



The Corporation of the Township of Perry

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Fire Department
Tuesday, October 24, 2023
7:00 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
Dan Marshall, Fire Chief

Members of the Public:

See Sign in Sheet

Mayor Hofstetter opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None

Welcome

Mayor Hofstetter opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance. He also provided condolences on behalf of himself and the Township to Fire Chief Marshall and the Perry Township Fire Department on the recent loss of former Fire Chief Duncan Marshall, who was a Fire Chief in Perry Township for 30 years. The Mayor also spoke to the firefighters about mental health and how important it is. He outlined services are available and if any member needed any supports to ensure that they reached out.

Equipment

The firefighters outlined that they are pleased with all of the equipment that Council has provided the department over the last several years. One of the firefighters spoke to a seat with board that is required to transport patients by UTV. The Fire Chief advised that this was in the 2023 budget and has been ordered.

The Mayor outlined that the tanker/pumper truck is in the budget for 2025.

Training

Gary Courtice, Regional Training Officer, continues to provide training to the firefighters. Firefighters are happy with Mr. Courtice's services and look forward to continuing to train with him.

Records are managed by Mr. Courtice for all training provided.

Regional training and cross-training with other South Almaguin Fire Departments continues.

The Clerk-Administrator discussed the possibility for more consistent live burn training at the Transfer Station on Wednesdays and Thursdays or evenings when the Transfer Station is closed to keep the wood pile manageable. The firefighters are very interested in participating in regular burns and will work to accommodate around the Transfer Station hours.

It was also suggested by the Mayor that the firefighters practice hooking up to the reservoirs at the Emsdale Community Centre as part of training practices. Councillor Lumley also suggested training with the reservoirs at his storage unit.

Recruitment

The Fire Department is looking at conducting another Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment Blitz. They still have pamphlets available. They are also discussing the potential for corrugated board signs to be placed around the Township. They do not feel people look at the recruit sign under the Township of Perry welcome sign at the Municipal Office anymore.

Office Staff will collaborate with the Fire Chief to assist where required.

Live Burn Facility

The firefighters spoke to how it was a disservice for the province to close the Fire College. Recently the departments completed fire training within the live burn facility available to municipalities for use on a very limited basis.

They would still like to see the live burn training unit established in Almaguin. Council has supported in principle a live burn unit, however to date, we have not received any support from the other municipalities in the region. The Fire Chief is going to look further into this.

Other

Council and the firefighters spoke about future fundraising for equipment and how this could be accomplished.

The change in boundaries for medical aid has been very positive and helpful for both departments.

The firefighters outlined that it is a very positive working relationship between Council and the Fire Department. They feel they have Council's full support and Council also noted that they appreciate the service that each firefighter provides.

The firefighters have been doing more team building and events together, including but not limited to volunteer events (food bank, fair), attending hockey games, playing sports and working out together, etc.

It has been requested by the firefighters that 'Green Light Signs' be implemented on the fire rating signs and information included on the Facebook page and website in order to educate the public on what they mean. Administrative Staff will work with the Fire Chief on this.

The Mayor advised that there will be a Regional Meeting organized by the Kearney and Perry Mayors in the new year to discuss future regional matters.

Council and the Fire Department would like to proceed with one annual meeting in the fall moving forward.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Dated this 15th day of November, 2023

"Originally Signed"

Norm Hofstetter, Mayor

"Originally Signed"

Beth Morton, Clerk-Administrator