

**THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR**

**TRI COUNCIL MINUTES**

February 4, 2019

The Special TRI Council meeting of the Council of the Township of Armour, Council of the Township of Ryerson and the Council of the Village of Burk's Falls was held on Monday, February 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Armour, Ryerson and Burk's Falls Memorial Arena, Karl Crozier Hall, 220 Centre Street, Burk's Falls and hosted by the Township of Ryerson.

Those in attendance for were:

Ryerson Council present included Mayor George Sterling, Councillors Barb Marlow, Penny Brandt, Celia Finley, and Delynne Pattertson; Staff: Judy Kosowan, Clerk, Nancy Field, Deputy-Clerk and Brayden Robinson, Treasurer.

Armour Council present included Reeve Bob MacPhail; Councillors Rod Blakelock, Jerry Brandt, Rod Ward and Wendy Whitwell; Staff: Charlene Watt, Deputy Clerk.

Burk's Falls Council present included Mayor Cathy Still, Councillors Jarvis Osborne, Lewis Hodgson, and Rex Smith; Staff: Nicky Kunkel, CAO/Clerk.

Delegation: Regional Fire Training Officer Gary Courtice, Fire Chief Dave McNay, Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Prevention Officer Joe Readman, and Deputy Fire Chief Ken Stevenson.

Guests: Judy Ransome, Trevor James, Diane Brandt and John Finley.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor George Stirling at 6:00 p.m.

**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:** None

**PRESENTATION – FIRE TRAINING:**

Gary Courtice, Regional Fire Training Officer spoke to Councils on the mandatory certification and minimum requirements for volunteer firefighters. The process testing requires firefighters to obtain a 70% pass on knowledge base training and 100% pass on practical skills testing. New recruits must obtain a Level 1 (NFPA 1001) and have to complete 225 hours of training spread over two years. A one year extension on the training may be obtained through approval from the OFM. A comparison was provided between the NFPA requirements versus Gary Courtice's training requirements, which was much more extensive. Proctor's must test recruits and are obtained through the fire college. There is a proctor shortage and fire departments are proposing to the province to test neighbouring fire departments by different regional fire training officers. Councils were informed that there are colour coded cards that firefighters wear when on an emergency scene. Red tags indicate that the firefighters are in training and have not received their Level 1, yellow tags indicate that firefighters recently obtained their Level 1 and green tags indicate that firefighters are certified trained and skilled. Burk's Falls Fire Department has 14 out of 23 firefighters with a green tag. Most fire calls are medical related in our area and Burk's Falls Fire Department has nine certified paramedics and one nurse on their team.

**PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION – DRAFT BY-LAW:**

Deputy Fire Chief and Fire Prevention Officer Joe Readman from the Burk's Falls Fire Department presented a draft by-law to establish and regulate a fire department. Councils were advised that the OFM had reviewed the draft by-law in its entirety and supported the proposed by-law. Questions were asked and answered.

Concerns that were addressed by Armour Council included:

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1. Revisions to detail the Township of Ryerson as being the managing municipality for the Fire Department and moving the placement of the Municipality to a leading position in the Department Organization Chart.
2. Joe Readman will refer back to the OFM to reinstate the definition of “managing municipality” back into the by-law with a reference to the Township of Ryerson and reflect a shared services arrangement.
3. Reference to the Corporation throughout the by-law to be the Township of Ryerson, not the Township of Armour.
4. Fire Chief Responsibilities: Section 13(b) confirmation from Joe Readman that quarterly reporting to TRI Councils would be received.
5. Section 13(r) removed the requirement of TRI Council approving annual budget estimates and contradicts the shared services agreement.
6. The term “awareness level” and “technical level” is used throughout the by-law but there is no definition of such terms.
7. Item 15, refers to the Fire Chief assisting public officials in a declared emergency. In the case of a landfill fire, if there is no declared emergency the fire department will respond as usual but not assist public officials unless an emergency is declared.
8. Section 2(b) from Appendix B regarding services to private roads, lanes and driveways has been removed. Joe Readman advised that reference to the services is now detailed under the definition “Limited Services”.
9. Concern was raised over fire department services being provided for hydro (eg, downed live wires). There are no cost recoveries available at this time from hydro, unlike the Highway Incident Services agreement with the Ministry of Transportation.

Joe Readman made it clear to Councils that no fire department service would be provided to water access properties. There is no mutual aid agreement in place for this service. There are too many legal requirements regarding water crafts and the training expires. Costs for the training are over \$3,000 per firefighter.

Clause #9, “The Corporation shall accept no liability for the provision of a Limited Service by the Fire Department as reasonably necessary” was required by the OFM and stands up in court.

The OFM recommended that the Fire Prevention Officer By-law (#16-2016) be combined into the establishment of a fire department by-law. The Fire Prevention Officer by-law duplicates duties as outlined in the position’s job description. The Councils have been asked to rescind their existing Fire Prevention Policy By-law.

Schedule B of the draft by-law was reviewed item by item with special attention made to Section B.1.6, Marine Firefighting – shore based service only; Section B.1.9 – Tiered Medical Assistance Services – includes snowmobile trail rescue and off road rescues; B.1.19 – Water and Ice Rescue Services – service is covered through automatic aid, OPP provide recovery services and animal rescues will include alternate tactics, such as ropes and ladders. No firefighter water entry or boat operation rescues will be provided to animals.

New core service explanations as detailed in Schedule B includes marine firefighting services, urban search and rescue services, rope rescue services, farm and silo rescue services, industrial and machinery rescue services, community emergency plan response services, and assistant to the fire marshal services – fire suppression. Limitations were detailed where required.

Fire Chief Dave McNay advised that during an emergency, many of the technical level requirements are obtained directly from North Bay services.

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Items listed in Schedule B under Section B.4 and B.5 are programs that all firefighters perform.

Schedule C details the volunteer firefighter terms and conditions of employment. It is a new schedule to the by-law and is more defined.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Special Tri Council meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

*Original signed by Bob MacPhail*

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Robert MacPhail, Reeve

*Original signed by Charlene Watt*

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Charlene Watt, Deputy Clerk