Corporation of the Township of Burpee and Mills

Regular Council Meeting

March 5, 2018

The Corporation of the Township of Burpee and Mills Council met for the regular council meeting with Reeve, Ken Noland and Councillors, Lyle Honess, Art F. Hayden and Wayne L. Bailey in attendance. Patsy Gilchrist, Clerk’s Assistant recorded the minutes.

No conflict of interest declared.

The purpose of the meeting was for Council to prepare for the meeting scheduled with the Fire Department on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 7 p.m.

Many items were brought forward for discussion, as follows:

1. 911 Paging – presently CCAC is providing the paging of fire calls to the radios. The charge for this service is per call and runs at approximately $200 per year. Northern 911 is willing to provide the service to pagers, cell phones, home phones, text messages etc. at approximately $200 per month (that rate may be reduced depending on if all Manitoulin Municipalities are interested in this service.

An example was brought forth wherein when CCAC pages the call, that call could be then sent through a mass text message to all members of the fire department . The option of putting a radio in the municipal office was also discussed.

1. Mandatory Certification and Training Regulations: (Grandfathering Options)

Wayne Bailey explained the letter that was written to the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services in response to the new Proposed Regulations for:

1. Mandatory Training and Certification of Firefighters
2. Conducting Community Risk Assessments
3. Public Reporting on Fire Department Response Times

Copies of that letter were provided to meeting participants.

1. Training:

Many questions and concerns were brought forth in the area of training. What will the “Grandfathering” entail? Who is presently qualified/trained and in what areas?

Are the Trainer/Facilitators still qualified to train and sign off on the training?

What are the training guidelines? The need for a GAP analysis as to who is trained for what, or there may be a requirement to start training as if all members are first year members.

Discussion also occurred around the “cost” of providing the appropriate training and the need for an increase in budgeting to cover those costs.

Once it is determined there is a commitment from the Fire Department Members to continue training to certification, it may be advisable for Council to contact the Fire Marshall and invite him to meeting with Council to discuss the guidelines and expectations to meet the legislation.

1. Incentive Program:

Council may consider an appropriate Incentive/Reward Program for Firefighters should it be determined to be beneficial.

1. Availability of Newer Firetruck:

Ken Noland provided some information on a possible newer firetruck that has become available for purchase.

Council has determined that it is the responsibility of Council to continue dealing with the Mandatory Certification and Training Regulations. This will be an ongoing project but can only be supported through the continued commitment of the Fire Team.

Points of Discussion and issues to be explored during the scheduled Wednesday, March 14th, 2018 meeting with the Fire Department may be as follows:

* An explanation of the appreciation of the Fire Department and the importance to our community.
* The value of input from the Firefighters.
* Objective - to have a fully trained and functional fire department
* To determine if there is a commitment from the Firefighters to attend and receive the appropriate training.
* What we need to do to keep firefighters interested in attending training?
* What is working & what is not?
* How do we fix it?
* Recruitment appears to be an issue.
* The need for open communication between Council and the Fire Department.
* New Draft Regulations

Issues and ideas need to be brought forward, discussed and followed-up on in order to sustain our Fire Department. (Break out session ?)

Ken Noland will prepare an agenda for the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 14, 2018.

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The meeting was brought to a close at approximately 8:20 p.m.

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Reeve, Ken Noland

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Clerk, Bonnie Bailey