



**Municipality of North Middlesex
North Middlesex Fire Committee
Minutes March 5/2024**

Date: March 5, 2024

Time: 7:00PM to 9:00PM

Location: Shared Services Centre, Boardroom
229 Parkhill Main St, Parkhill, ON

Call to Order:

Motion to call the Fire Committee Meeting to order at 6:59PM

Roll Call

Present: Chair - Councillor Adrian Cornelissen
Mayor Brian Ropp
Councillor Chuck Daigle

Staff: Fire Chief Greg Vandenheuvel
Deputy Chief Scott Jones

Secretary, Judy Gratton
CAO, Carolyn Tripp

Regrets: District Chief Rob Densmore

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Approved the January 9, 2024, minutes as presented.

**MOTION F/C #005/2024
DAIGLE/ROPP**

CARRIED

4. PROVISION FOR PECUNIARY INTEREST- NONE

5. PREVIOUS BUSINESS:

a) Update on the Fire Protection Agreement with Lucan-Biddulph

CAO Tripp updated the committee on the meeting that both Mayors and CAOs held from both municipalities (North Middlesex and Lucan-Biddulph) regarding the Fire Protection Agreement. They discussed and increase of 10% per year for the first three years of a five year agreement, with no increases in years 4 or 5. The CAO from Lucan Biddulph asked CAO Tripp to present it in writing, which she did, but has not heard anything back yet. CAO Trip will let the committee know once she receives the agreement or a revised agreement.

b) Update on plans for the renovation to the Ailsa Craig Fire Station

A preliminary drawing of the proposed renovation to the Ailsa Craig station has been received. The proposed drawing does not provide for accessible washrooms and therefore won't meet the Accessibility requirements. A second suggestion will be pursued. There was discussion about two locker/washrooms with a single shower room. There was also discussion concerning EMS no longer having a room when in Ailsa Craig for stand-by, but it has been observed that they are not in Ailsa Craig as much as they used to be. Fire Chief Vandeneuvel will inquire about making unisex washrooms.

c) Update on Training Facility

No further update on the training facility.

d) Policy's approved February 1, 2023 (adding review date)

- Reimbursement for DZ License Expenses
- Honorarium to Firefighters Upon Certification
- Issuing of Uniform Policy
- Cadet Policy
- Pregnant Firefighter Policy

The committee agreed to change the review frequency from "As needed" to "Four Years" so that it will cover the term of Council and will be reviewed when new Council begins their term.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a) Amendment to Terms of Reference – Schedule "A" – MEETINGS

The fire committee needed to amend the Terms of Reference - Schedule "A" to read as Thursday nights were training nights and they will also change the time to 6pm.

A motion was made for the Terms of Reference to read as follows -

"Meetings will be held four (4) times per year according to the approved schedule set at the last meeting of the year annually and subject to change."

**MOTION F/C #006/2024
DAIGLE/VANDENHEUVEL**

CARRIED

b) A motion was made that the following policies would go to the next available Policy committee meeting.

- Draft Education Policy
- Promotion Policy
- Draft Remuneration Policy

**MOTION F/C #007/2024
DAIGLE/VANDENHEUVEL**

CARRIED

e) Update on Activities (Sept to Dec 2023)

Fire Chief Vandenneuvel presented his report to the Fire Committee which included call volume, personnel update, training and number of open burns. FC Vandenneuvel also stated the North Middlesex Fire Department is fully staffed. He was asked if it has helped our daytime staffing. FC Vandenneuvel responded it will once the new personnel have been trained.

FC Vandenneuvel also updated the committee that Daryl Corby will be the Acting Training Co-ordinator for a period of six months. This will allow Rob Densmore to focus on his responsibilities as District Chief and disburse the workload.

A motion was made to receive and file the activities report.

**MOTION F/C #008/2024
JONES/DAIGLE**

CARRIED

6. Other Business:

a) Superior Water Tanker Accreditation

Deputy Fire Chief Jones presented the report of the Superior Water Tanker Accreditation. The fire committee had a brief discussion about whether this was obtainable. DFC Jones stated that currently the only municipality near us that has this is Strathroy Caradoc.

A motion was made to receive and file this report.

**MOTION F/C #009/2024
VANDENHEUVEL/DAIGLE**

CARRIED

b) Fire Agreement with Lambton Shores

The fire committee had a discussion on the agreement with Lambton Shores. It was decided it needs to be at least a five (5) year term (or longer) and the cost should be at the previously offered terms (\$122.62 per home) plus the MTO rate.

A motion was made to take this offer back to Lambton Shores

**MOTION F/C #0010/2024
ROPP/DAIGLE**

CARRIED

7. a) Reimbursement of Drivers' Medicals

A brief discussion was had within the fire committee regarding the drivers' medicals and the cost of how can be different. Is there a way these can be capped? CAO Tripp suggested we not cap them as the firefighters do not have a choice on who their doctor is, and each doctor chooses a different charge which we need to compensate them for.

b) Employment Status of Firefighters

F/C Vandenhoevel went over the report to the fire committee regarding the Employment Status of Firefighters. CAO Tripp assisted in explaining the report and stated how they will now be covered by provisions of the Employment Standards Act, and for instance, be entitled to vacation pay. There would be no additional cost to the taxpayer. Therefore, going forward (effective March 1, 2024) the firefighters will be recognized as employees of the Municipality.

A motion was made to receive and file the report but to come back to the next meeting with final numbers (may have to go into Closed meeting).

**MOTION F/C #0011/2024
TRIPP/ROPP**

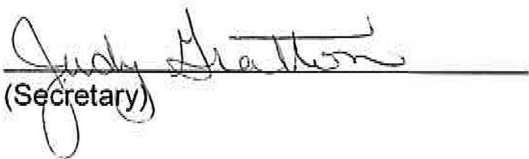
CARRIED

8. Adjournment at 8:30pm

MOTION F/C #012/2024
ROPP/DAIGLE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Car..." with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(Chair)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judy Matheson" with a horizontal line underneath.

(Secretary)