

Douglas Fire Committee
Regular Meeting
April 19, 2023

The regular meeting of the Douglas Fire Committee was called to order by Chairman Kevin LeGris. Present were Harry Stuart, Nathan Harris, Daryl Thom, Fire Chief Bill McHale and Deputy Fire Chief Patrick Donohue. There were no conflicts of interest.

It was moved by Daryl Thom and seconded by Nathan Harris that the minutes of the March 8, 2023 meeting be approved as read.

Carried

In Old Business there was fourteen (14) Fire Personal accepted into the Legacy Certification. This is a major accomplishment. Many thanks to Fire Chief Bill McHale for his detailed reports and multiple hours of work. There are now five fire personnel to be certified. All need to be certified by 2025. Chief Bill and Deputy Chief Patrick have been to several fire chief meetings regarding the dispatch system. The computer that is being used to dispatch at the CACA Centre is from 1994 and need to be replaced. The replacement cost is \$360,876.80. Talk on upgrading the dispatch system has been ongoing since 2008. During the recent ice storm, the fire dispatch was out. Deputy Chief Patrick was to get a quote on generator costs, but it had not been received by the meeting. The Health and Safety Committee are to meet with CAO/Clerk Jennifer on May 4th.

In Correspondence and emails were received from Kelly Coughlin, Treasurer—Deputy CAO/Clerk regarding and error in Fire Captain's pay rate and a notice of the annual Fire Remuneration payout date. A copy of the revised budget was reviewed and several questions arose.

In new business the burning by-law was discussed. Extending the time period of no burn permits being issued was the main concern and after talking about the number of less grass fires and the number of firefighters during the week it was decided to make no changes.

The fire chief reminded the committee of the flash over presentation in McNab Braseside that is happening the first weekend in May. A firm time for Douglas is to be determined. Fire Chief Bill and fireman Hayden McIntyre attended the NEFC in Huntsville in March. Main concentration was on electric vehicles, lithium batteries, e-bikes and cancer related deaths in the fire fighting profession. Chief Bill felt it was not near as good a conference as prior years.

It was moved by Nathan Harris and seconded by Harry Stuart that the fire chief's report Be accepted as presented.

Carried

It was moved by Harry Stuart and seconded by Daryl Thom that the payment voucher Dated April 12, 2023 in the amount of \$12,735.54 be paid.

Carried

In open discussion the future purchase of a truck was discussed and noted that there is a line in the revised budget. Front line trucks are less than fifteen years with a five-year grace period. After this period of time the insurance increases. There is about a 28-32 month wait time for delivery. Chairman Kevin talked about the new addition to the existing fire hall. The purchase of SCBA's was not on the budget and the whole committee felt it needed to be a line item. SCBA's were noted on last years budget as a large capital purchase item as they are a major part of the health and safety of the fire personnel. A motion was drawn up and the committee members felt that fire chief Bill should present it at the meeting both he and deputy fire chief Patrick would be attending on April 20th at the municipal office.

It was moved by Nathan Harris and seconded by Daryl Thom: Where as the Douglas Fire Committee was of the opinion that the township had been tasked with the purchase of Replacement SCBA equipment to replace the existing apparatus that is approaching end of life – However, that is no the case and as such is a risk that the fire fighter’s safety could be compromised -Therefore, be it resolved that this committee recommends to council that money be added to this years budget to source and purchase equipment as needed.

Carried.

It was moved by Harry Stuart to adjourn.