

TOWNSHIP OF ADMASTON/BROMLEY
PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Monday February 25, 2022
At 9:00 a.m.

Chair Mike Quilty and Committee Members Robert Dick, Michael Donohue

Also in attendance were CAO/Clerk Charkavi and Acting Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Ferguson, Virtually - Acting Chief Mchale, and Acting Deputy Chief Donohue

1. Chair Mike Quilty call the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest – None
3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Robert Dick, seconded by Michael Donohue

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee approve the agenda for the February 25, 2022 Protective Services Committee as presented this date.

“Carried”

4. FPPA – Firefighter Certification – Formal Comment - Resolution

Acting Chief McHale highlighted the Fire Chief’s meeting that he attended on February 23, 2022.

Committee discussed the current certifications of the Volunteer Firefighters and what these new changes will mean to retention and recruitment of Firefighters. Also discussed was the Legacy certifications (grandfathering).

Committee discussed a proposed resolution provided from CAO/Clerk Charkavi. Committee recommended a few changes to be made and directed CAO/Clerk Charkavi to send the formal comment to the Solicitor General on behalf of the Protective Services Committee.

Moved by Michael Donohue, seconded by Bob Dick

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Solicitor General is seeking public input on a proposed regulation under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 (FPPA)

that would establish mandatory minimum certification standards for specific fire protection services;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Admaston/Bromley has been served by the Douglas Fire Department since its founding by the Douglas Lions Club in 1948. Staffed entirely by selfless volunteers from the community, the municipality and the Department have long committed to and emphasized training, dedicating 1073 hours to training of the total 1846 hours of operation in 2019 for 25 Volunteer Firefighters;

AND WHEREAS by their very nature, volunteer firefighters suspend their lives when responding to community emergencies and dedicate many weekends and evenings to training exercises, recognizing it will be neighbours requiring their help. This dedication of personal time is the bright line distinguishing volunteer from full time departments. This time commitment is already beginning to present recruitment challenges and recruitment would be significantly impaired if increased;

AND WHEREAS Full-Time Fire Departments are right now unable to fill all of their Volunteer Firefighter positions; they will lack the staffing resources to fight fires in their communities and will have to burden the costs of hiring more full-time Fire Fighters;

AND WHEREAS the new certification requirements will cripple Volunteer Fire Departments, like the Douglas Fire Department in the Township of Admaston/Bromley. Recruitment is difficult enough at this time, adding further requirements will make it impossible. In 2018 there were 449 fire departments in Ontario, 32 are full time, 191 are composite and the remaining 226 – or 50% - are all volunteer. The new certification requirements could very well wipe out 50% of Fire Departments in Ontario.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Admaston/Bromley respectfully requests that the Solicitor General reconsider this reckless initiative, as municipalities in Ontario with Volunteer Fire Departments, will have insurmountable challenges for recruitment because of the certification requirements;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Admaston/Bromley respectfully requests that the Solicitor General meet with representatives from all Volunteer Fire Departments to hear how these certification requirements will

affect their departments and ultimately their communities, before any changes are made.

“Carried”

5. Fire Hall Garage

Committee discussed the fire hall garage and directed the Project Team to issue an RFP for garage.

Moved by Bob Dick, seconded by Michael Donohue

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Protective Services Committee direct the Acting Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Acting Treasurer/Deputy Clerk, CAO/Clerk, Councillor Dick and Kevin VanWoezik (Former Fire Chief) to draft an RFP for the completion of the Fire Hall Garage.

“Carried”

6. New Business

Deputy Mayor Quilty suggested to Acting Chief McHale that he suggest a more formalized committee structure for the Fire Chiefs. Acting Chief McHale responded that it was more formalized prior to COVID-19 and hopes that it will get back to formal monthly meetings soon.

7. Next Meeting – To be called by the Chair

8. Adjournment

Moved by Bob Dick, seconded by Michael Donohue

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Monday February 25th Township of Admaston/Bromley Protective Services Committee be adjourned at 9:55 a.m..

“Carried”