

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ALBERTON

Council for the Township of Alberton held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Municipal Office with the following present:

Reeve: Mike Hammond
Councillors: Peter Spuzak, Mike Ford, Jennifer Johnson
Absent: Wayne Woods
Appointed Officers: Dawn Hayes, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer
Joshua Colling, Alberton VFD Fire Chief
Visitors: Larry Lundy - OFMEM Field Officer, George Glowasky, Diane Glowasky,
Kyle Pace, Danielle Hammond, Tyson Dennis, Real DeGagne, Chris Dittaro and Blair
Lowey - Alberton VFD members

Reeve Hammond called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

RESOLUTION #2018-46: SPUZAK/FORD: Council for the Township of Alberton hereby approves the agenda for the March 7, 2018 special Council meeting. **CARRIED**

RESOLUTION #2018-47: FORD/SPUZAK: WHEREAS Councillor Wayne Woods is unable to carry out his regular Council duties for personal reasons; **NOW THEREFORE** Council for the Township of Alberton hereby formally excuses the absence of Councillor Wayne Woods from this special meeting. **CARRIED**

1. BUSINESS

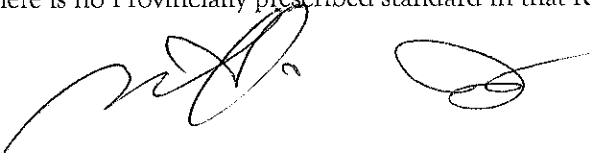
- 1.1 Larry Lundy introduced himself and provided a brief biography on his background with OFMEM.

Mr. Lundy advised that, under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*, Council dictates the level of service a municipality is to provide, which can range from having an appointed fire safety and public education officer to having a fulltime paid fire department. He stated that if a fire department is established, Council directs the level of services which it can provide so it can include or not include exterior attack, interior attack, auto extrication, water rescue or other services. There is no minimum standard level of service prescribed by the *FPPA*. Training is not required for services which are not applicable to or authorized by Council to be provided in the municipality. Only fire prevention and public education are mandatory under the *Act*.

There was discussion on different services. Mr. Lundy confirmed that personal protective equipment is required for firefighters and SCBA is required for ground situations in exterior attack as well as for interior attack. He also confirmed that if the department has the equipment, the firefighters must have the training to properly use it. Approved services are to be cited in the Establishing & Regulating By-Law.

(Councillor Johnson arrived at the special meeting at 7:42 p.m.)

Mr. Lundy discussed the proposed regulation regarding certification of firefighters, stressing that this is not a new initiative but one that has been discussed for years in terms of firefighters safety but is recently being pushed as a result of legal actions and insurance, lawyers and individuals involved in them. Each municipal Council sets the level of service so there is no Provincially prescribed standard in that regard.



Mr. Lundy recommended that wording of the E&R By-Law be reviewed to ensure that it includes a clause that the Fire Chief has the ability to say no to providing the service once he is on scene and has evaluated the situation. Fire Chief Colling advised that the wording should be the most senior fire official at the scene since the person functioning as the Incident Commander at the start of a response may be other than the Fire Chief and will make the call whether or not to go in. It was pointed out that the Incident Commander may shift during a response as other more senior personnel arrives.

Mr. Lundy confirmed that mutual aid responders cannot provide a level of service that is greater than the service the fire department it is aiding provides. Automatic aid can go above that level. Depending on the situation, possibly 5 firefighters could allow for some limited interior attack, such as limiting entry to no more than six feet inside the doorway for assessment purposes. Standard operating procedures should dictate actions during responses. Regarding the draft certification regulation, while all competencies under the various levels set out in the regulation are captured, training is required only for those directly required to provide the level of service set by Council. Mr. Lundy advised that others had estimated the total cost of training to be \$100,000 per firefighter career.

There was discussion on the certification regulation and possible ideas to be included in the comments to be submitted on behalf of the Township, including determining and advocating for realistic certification training timelines. Good documentation of training to show due diligence and evidence training is critical, both for certification and defensibility against claims. The concern regarding how many members the VFD could lose if the regulation is enacted was raised. The members present indicated they are committed and anticipate that they would continue on a volunteer and not a paid basis.

Fire Chief Colling raised the matter of interior attack and confirmed that members have training to conduct same. Council directed that the temporary suspension on interior attack response was terminated effective immediately.

There were no further questions or discussion so Reeve Hammond thanked everyone for attending, and thanked Mr. Lundy for making himself available for the face-to-face discussion.

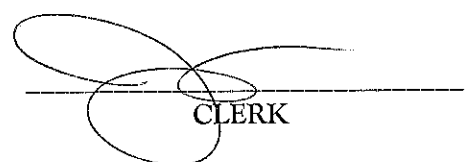
(Mr. Lundy, Fire Chief Colling, Mr. and Mrs. Glowasky, and the members of the Volunteer Fire Department left the special meeting at 9:43 p.m.)

Council agreed it had been helpful to have had Mr. Lundy speak with them. Council briefly discussed the letter provided by Dan DeGagne supporting the purchase of the SBCA equipment. The decision on the purchase of the SCBA and related personal protective equipment was tabled to the March regular Council meeting.

2. **ADJOURNMENT:**

RESOLUTION #2018-45: FORD/SPUZAK: That this special meeting of Council for the Township of Alberton be and is hereby adjourned at 9:46 p.m. **CARRIED**


REEVE


CLERK