



The Corporation of the Township of Perry

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

Fire Department Personnel

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

(1695 Emsdale Road, Emsdale, ON)

Any and all Minutes are to be considered Draft until approved by Council at a Regular Meeting of Council

In Attendance:

Council Members:

Mayor Norm Hofstetter
Councillors: Jeff Marshall, Margaret Ann MacPhail and Les Rowley
Regrets: Councillor Jim Cushman

Municipal Staff:

Beth Morton, Clerk/Administrator;
Dan Marshall, Fire Chief

Fire Department Personnel:

Jim Leung, Frank Pellegrino, Denise Stoneman, Julie Clodd, Jim Hamilton

Opening Comments

Mayor Norm Hofstetter called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No pecuniary interest was declared.

Mayor Hofstetter provided an explanation of the background work being completed for the new Fire Hall since the closure of the old hall in August 2015. He outlined the struggles of the Fire Department and Public Works trying to operate out of the same building and the safety concerns that have been expressed by the Ministry of Labour.

The Mayor outlined that earlier this evening, the Fire Chief, the Clerk and himself had a discussion to come up with possible solutions that would allow for more space at the Public Works Garage.

As a trial run effective March 1st, 2017, the Firefighters will begin responding from Novar Fire Hall for the majority of fire calls rather than from Public Works only. The medical vehicle and the pumper will remain at Public Works, and that the pumper, rescue and tanker will respond from Novar. All PPE will be stored in Novar and spare PPE will be stored at Public Works for those responding with the pumper from Public Works. The rescue and tanker proposed to be surplus will be stored in

an outside building at Public Works if space is available. The suburban and UTV will remain in the fabric building located in the public works yard, along with the ice water rescue equipment.

There was a discussion on the costs of the new fire hall and if there could be alternate solutions for the Fire Hall other than the proposed \$3M dollar building. It was suggested that an addition be added to Novar and a satellite hall with 2 drive through bays be built in Emsdale, reducing the costs by as much as \$1.5m. Council has a lot of items to consider before making a final decision on location and size of the new building(s).

The firefighters provided suggestions and outlined some of the concerns of responding from the Novar Hall, but all were supportive of at least trying the proposal on a trial basis.

Public Works will be removing the rubber tire excavator from the Novar Fire Hall to provide more space for fire equipment.

The firefighters addressed their concerns on recruitment. They feel that the Fire Chief has too much on his plate to manage recruitment himself. They want to see a better program established. The Clerk made comment that Fire Chiefs in our region should be completing exit interviews to try to determine why firefighters are resigning. The firefighters believe most are leaving because they find jobs elsewhere or move out of town. As part of the recruitment process they would like to see the task separated into multiple positions (ie DZ drivers only, firefighters only, medical aid only or all). By doing this, the Fire Department may be able to attract DZ drivers who are willing to drive, but not fight fires, etc.

The second item of concern for the firefighters is the Fire College. Training seems to be built for the full-time firefighters and it is a challenge to find space available in any of the training sessions for volunteers. They want the Township or RFSC to reach out to Norm Miller. It was suggested that Norm Miller attend a RFSC Meeting to hear the concerns that the volunteers from our 7 municipalities are having when trying to get into the Fire College for training.

The Fire Chief will be providing monthly reports updating Council on how the trial process implemented is working and its effect on response times.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.

Dated this 1st day of March, 2017.

Original Signed by Norm Hofstetter
Norm Hofstetter, *Mayor*

Original Signed by Melinda Torrance
Melinda Torrance, *Deputy Clerk*