

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ALGONQUIN
EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES

On Wednesday, February 24, 2021 the Emergency Services Committee held a Zoom Meeting broadcasted to You Tube

Council Present:
Mayor Dumas, Chair
Councillor Sandra Collins
Councillor Dave Harper
Councillor Joe Florent
Councillor Bongo
Councillor Richard Shalla
Councillor Joey Vermaire

Township Staff Present:

Holly Hayes, CAO/Clerk Treasurer
Don Kruger, Fire Chief
Tracy Cannon, Planning & Building Administrator, *Recording Secretary*

Chair of the Emergency Services Committee, Mayor Dumas called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

#5 New Business: Spring Freshet

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: **D. Harper**

Seconded by: **R. Shalla**

To adopt the agenda as prepared for the Emergency Services Committee meeting of Wednesday, February 24, 2021 as circulated and amended.

-Carried-

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST: None declared

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Fire Permit System: Fire Chief Kruger's report of November 25, 2020 was brought back from a previous council meeting for further discussion with emphasis on;

- No fee structure to be implemented for property owners to obtain a burn permit
- No history of problems with campfires or other fires in the area
- Consensus of the public not in favour
- Crownland campfires not included in the permit system
- Burn rating details currently available on the township website and radio and signs are erected when there are changes in fire status
- Separation of campfires and burning of brush
- System based on a credit system and population, township our size estimated at \$500.00 every two to three years depending on use
- System can be tailored to township needs
- Signing up for residents that do not have access to the internet
- Communication tool to get important information regarding fire bans to property owners via telephone, text messaging, emailing
- Enforcement of fire permits
- Campfires and penalties already included in the Burning By-Law 2018-567
- System would provide a cost recovery recourse and allow for enforcement; cost recovery should the MNRF need to be utilized
- Program will be more diverse to getting messages to property owners.

Next steps;

- Fire Chief Kruger review and revise By-Law for a future committee meeting
- Process how permit system will work for township.

Firefighter Pay Structure (officers):

Discussion and clarification of the proposed rate for the former Deputy Chiefs that are now restructured to Captains.

Next steps;

- Fire Chief Kruger to provide report with pay structures for all members of the fire department.

NEW BUSINESS:

Establishing & Regulating By-Law:

By-Law currently states that fire departments do not provide services to water access properties.

By-Law should include clear direction and procedure pertaining to rescue. Currently by-law states fire

departments will assist paramedics for off-road rescue. The O.P.P. has indicated that rescue is not their mandate, EMS in Renfrew County have the capability of off-road rescue, however they are a distance away, local EMS do not have the capability; therefore, township is filling in the gaps.

Next steps :

- Fire Chief Kruger to update by-law to provide clear direction of what fire department will do and not do pertaining to off-road rescue
- Follow up with local EMS services as to what they are mandated to do during an off-road rescue.
- Invite O.P.P. to a future meeting to clarify what services they are mandated to do.

Fire Service to Water Access Properties:

Written Report provided by Fire Chief Kruger.

Discussion on the training requirements and the equipment required to provide fire services to water access properties.

Next steps:

- Focus on education of fire prevention and plans.

Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic: Local teams have been set up and they are working with township staff and public health for the roll out of vaccines. All municipalities have offered space for clinics. RCDHU website provides daily statistics of what is happening in the area.

Local clinics will be set up for the broader community. More information to follow.

Spring Freshet: Preparation of freshet meetings have started. D. Gatley, Works Superintendent will provide information on how the current status of Galeairy Lake Dam will affect the spring freshet.

Moved by: J. Vermaire

Seconded by: J. Florent

To adjourn the Emergency Services Committee meeting of February 24, 2021 at 10:41 a.m.

-Carried-

Next meeting date, to be determined.

Mayor Jane A.E. Dumas,
Committee Chairperson

Holly Hayes, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer

Tracy Cannon, Planning & Building Admin.
Recording Secretary