 Esplanade Sydney, NS**

Deputy Mayor James Edwards called the meeting to order.

Present: Deputy Mayor James Edwards, Chair
Councillor Gordon MacDonald
Councillor Glenn Paruch, Vice-Chair
Councillor Steve Parsons
Councillor Darren O'Quinn

Staff: Chief Michael Seth, Director of Fire & Emergency Services
Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Campbell Ryan, Municipal Clerk
Deputy Fire Chief Chris March, Operations
Deputy Fire Chief Craig MacNeil, Support Services
Bruce MacDonald, Manager of Emergency Management Operations
Deputy Platoon Chief Allan MacLeod
Captain Donnie Whalen
Krista Dove, Administrative Assistant – Fire Services
Sharon MacSween, Senior Administrative Assistant
Angela Ross, Recording Secretary

Also

Attending: Councillor Eldon MacDonald

Absent: N/A

Summary of Decisions

Land Acknowledgment

Roll Call

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve the March 8, 2023, Fire & Emergency Services Agenda and Addendum as presented. **Carried.**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve Minutes from:

- **Fire & Emergency Services Committee January 18, 2023.**

Carried.

3. PRESENTATION:

3.1 Imperial Oil Limited Spill: Operational Overview - Lessons Learned:

An operational overview was provided on the Imperial Oil Limited spill and the lessons learned.

For Information Only.

4. REPORTS:

4.1 Fire Chief/Director of Fire & Emergency Services Report:

The Fire Chief/Director of Fire & Emergency Services Report was presented.

For Information Only.

4.2 Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment:

Motion that the Cape Breton Regional Municipality provide the necessary authority for Fire Service administration to ensure that all CBRFES VFDs participate in the development and implementation of a regionalized volunteer firefighter recruitment process. **Carried.**

Continued...

Summary of Decisions (Cont'd):

REPORTS (Cont'd):

4.3 Manager of Emergency Management:

The Manager of Emergency Management Report was presented.

For Information Only.

4.4 Cape Breton Regional Fire Chiefs' Association Report:

Deputy Mayor Edwards advised that Rod Beresford, Volunteer Fire Chief, was not able to attend the meeting and that any questions related to his report can be directed to Chief Beresford by phone or email.

For Information Only.

4.5 Fleet Information Requested:

An update on the Fleet Information request was provided.

For Information Only.

ADDENDUM

5. SERVICE AWARDS 2023:

Motion that a Committee be established for the purpose of planning and organizing a service recognition celebration for those career and volunteer firefighters who meet a service award and merit level. The celebration would be held at a venue large like Centre 200 for dinner/dance awards celebration. **Carried.**

Adjournment

Land Acknowledgment

Roll Call

1. Approval of Agenda:

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, to approve the March 8, 2023 Fire & Emergency Services Committee Agenda and Addendum as presented.

Motion Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Paruch, seconded by Councillor O'Quinn, approval of the Minutes from:
➤ Fire & Emergency Services Committee – January 18, 2023.

Motion Carried.

3. PRESENTATION:

3.1 Imperial Oil Limited Spill: Operational Overview - Lessons Learned:

Bruce MacDonald, Manager of Emergency Management, provided an operational overview on the Imperial Oil gasoline spill in Sydney's North End and discussed the lessons learned within the scope of Fire Service only. He reviewed his presentation and highlighted the following:

- Background information on the incident
- Successes
- Incident Command and Control
- Support by the J.A. McCurdy Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Truck
- Drone support by Hazmat Team
- On-scene/interagency communications
- Information Sharing
- Exercise Participation
- Opportunities
- Moving Forward
- Summary

Continued...

PRESENTATION: Imperial Oil Limited Spill: Operational Overview - Lessons Learned (Cont'd):

After the presentation, the Committee discussed the issue and **agreed** to relax the speaking limit rules for the meeting.

Following discussion, Deputy Mayor Edwards thanked Bruce MacDonald for his presentation.

For Information Only.

4. REPORTS:

4.1 Fire Chief/Director of Fire & Emergency Services Report:

Fire Chief Michael Seth reviewed the Fire Chief/Director of Fire & Emergency Services Report included in the agenda package and welcomed and introduced Craig MacNeil, the new Deputy Fire Chief of Support Services.

The Committee then discussed the Report.

Deputy Mayor Edwards thanked Fire Chief Michael Seth for his presentation.

For Information Only.

4.2 Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment:

Deputy Fire Chief Chris March reviewed his Issue paper on the Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment. After Committee discussion, the following motion was put forward:

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Councillor O'Quinn, that the Cape Breton Regional Municipality provide the necessary authority for Fire Service administration to ensure that all CBRFES VFDs participate in the development and implementation of a regionalized volunteer firefighter recruitment process.

Discussion:

During discussion Council and staff shared their thoughts on the motion in regards to the words "necessary authority". It was **agreed** that this motion be brought to Council for consideration and approval.

Motion Carried.

Continued...

REPORTS (Cont'd):

4.6 Manager of Emergency Management:

Bruce MacDonald, Manager of Emergency Management, reviewed his Report in the agenda package.

Following Committee discussion, the Deputy Mayor thanked Bruce MacDonald for his presentation.

For Information Only.

4.7 Cape Breton Regional Fire Chiefs' Association Report:

Deputy Mayor Edwards advised that Rod Beresford, Volunteer Fire Chief, was not able to attend the meeting and that any questions related to his report in the agenda can be directed to Chief Beresford by phone or email.

In response to a question, Director Seth discussed the difference between the Fire service and Fire Departments as outlined in the Cape Breton Regional Fire Chiefs' Report.

For Information Only.

4.8 Fleet Information Requested:

Chris March, Deputy Fire Chief, advised that his Issue Paper in the agenda is in response to a request made by former CBRM Mayor Cecil Clarke in 2018 for a 5-year plan for apparatus. He provided the steps he took and advised that went back to 2019. He provided the Committee with details on what trucks were purchased and which trucks were cascaded.

After the report, discussion included the Fleet Replacement Program and how the decisions are made when trucks are needed by the many numbers of volunteer and career Fire Departments in CBRM.

For Information Only.

Continued...

ADDENDUM

5. Service Awards 2023:

Councillor Steve Parsons expressed the importance of recognizing our long serving volunteer and career firefighters and then put the following motion forward:

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, that a Committee be established for the purpose of planning and organizing a service recognition celebration for those career and volunteer firefighters who meet a service award and merit level. The celebration would be held at a venue large like Centre 200 for dinner/dance awards celebration.

Discussion

Following discussion, the Deputy Mayor called for the vote.

Motion Carried.

The Deputy Mayor thanked the Committee for the great conversation during the meeting.

Councillor Parsons recognized the passing of former Chief of Howie Centre, Nelson Wilson, and offered his condolences to his family. He suggested that a card of sympathy be sent to the family.

Councillor Gordon MacDonald recognized March 8th, 2023 as International Women's Day and shared wishes to all women in CBRM.

Adjournment at 12:46 p.m.

Deputy Mayor James Edwards

/acr

**Deborah Campbell Ryan
Municipal Clerk**