

Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
Strathroy-Caradoc Fire Advisory Committee
Minutes

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Committee Room (2nd Floor) - In Person
Strathroy-Caradoc Municipal Office
52 Frank Street
Strathroy, Ontario

Present: Deputy Mayor Mike McGuire, Chair
Councillor Sandi Hipple
Member Scott Barker
Vice-Chair Jane Bruinink
Mayor Colin Grantham

Absent with Notice: Councillor John Brennan

Also Present: Brent Smith, Director of Fire Services/Fire Chief
Jennifer Pereira, Deputy Clerk (Recorder)
Maddy Alcainho, Fire Service Co-ordinator

1. Roll Call

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Mayor Grantham declared a conflict regarding the compensation to firefighters.

3. Call to Order/Approve Agenda

Moved by Councillor Sandi Hipple

Seconded by Vice-Chair Jane Bruinink

THAT: the October 16, 2024 Fire Advisory Committee Agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2024

Chief Smith shares with the committee that recruitment has been posted for all stations and the total number of applicants was 26 for Strathroy, 9 for Mount Brydges and 4 for Melbourne.

He indicates that an information night is scheduled for tonight to discuss the details on being a part of Fire Services. He adds that performance testing will be on October 28, and then they will move to interviews on November 6 and 7, then will be selecting candidates on Nov 27 to commence orientation. Onboarding will commence and the start date for the training will be on January 8, 2025. He shares that he is happy with the number of applicants and looking to recruit a total of 16.

Chief Smith invites the committee to the Awards and Recognition Night on November 21 @ 6:30p.m. at the Caradoc Community Centre.

Chief Smith recognizes and commends Vice Chair Brunink's son on receiving the Kings Coronation Metal for Firefighter Health and Safety.

Moved by Member Scott Barker

Seconded by Councillor Sandi Hipple

THAT: the Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2024 be approved as written.

Carried

5. Correspondence and Notifications

Chair McGuire spoke to the committee briefly about the Procedure By-law and the Code on Conduct & Conflicts of Interest.

Chief Smith shares with the committee the Fire Service Legislative Requirements, NFPA 1720 and the Fire Service Review.

Chief Smith indicates that retention of firefighters has been a struggle. Many do all the training and move on to a full-time fire service.

Member Barker asks Chief Smith what the yearly cost of a full-time firefighter. Chief Smith indicates that it would cost \$125,000 per year including benefits and pension. Councillor Hipple expresses while that is a large cost, the cost of training overall and not retaining the individual could be costing more.

Chair McGuire offers to the committee some proposed items for future conversations of the committee, and they are as follows:

- Part time vs Volunteer
- Fire Fighters - Are they paid employees
- Remuneration for the Fire Services - earned in points
- General Budget Overview
- Fire Master Plan
- Statistics - Do they have value
- Compensation to the Municipality for completed training
- Composite Fire Department

Moved by Councillor Sandi Hipple

Seconded by Mayor Colin Grantham

THAT: Items 5.1 to 5.5 be received for information.

Carried

Moved by Mayor Colin Grantham

Seconded by Vice-Chair Jane Bruinink

THAT: an information report come back to the committee regarding the Ward 2 Fire Hall Locations.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Sandi Hipple

Seconded by Member Scott Barker

THAT: the committee direct the Chief to bring back a report regarding staffing on the Fire Prevention Officer for discussion at a future meeting.

Carried

5.1 By-law 97-18 - Procedure By-law

5.2 Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest

5.3 Fire Legislative Requirements

5.4 NFPA 1720

5.5 Fire Service Review

6. Scheduling of Meetings

Moved by Mayor Colin Grantham

Seconded by Councillor Sandi Hipple

THAT: the Fire Advisory Committee receive the Schedule of 2024-2025 Meeting Dates as information.

Carried

7. Adjournment

Moved by Vice-Chair Jane Bruinink

Seconded by Member Scott Barker

THAT: the October 16, 2024 Fire Advisory Committee Meeting adjourn at 2:28 p.m.

Carried

Chair

Vice-Chair