



*The Corporation of the Township of Perry*

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Fire Department**  
**Wednesday, October 14, 2020**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Perry Township Fire Department**  
**64 Old Government 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;  
Melinda Torrance, Deputy Clerk  
Dan Marshall, Fire Chief  
Travis Stone, Deputy Fire Chief

**Members of the Public:**

See Sign in Sheet

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

**Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

None

Welcome

Mayor Hofstetter opened the meeting by welcoming everyone for attending the meeting.

He explained that at the last Council meeting there was a discussion about the gym being located at the Community Centre/Library. The Building Committee reviewed the project and requested further direction on the gym. Council decided at the October 7, 2020 Regular Meeting that the new building would not include a gym due to the substantial costs to build and administer a public gym. The Township did not secure a grant, therefore all costs with the build will be funded with municipal tax dollars. It was also discussed that the building required more space for storage and the drawings will be adjusted to facilitate the change.

Council supports to build a gym within a garage building located on the fire hall property and accessible to firefighters only. Mayor Hofstetter wanted to let the fire department know that they have not been forgotten and are looking at providing a facility for them.

### Regionalization

Deputy Fire Chief Travis Stone inquired about the vision for a regional fire department.

Mayor Hofstetter explained that municipalities cannot operate as independent departments anymore and need to work together. The funding formulas in creating a regional fire department are the stumbling blocks preventing a resolution. Mayor Hofstetter explained that the funding formulas is something the Council members are working on with surrounding municipalities and that goes for everything when it comes to sharing costs. He wants to keep things moving forward and that is a matter of convincing other municipalities.

Regional Training Officer Gary Courtice explained that the fire departments are essentially operating now as a region in training and administrative functions and have no consideration of boundaries. The only real difference is that they are not officially recognized as a region with names and uniforms, but operationally they are acting as a region.

Mayor Hofstetter explained the funding discrepancies and non-agreement between Councils. RTO Courtice would like to see that the municipalities operate as a region.

### Training

RTO Courtice updated Council on the current training and advised that the number of new recruits is rising. Currently within the region, there are 13 new recruits that recently completed training. The training goes back and forth to accommodate various levels of training. The firefighters attend training at different halls and therefore firefighters get to meet each other and will be familiar with each other at a call. In addition to those trained, there are an additional 9 recruits that will participate in winter recruitment training.

After they have attended a scene they re-group to discuss three things:

1. What went well?
2. What could they have done to improve the situation?
3. What equipment could have been used that wasn't?

They address the junior firefighters first for answers so as not to be influenced by senior members.

Perry Township is fortunate and grateful to have a junior firefighter program.

### Equipment

New equipment such as a new pumper and rescue truck were discussed. RTO Courtice explained that a mini pumper is less costly and would benefit from the

savings by allowing another piece of apparatus for the cost of one. A mini pumper cab can hold 5 firefighters and will be able to access narrower roads and roads in winter. Driver licencing for the pumper is classified as a 'G' licence making it easier to train the firefighters on the truck as opposed to having to wait for a Class 'D' licence.

Council advised that they would like to see a report presented at a Council meeting outlining all the facts of why new equipment is needed for consideration.

#### Live Burn Facility

The firefighters asked about the progress of the live burn facility. They were updated on the resolutions that have been passed at surrounding municipalities and Council will be discussing with other municipalities the cost funding formula to have one located at the Perry Township Fire Hall property.

RTO Courtice advised that a live burning facility could last up to 15 years and the facility at the Gravenhurst Fire College may not be there in the foreseeable future. 50% of firefighter training takes place in a live burn facility and the with this facility in place in Perry, it could be used up to 15 times a year.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2020.

Original Signed by Norm Hofstetter

Norm Hofstetter, *Mayor*

Original Signed by Beth Morton

Beth Morton, *Clerk-Administrator*