

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ENNISKILLEN

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

MAY 28 2015

A joint meeting of the Council of the Township of Enniskillen and the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petrolia was held on Thursday May 28 2015 at 4:30 pm at Victoria Hall Petrolia.

Present:

Town of Petrolia- John McCharles, Joel Field, Tim Brown, Mary Pat Gleeson, Grant Purdy, Liz Welsh, Ross O'Hara

Staff: Manny Baron and Mandi Pearson

Township of Enniskillen-Kevin Marriott, Mary Lynne McCallum, Wally Van Dun, Judy Krall and Kathy O'Hara Wilson

Staff: Duncan McTavish

Mayor McCharles chaired the meeting.

Mayor McCharles noted that the agenda material included correspondence from Robert Gray and Petrolia staff information concerning other municipal fire departments as well as notes from discussions with Joe Bondy, two representatives from the Fire Marshall's office and administrative staff member in North Middlesex.

Mayor Marriott noted that he was interested in obtaining unbiased opinions from people other than the Fire Marshall's office.

Grant Purdy noted that the presentation made by Chief Swift expressed concerns in regards to inspections and noted if this role was undertaken by others that the work load for the Chief would be reduced.

Councillor Krall questioned whether the job description of the Chief should be reviewed to determine if some matters could be addressed.

Councillor O'Hara questioned who paid for inspections.

Councillor Field provided input on the payments made for inspections.

A discussion took place in regards to the amount of time that was required to provide administrative support for follow up on incidents.

Councillor Field recommended that it was time to make a decision on the hiring of a full time Fire Chief. He noted that the current compensation for the Chief's position was inadequate.

A discussion took place in regards to whether the position could be part time.

Councillor Welsh questioned whether the offer of a part time position would lead to the current Chief looking for work elsewhere.

Councillor O'Hara Wilson noted that the Councils needed to make the decision whether to hire a full time Chief, if this decision was made a hiring process would need to be discussed and then a decision made on the compensation.

Councillor Field questioned whether the Councilors were expecting too much commitment by volunteers.

He discussed the point system and the amount of compensation received by the officers and the volunteers.

Mayor McCharles asked those present whether changes to the Chief's compensation package would solve the problem.

A discussion took place in regards to the other firefighters available to move up to the Chiefs position.

Councillor Purdy recommended that the Council members read a report prepared by the Fraser Institute concerning fire departments in Ontario.

Mayor McCharles recommended that a committee be approved to review the Chief's proposal and report back to the Councils. He recommended that Mayor Marriott, himself, Manny Baron and Duncan McTavish participate in the committee. The committee would select additional participants with expertise in the fire-fighting.

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Mayor

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Clerk