



The Corporation of the Township of Perry

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

Closure of the Novar Fire Hall

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

6:00 pm

Council Chambers, 1695 Emsdale Road, Emsdale, Ontario)

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: Margaret Ann MacPhail, Jim Cushman, Joe Lumley and Paul Sowrey

Municipal Staff:

Beth Morton, Clerk-Administrator;

Dan Marshall, Fire Chief

Kim Seguin, Treasurer/Tax Collector

Mike Wilmon, CBO/By-law Enforcement

Members of the Public:

See Sign in Sheet

Mayor Hofstetter opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None

Mayor Hofstetter provided an overview on the purpose of the information session being held this evening. It is to provide an update to on the closure of the Novar Fire Hall and answer questions that the public may have.

The Mayor outlined that there has been no response from Novar over the last four years as a result of a lack of volunteer firefighters in Novar. Response times have not generally changed as a result of responding from Emsdale. He outlined that there are Automatic Aid Agreements with neighbouring municipal Fire Departments.

The Mayor also explained that the existing Novar Fire Station does not meet the standards of a Fire Hall today. It can be used for other uses, however it does not have showers, decontamination areas, training rooms, etc. Health and Safety is a priority and the new Perry Township Fire Hall in Emsdale is equipped with the needs of the firefighters.

There was a brief discussion on duplication of equipment and budget needs.

The new fire hall provides training to neighbouring municipal fire departments. Recruits from neighbouring fire departments training in the new facility. The old

municipal office at 90 Old Government Road is used as a smoke house for training as well.

A member of the public had questions on insurance and duplication of vehicles. Some of the equipment has been sold and others are housed in the Perry Township Fire Hall at 64 Old Government Road. It is suggested that residents verify insurance coverage with their insurance agents. A distance radius to the Perry Township Fire Hall in Emsdale was provided to the public.

The Mayor explained that the budget was not a driving force for closure. Consideration was based on volunteers and health and safety.

Fire Chief Dan Marshall explained the Tanker Shuttle accreditation from the Perry Township Fire Hall in Emsdale.

It was explained that a new pumper/tanker would be considered in future and costs for it will be in the \$400,000 range.

A member of the public requested information on fees charged to fire calls under Fire Marque. The Clerk provided a full explanation. Pamphlets are available to the public which provide more details.

There is a concern that 911 calls are not going to Parry Sound dispatch, but to Huntsville. This is a 911 issue, not the Township and it is not only our area affected.

Residents were advised that the Recreation Department currently house their equipment in the Novar Fire Hall and the building will continue to be used for storage.

Members of the public mentioned that they feel more recruitment is required for Novar and provided suggestions for the Fire Chief to consider. Phil Hope offered the use of his space at the grocery store for recruitment drives. He wants to see more of a commitment to try to recruit volunteers. The public were also concerned that if there were recruits that there would be no vehicle in Novar for response.

There was a concern that there was not enough notices for residents for the meeting this evening. It was suggested more signage at the transfer station or on the Novar Fire Hall building itself.

Volunteer firefighters are responding more to accident and medicals, more than fires. To increase recruitment, it was suggested that Council consider a health spending account for volunteer firefighters to assist them and also entice people to want to volunteer on the Fire Department.

The Mayor thanked the public for their attendance and the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:08 pm.

Dated this 3rd day of July, 2019.

Original Signed by Norm Hofstetter
Norm Hofstetter, *Mayor*

Original Signed by Beth Morton
Beth Morton, *Clerk-Administrator*