

FIRE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Region of Queens Council Chambers

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Fancy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Chief Farmer requested EHS paging be added to the agenda as Item 6.

Councillor Fancy explained that he will be moving forward with bringing a motion forward to request support for heat pumps for Liverpool Fire Hall.

2. EMO EXERCISE

The Fire Chiefs would like to know who RQM's EMO Coordinator is and if they will coordinate an Exercise this year. They expressed concerns over the delay in holding an exercise and the lack of reporting from the last tabletop exercise in North Queens in held in May 2024. It was suggested that EMO NS be brought in to assist and that the new EMO Coordinator coordinate an exercise ASAP.

3. SAFETY AUDITS

The draft October 2024 Safety Audit report conducted by Paul Cormier was distributed for comments. Each department will review it to ensure accuracy and determine if there are any issues with it. Joanne Veinotte, Director of Finance, explained that due to concerns at the municipality over safety, this report was requested by the CAO.

It was recommended that further interviews be done to ensure accurate safety reporting. Fire Services Committee members will provide feedback on the report at the next committee meeting. Fire Chiefs want to know when the next phase of the work will be done.

4. FIRE CHIEFS' ROUNDTABLE

The grant payments were delayed from RQM but there was no communication to the Chiefs. Joanne assured them the delay was due to a death of staff's family member and the cheques have been issued, and they will receive them shortly. Chiefs would like to receive more timely communications.

Some monies were spent from the 2024-2025 budget allocated for Dry Hydrant maintenance and repair. Funding does not carry over from year to year, therefore staff need to identify 2025/2026 budget for Dry Hydrants. Staff will compile a list of priority work so Infrastructure can include it in the first draft of the 2025/2026 budget, if possible.

The current agreement with Valley Communications for Fire and First Responder Dispatch ends March 31/25 needs to be renewed.

Fire Chiefs asked for a standard Mutual Aid Agreement to be in place between RQM and neighboring municipalities to ensure fire service aid, however, there has been no progress on this relationship work. They also requested standard OPs be outlined for 1-5 Alarms to ensure all stations are on the same page, and legality of building demolition be included.

A request was made to the municipality to purchase a Fit Test machine

There was a request to resource an excavator for the depts to use, ie bring down an unsafe structure post fire. There's been no follow up on this request to RQM.

Chiefs would like to see additional money set aside in the next year's budget for dry hydrants. Joanne assured them the current funding will remain since it's been untouched and she could add funding to the budget for consideration by Council based on need. In addition, since the provincial permits expire to do the hydrant work, the Fire Depts lost money on those permits and now need to reapply for the permits from Dept Fisheries. They don't want to do that unless there are assurances the work will be done in the next season (June to Sept 30). They asked if an outside firm could be contracted to do this work.

Chiefs asked about wet fire hydrant messaging to the public on snow and ice removal. It's unclear who is responsible to do this work to remove snow and ice or is there an opportunity to communicate to the public to clear the snow and ice from the hydrants in front of their house. Fire Chiefs would like to ensure the municipality work with fire services to raise awareness.

The new tower in Greenfield has been approved.

Question was asked why North Queens Dept. has to pay the sewer bill every 3 months.

5. 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

- **Tuesday, March, 2025 @ 7:00 pm (Council Chambers)**
- **Tuesday, July 15, 2025 @ 7:00 pm (South Queens)**
- **Tuesday, October 21, 2025 @ 7:00 pm (North Queens)**

6. EHS & Fire Depts.

Due to ongoing issues with EHS not calling local fire departments for service, a public meeting is being held on March 3rd at North Queens Fire Dept. The MLA, Mayor and CAO are invited. Fire Chiefs would like a copy of the official criteria for call out from EHS to fire service.

7. ADJORNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.