

TOWNSHIP OF ADMASTON/BROMLEY
DOUGLAS FIRE COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Wednesday September 18, 2024
At 7:00 p.m.

Present were Committee Members Daryl Thom, Nathan Harris and Ken Keill, Fire Chief Bill McHale and Deputy Fire Chief Patrick Donohue. Ken Keill chaired the meeting. Councillor Kevin LeGris was later arriving due to a previous commitment.

1. Chairman Ken Keill call the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest –None
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Moved by Daryl Thom and seconded by Nathan Harris

Be it resolved that the agenda for the September 18, 2024 meeting be approved.

Carried

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Moved by Daryl Thom and seconded by Nathan Harris

Be it resolved that the minutes of the June 19 meeting be approved as read with corrections

Carried

5. BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Moving and Purchase of Tower update. The Chief and Deputy Chief reviewed the quote from Frontline Communications and felt it was a fair quote. However, Chief Bill received a second quote just this morning from a second bidder at a much lower quote. No decision will be made until a detailed quote is received and can be compared.

Certification of Firemen. Chief Bill has reached out to Bonnechere Valley Fire Chief Daryl Wagner to try and reduce costs for the training. Bonnechere Valley is bringing in an outside source, Firehouse Training and this would be completed in two weekends in January and February. The chief would then get the testing done for the written portion and enlisting proctors to come and do the physical testing. The OFM require a minimum group of 11 students at one time for testing. The 2025 budget will have to be increased significantly to meet this cost. The fire committee requested a budget of \$30,000 and at budget time this was reduced to \$11,000. Approximate cost to do this on our own training is \$45,000 and by joining Bonnechere Valley the approximate cost would be \$35,000. On line training will begin this fall. Training needs to be completed by July 1, 2026.,

HELMET AND BUNKER GEAR PURCHASES—Helmets have arrived and are in service. All helmets are dated this year. Helmets have a ten-year life cycle and then will need to be replaced. Chief Bill was unable to use LAS procurement program for the helmet pricing. The fire committee though it would be a good idea to have a reserve set up to off set the replacement cost. One of the new helmets was passed around.

The turnout gear was purchased from AJ Stone. Five sets of gear were purchased to replace the dated gear and order gear for the new hires. A sample jacket was circulated for the committee members to look at. The LAS procurement process was used for pricing.

6. CORRESPONDENCE—None

7. NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT—The CAO/Clerk and Fire Chief completed the community risk assessment. Many hours of work went into this task. This report is to be reviewed every five years. The report has been adopted by Admaston/Bromley council. The mayor felt this report should be reviewed every four years

PROJECT UPDATES—The municipal fire protection plan has been completed and submitted. Chief Selle who is the County Coordinator has asked everyone for their completed document to be placed on file

OMERS, the retirement savings plan for municipal employees was offered to the firefighters. The Treasurer/Deputy CAO Clerk came to the firehall and did a presentation on how the program works. Firemen have a choice individually to join.

DRY HYDRANT—All the parts needed to complete the new dry hydrant are at the hall. Working with the Public Works Dept, it is expected that the hydrant will be installed in September.

FIRE HALL ROOF—With the heavy rains this summer there have been several leaks in the roof. VanWozik Construction has done emergency temporary repairs.

DISPATCH—The Renfrew County Fire Chief's Association had a meeting on September 5th with the Ministry of Health, Mike Noland and the management from the CACC to discuss the dispatch contract with the County and the Fire Departments. A full report should be coming in October.

PUMP TESTING—testing has been done on trucks 1 and 4. Truck 4 failed the vacuum test and truck 1 has a leak and faulty foam gauge. Work to rectify the issues is scheduled with Battlesheld coming to the hall to do the repairs in house.

TOOL PURCHASE—a Milwaukee 18V zip cut grinder combination has been added to truck 1. New hose bags to replace aging ones for storage and handling of forestry hose was purchased from Algonquin Forestry Service. Two pony hoses and some mesh screens for protection of the back packs was also purchased.

BONNECHERE VALLEY—On August 23rd Bonnechere Valley Chief Daryl Wagner reached out to Chief Bill directly requesting Douglas Fire be first response into much of the eastern and southern regions of their township while their crews delt with a devastating scene. Douglas Fire was relieved of their duties at noon on Monday the 26th.

CANCER PRESENTION—Ontario Fire Marshall's office announced the arrival of the Fire Protection Grant 2024-2025 Transfer Payment Ontario, for cancer prevention among firefighters. CAO Charkavi and Chief Bill have put time into deciding what scope of the grant money would best suit this departments needs. The grant application is completed and should it be successful this will begin the process of obtaining second sets of turnout gear for the department. Larger items like a washing machine, a dryer, air purifier are all too large for the current fire hall to accommodate

CALL ALERT/CALL DISPATCH—Douglas Fire Department is the only fire department using call alert only. The CACC also offers a dispatch service which Chief Bill feels it is time for the Douglas Fire Department to

move towards taking advantage of this service. The CACC can send a transcript to the Chief at the end of the call benchmarking important times during an emergency. The difference in the cost is \$6.98 per call.

Moved by Nathan Harris and Seconded by Daryl Thom

Be it resolved that the fire committee recommends to Admaston/Bromley Council to move to the call alert and dispatch system with the Central Ambulance Communication Centre (CACC) effective January 1, 2025.

And Be It Resolved That the fire committee directs staff to incorporate this funding model into the 2025 budget once approved by council.

Carried

8. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT—Chief bill reviewed the past three months activities.

Moved by Daryl Thom and seconded by Nathan Harris

Be it resolved that the fire chief's reports dated June 2024, July 2024 and August 2024 be accepted as presented.

Carried

9. FINANCIAL INFORMATION—A copy of the July 2024 trial balance was received and reviewed. The committee would like to see a different format of the figures corresponding to the budget passed and showing the unspent monies. No income figures are not showing.
10. 2024 FIRE COST UPDATE—A copy of the update fire costs to the end of August was reviewed.
11. BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT—A copy of the July 2024 trial balance was received and reviewed.
12. OPEN DISCUSSION—Enbridge Gas reached out to Fire Chief Bill to complete a report. They currently have no service in our area. Enbridge Gas is gifting the Douglas Fire Department with 84 smoke/carbon detectors. This has an approximate value of \$7000.00 value.
13. NEXT MEETING—October 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers.
14. ADJOURN

Moved by Nathan Harris and seconded by Daryl Thom

Be it resolved that the meeting of September 18, 2024 be adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Carried

