

Fire & Rescue Committee Meeting
Wednesday January 15, 2014
1:00 pm
Council Chambers, Aberfoyle

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Stokley, Chair
Councillor Roth
Deputy Chief Steve Goode
Michael Dailous, President of Puslinch Firefighters' Association

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Karen Landry, CAO/Clerk
Michelle Cassar, Deputy Tax Collector

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Roth and Seconded by Michael Dailous

FIR-2014-001

THAT the Fire and Rescue Committee minutes dated November 20, 2013 be approved.

CARRIED

4. CLOSED MEETING

None.

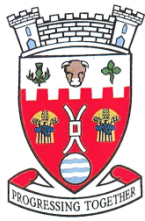
5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

6. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Fireworks By-law Update

Councillor Stokley advised the comments and advice of staff are to be reviewed by the Committee then a report will be forwarded to Council. At that time interested parties will be advised of the date the matter will be before Council and can register as a delegate.



Karen Landry and Steve Goode reviewed the contents of draft Report ADM-2014-003.

1. Concerns with ability for vendors to obtain from suppliers “dummy” or inert fireworks for display purposes.

Steve Goode advised that the display board should be removed completely. Anything that is outside of a locked container should be mock for display purpose only. The manufacturers have advised that the vendors have to set off a firework and then keep it for display.

Steve Goode clarified that as long as the display case is locked and accessible to only staff it is acceptable for live fireworks.

2. Clarify that fireworks can be displayed in a secure glass case even if they are not inert.
3. Clarify definition of High Hazard and Low Hazard Fireworks by adding a reference of 1.3g or 1.4g.

Steve Goode advised in order to sell High Hazard Fireworks the vendor must have a magazine license and a Fireworks Supervisor’s card. Staff suggested that the definition can be amended for public clarification to include reference to “professional” and “recreational”, however it is not recommended that additional technical jargon be included.

Karen Landry will modify the definitions accordingly.

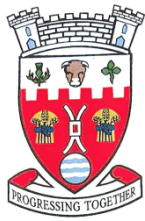
4. Consider one permit for more than one event e.g. May 24th and July 1st

Karen Landry advised that staff recommends 2 separate permits as different trailers may be used. The Committee supports requiring separate permits.

5. Does a resident require a permit for setting off Low Hazard Fireworks?

It was clarified that a permit is not required.

6. Consider delegating approval for events not taking place on the designated dates to the Fire Chief.



Karen Landry advised that the By-law can be amended to have the Fire Chief and designated staff approve the setting off of fireworks on non-designated dates.

7. Include the definition of a Building

Karen Landry provided the definition of a building as per the Fire Protection and Prevention Act:

“Building” means any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy.

The Committee requested this change be made.

8. Add the following dates to permit the discharge of Fireworks:

- Chinese New Year (January or February)
- Diwali (October or November)
- New Year's Day (January 1)
- New Year's Eve (December 31)

Councillor Stokley asked if there were any other dates that anyone else was aware of. The Committee agreed to add the above dates and amend the By-law in the future if there were additional dates brought to Council's attention for consideration.

9. Develop a fact sheet to assist with the interpretation of the technical terms of the By-law.

Karen Landry advised the Committee that the by-law has to be technical from a legal perspective. The Committee requested staff to develop a fact sheet to accompany the bylaw.

10. Modify the By-law to permit the discharge of fireworks 2 days before and after the designated dates instead of 1 day before.

The Committee agreed to amend the By-law to allow the discharge of fireworks 2 days before and 2 days after the designated dates.

11. Permit Fee – Consider that the Puslinch Optimist Club is a service club.



Karen Landry advised that the fee has been set at \$100. Councillor Stokley suggested that any reduction in fees be handled the same as other fee reduction requests which requires approval by Council. Karen Landry will note in the report that the waiving of any fees is at the discretion of Council.

Moved by Councillor Roth and Seconded by Steve Goode **FIR-2014-002**

THAT Draft Report ADM 2014-003 be amended in accordance with the recommendations made by the Fire & Rescue Committee and forwarded to Council.

CARRIED

2. Open Air Burning By-law

Councillor Stokley advised the Committee to discuss the By-law and then review the report.

Steve Goode and Karen Landry reviewed the proposed changes for the By-law :

- That currently the burn permit is free and valid for 3 months. The By-law would change that to a 1 year permit with a \$20 fee.
- Changes to the Terms and conditions
 - A distance change to 15m from 150m (500ft) from any building, structure, hedge, fence, Highway or overhead wire.
 - Wind speed change from 24km per hour to 16km per hour
 - Change the wording 'sunset to sunrise' to more time specific 9:00pm to 7:00am
 - Add that there is no burning during a smog alert or fire ban.
- No permit is required for an outdoor fireplace or cooking fire. The distance has been changed to 10m from any building, structure, hedge,



fence, Highway, overhead wire or other combustible article –
obstruction of any kind or nature whatsoever.

- Campgrounds have not been addressed in the previous By-law. Staff recommend that campgrounds in Puslinch be addressed.
- Councillor Roth inquired if the \$20 fee is prorated. After discussion it was determined the \$20 fee would not be prorated.
- Karen Landry advised staff need to follow up regarding campgrounds being a permitted use in compliance with the Zoning By-Law. After further discussion it was recommended that Riverbend, McClintocks and Emerald Lake would be considered seasonal campgrounds in Puslinch.
- Councillor Roth enquired about fees if someone was burning without a permit. Steve Goode advised that if the fire truck needs to go out and put the fire out there is a charge.
- Karen Landry advised that the report will go to Council and interested residents will be advised of the date of the public meeting.

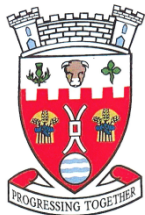
Moved by Councillor Roth and Seconded by Steve Goode **FIR-2014-003**
THAT the Report ADM-2014-002 be received and forwarded to Council for
consideration.

CARRIED

3. Future Initiatives Update

Karen Landry updated the Committee:

- Satellite fire station – Council received the report on December 4, 2013
- Merged computer network is complete
- Fireworks and Open Air Fire By-laws will both have reports to Council.



Councillor Stokley stated that before the Committee carried on to the Reports he wanted to express his thanks to the Fire and Rescue Department for all of the help and work during the ice storm. Steve Goode reported they had 25 calls related to weather, some for carbon monoxide alarms from generators, 3 calls on Christmas Eve and 4 calls Christmas morning. Councillor Stokley and Councillor Roth asked if staff could prepare a letter to Council to recognize the efforts of the Fire Department and also the Public Works Department. Karen Landry advised she would prepare a certificate of appreciation.

4. Response Activity Report – November 2013

See item 5 below.

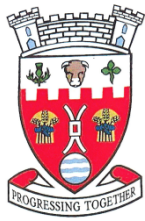
5. Finance Reports – November 2013

Moved by Michael Dailous and Seconded by Steve Goode **FIR-2014-004**
THAT the Fire Response Activity Report for November 2013 be received; and
THAT the Finance Reports for November 2013 be received.

CARRIED

6. Fire Fighters' Association

Michael Dailous advised that the Fire Fighters' Association is currently going through nominations for the next term. The final vote will be held tonight at the Fire hall. He also reported that the Fire Fighters' Association held their Christmas party on the 15th of December. There were some issues with booking the facility, but it ended up being a successful event. There were numerous donations from residents to pay for the facilities and the food. The Association has put a message on the sign in front of the Fire Department and in the paper to thank them. Councillor Stokley asked about the turnout.



Michael Dailous said it was not as good as hoped, but attendance by kids was good.

7. Training Update

Steve Goode advised that there are no issues with our department for the upcoming transition in April for the training division. County recruit training is starting in the spring and Puslinch is hoping to have our new recruits join in. Right now the Fire and Rescue Department is at the interview stage. There are 16 applicants from the Township out of 32 total applicants. The first round of interviews will be next week, with the goal that the new recruits will be hired by mid-February so that they can take part in the County training.

Councillor Roth was interested to know if our Fire and Rescue Department has been very involved with the new County Training Officer. Steve Goode reported that the Northern Townships have really utilized his services. Going forward the Township will request the County Training Officer to assist the Township so it can optimize the use of this resource.

Councillor Stokley asked about the open house for the applicants and their families that the Fire and Rescue Department held before Christmas. Steve Goode advised that there were about 50 people that came out. It was a 1 hour presentation with a tour of the Department and the trucks. Councillor Roth inquired how many Volunteer Fire Fighters the Department would like to hire. Steve Goode advised they need to hire 5, but they would like to hire a couple extra as auxiliary Fire Fighters, so then if someone leaves, they would have some members that would be trained and able to step in.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm.