



The Corporation of the Township of Perry

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
Thursday November 7, 2024
7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers and Electronic Attendance
(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:

Municipal Office:

Mayor Norm Hofstetter
Councillors: Joe Lumley, Margaret Ann MacPhail, Paul Sowrey, and Jim Cushman
Beth Morton, Clerk-Administrator
Erica Cole, Deputy Clerk
Dan Marshall, Fire Chief
April Stockfish, Deputy Fire Chief

Electronic Attendance:

None

Members of the Public:

See Sign In Sheet

Opening Comments

Mayor Norm Hofstetter called the meeting to order at approximately 7:07 p.m.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Nil

Welcome

Mayor Hofstetter opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Live Burn Unit

Mayor Hofstetter provided an update on the Live Burn Unit Facility located behind the Perry Township Fire Department, noting that the slab has been poured but it still needs to be inspected. The building unit should be delivered by the end of November 2024. The Unit will be available for use to all Fire Departments within the South Almaguin region.

Equipment

Mayor Hofstetter highlighted that the new automatic transmission Tanker will be in the budget for 2025, and it hauls 2500US gallons. From the specifications, it will

be a great asset to the Perry Township Fire Department and is smaller and more agile for the rural roads and laneways within the Township. Council continues to invest in our local Fire Department, making it a priority for public safety. The new Tanker is approximately \$360,000US, and can pump 500 gallons a minute.

The Firefighters also confirmed that all their PPE and general safety equipment (gear, radio's) is in good shape.

Proposed DZ Licence Program

Mayor Hofstetter noted that administration staff and the Fire Chief are currently investigating a program to speed up the process for Firefighters to acquire their DZ licence. The Firefighters were very receptive to this program as only a few members currently have their DZ licence.

MTO Fire College may also have a program "become the trainer" where individuals are trained and after 20 hours of training, they have their DZ licence. All an incentive to have DZ within 1 year.

Recruitment

Currently a new Recruitment Class starts in December 2024, there is a new group Recruitment Poster being circulated for all 5 South Almaguin Fire Departments. Information has been shared on the Facebook Page as well calling for recruits. The Fire Chief confirmed that there is currently 1 interested individual for Perry Township, and 8-10 for the entire region.

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.

Other

It was confirmed that the E&R By-law highlights should there be no member available from the Perry Township Fire Department to respond to a call, that automatic aid service will be initiated. Because Perry is a volunteer department, there is no liability on the Township to provide this key emergency service. Essentially, if personnel are available, they will provide minimum response. Also confirmed that Perry Township does not conduct dog or deer ice water rescue.

The on-site gym is still used greatly by the Firefighters and most appreciated.

The ATV will have the pump rotated off the back for the winter, in hope's that it will be set up for moving patients through the trail system in the winter months if required.

It was requested by the Firefighters to have large maps and plans of Perry Township printed, which include 9-1-1 number indicators and possible water sources. With new recruits or individuals moving into Perry Township and joining the Fire Department, not everyone knows the little roads and laneways, or, for example, which end of Whitney Road a call is located (without knowing the 9-1-1 numbers). The Clerk-Administrator will investigate in anticipation of preparing the necessary maps.

The Perry Township Recreation and Culture Committee will be hosting a tree lighting celebration in December at both Novar Community Centre and Emsdale Community Centre and are hoping to have the fire ring/live campfire. Firefighters noted their interest and would be happy to supply the wood and ring.

Discussion then turned to a recent HR matter involving the termination of a firefighter, with dialogue surrounding the process, procedures, and the feeling of lack of consistent communication with the remaining Firefighters on this matter.

The Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:17 p.m.

Dated this 20th day of November, 2024.

"Originally Signed"

Norm Hofstetter, Mayor

"Originally Signed"

Beth Morton, Clerk-Administrator