



Minutes

Village of Chester Regular Monthly Meeting – November 14, 2012

Present: Brenda Mulrooney, Bill Zinck, Wynand Baerken, Tom Mulrooney and Iris Tolliver

Regrets: Michael Heisler
There were 7 members of the public present.

Additions to the Agenda Brenda Mulrooney added presentation to past Commissioner, Jo-Ann Grant. Ms. Grant was given a panoramic view of the Village of Chester.

Minutes from the previous meetings:

The minutes from **Oct 10th, 2012** were circulated and reviewed. Brenda Mulrooney asked that under the New Business item, the motion made by Tom Mulrooney be corrected and read “there be a new LED light added to the existing pole on the Red Cross Wharf.” **Bill Zinck moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Wynand Baerken.**

Old Business

SOP Draft for Fire Boat

This item was tabled until the next monthly meeting to give officers of the Fire Department Boat Committee, who have been absent, an opportunity to review the final draft.

Pending Purchase of Fire Truck

Chair Brenda Mulrooney began with a brief synopsis of the process involved in the pursuit of a new Fire Truck which would replace the two 1990 Fords. This process began over two years ago with the formation of a Truck Committee with two members from the Commission, as well as members from the Fire Department and eventually Dave Kennedy of Maritime Fire Apparatus was hired by the commission to develop a truck with the features the committee felt were required to meet the needs of the village and area. She thanked Mr. Kennedy, who was present, for his contribution. Exercising due diligence gave rise to seeking the expertise of an independent authority to comment on the practicality of the truck for this area. The truck being considered would be supplied by Fort Gary Fire Truck in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It is a Pumper Tanker with a Spartan chassis, single axle with a 1500 USG water capacity and 60 USG single internal foam tank. After meeting with the consultant, Chair Mulrooney presented a list of concerns she has with the truck. These concerns were: (1) size of the engine; (2) the pull away time from the station; (3) extraordinary wear of the brakes; (4) turning radius larger than needed on our narrow roads and (5) the weight of the truck on a single axle. She then invited a round table discussion with the Commissioners to allow each to voice their opinions and concerns. She asked that each comment be limited to no more than two minutes.

Commissioner Tom Mulrooney began the discussion by stating he shared all of the concerns presented by Chair Mulrooney. The issues of stability, size of the motor, maintenance, weight of the truck as well as the turning radius were all concerns he had. He suggested that a smaller water tank would possibly resolve these issues.

Commissioner Wynand Baerken agreed that all points mentioned related to the 1500 gal water tank and that a smaller tank was likely the resolution. He wondered about the space available in the Fire Hall for the new truck if there was a decision to keep one or both of the 1990 Fords. He was concerned about a perceived need for a new Fire Hall to accommodate the equipment. He also mentioned the amount of time that has been devoted to this project. He suggested that there be a vote this evening on a new Fire Truck, even if this truck was not approved, so that no more time would be wasted.

Vice Chair Bill Zinck related that the truck recommended had ratios versus engine, transmission and rear end that were all pretty much standard. He pointed out that the consultant did not have complete specs to evaluate the Fort Gary truck. On a personal note, speaking with over 25 years of experience as a fire fighter in Chester, he felt that the 800 gal capacity recommended as a solution was not feasible for this area. He commented favorably on an alternative truck that was being considered, and restated his position on the amount of water required for rural areas.

In the absence of **Commissioner Heisler**, an email received from him was read as “We as a Commission have agreed to let the Fire Department attain all the info with regards to the new truck. Quotes, specs, and the equipment selection. Yes the price is high, but as a Commission, all must trust the men and women firefighters who use the equipment.” The Chair rebutted the comments made by Commissioner Heisler stating that the Commission had agreed to let the Committee collectively gather the information needed for a decision to be made by the Commission. The discussion being held at this meeting refutes his comments. She went on to say that her fear is that this truck would not serve the rate payer well for the twenty year expectancy. It is a lot of money and she would like more assurance that the repair bills will not be a burden. All this goes back to the weight issue for her. She opened the floor to further comments

from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Tom Mulrooney acknowledged that he has a difference of opinion with Commissioner Zinck on the amount of water required. He invited him to further discuss this together and perhaps seek a professional opinion on the matter. He emphasized that he is in favor of purchasing a new truck, but he wants to be sure it is the truck we need.

Commissioner Baerken commented that perhaps this truck that was recommended by the Fire Department has absolutely nothing wrong with it. He restated his concern that although the truck may perform well, there was still the real possibility of extra maintenance costs.

Vice Chair Zinck pointed out that the truck that was presented by the consultant in HRM is not suitable for areas without hydrants. Commissioner Mulrooney clarified that the truck was used in non- hydrant areas. Vice Chair Zinck also pointed out that the turning radius is the same as a truck we currently use in our fleet. There was some debate between him and Commissioner Baerken.

Fire Chief Duke Chafe spoke up to say that this is the wrong time to be debating what was needed in a truck. Dave Kennedy was hired to seek a suitable truck to service the Fire Department. Chair Mulrooney agreed that Mr. Kennedy was hired to do a specific job based on what he thought we needed.

Fire Chief Chafe said that the Fire Department thinks this truck is best suited for this area.

Chair Mulrooney called for a show of hand of those who are not in favor of the truck from Fort Gary as it has been presented. There were two hands raised. She then asked for a show of hands of those who wished to revisit the needs of the area before purchasing a new Fire Truck. There were two hands raised. There were three voting member present for both options.

Chair Mulrooney stated that the Commission was committed to making sure that this department has a new truck in the new year. Commissioner Baerken asked for a firm date and February 1, 2013 was given as the dead line for ordering a new truck.

Reports:

➤ **Fire Chief's Report**

Since the last commission meeting on Oct 10/12, I have logged in 114 hours in callouts, meetings, practices and fire department business.

We have had 11 callouts this month consisting of 6 alarms, 2 practices, 2 calls to the LP mill for fire in the compost pile, and 1 structure fire on Parnell Road.

For the third year in a row I am pleased to report that we had a very quiet Halloween night and things wound up here about 11 pm.

This month we have had a thermal imaging course with 12 members attending a Friday night theory class and 7 members attending an all day Saturday practical course. We are also half way through a pump ops course being held here at the hall. We have 8 members attending this course which will run both Saturday and Sunday this weekend.

The rescue boat is out of the water and should be winterized in the next week or two. There has been a new siren system and a brighter LED emergency light installed

➤ **Truck Report**

Blake Corkum was not available, so the Fire Chief gave the report that the truck committee met 3 weeks ago and everything is in order with the specs of the new truck. It is now up to the Commission to move forward with the matter.

➤ **Fire Advisory Report**

No report

➤ **Clerk Treasurer Report/ Financial Report**

1. I have been in contact with DNR and have an application for activities on coastal waters.

2. The discrepancies at the EMC building concerning the renovations will be corrected by Rikjak by Dec 10.

3. I have a report on the YTD progress of our budget. Discuss highlighted items that are over budget. Discuss remaining balances.

Brenda Mulrooney reported that Elaine Collicutt will be donating 5 more burning bushes for the Jib Lot.

Bank Reconciliation The Clerk passed out to the Commissioners the bank activity and reconciliation for October. Bill Zinck moved to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Mike Heisler. All were in favor.

New Business:

HR Committee.

Brenda Mulrooney reported that the HR Committee held its first meeting last week. They are currently working on a job description for the Clerk Treasurer. Wynand asked that the Committee pursue the cost and benefits of a full time Fire Chief for CVFD.

Wynand Baerken requested an opportunity to speak on topics not on the agenda. Permission was granted. He brought up the Lunenburg has purchased a fire boat with a grant of \$40K received from the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program. He asked for discussion with the Fire Department on the need of a zodiac for Lake rescue. Fire Chief Chafe said that our current boat is too big to launch on a lake and that there is always a need for equipment to assist in any way possible.

Commissioner Baerken continued with a short presentation on restorative justice for youth in our area. Chester Volunteer Fire Department is on the list to assist kids in the program. After some discussion, there was enough interest shown to table the topic for further discussion at the next monthly meeting.

Correspondence

A list of correspondence was read by the Clerk Treasurer.

Questions

Kerry Keddy who regularly attends the Commission meetings brought up the stories circulating around the Village by people who do not attend meetings. He asked that the Commission give consideration to ways that could boost attendance. Chair Mulrooney commented that stories get embellished every time they are repeated until they have very little truth left. She also commented that people who have no issues do not attend meetings. Kerry suggested an open house and that will be considered by the Commission.

Councilor Brad Armstrong asked for clarification on the trimming of the overgrowth of bushes at the Jib Lot and of the installation of the new LED light on Westwood Drive on Hadden Hill.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55.

Brenda Mulrooney
Chair

Iris Tolliver
Clerk/Treasurer