

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIGHORN NO. 8
EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**14 February 2018 – 4:00 P.M.
M.D. OFFICE, EXSHAW**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Buckley	Chairman
Paul Clark	Council representative
Wayne Dick	Jamieson Road, Head Fire Guardian
Norm Dreger	Member-at-Large
Kevin Hebb	Member-at-Large
Rick Lyster	District Chief, Exshaw
Tom McFadden	Ghost River Fire Dept. – District Fire Chief
Lynda Gale	Recording Secretary

Gallery:

D. Senn

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved to approve the agenda with the following additions:

- New Business 6. e) Fire Bylaw – verbal
- New Business 6. b) & d) – additional information

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by K. Hebb that the minutes of the 27 September 17 EMS Committee meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) R. Lyster said he would like to see a layer added to MD maps to show access to rural residences. Discussion followed regarding mapping tools to aid both fire fighters and RCMP during an evacuation. W. Dick added that mapping water sources would be helpful. Discussion followed regarding information sharing, connectivity, and compatibility between devices and the availability of the information for rescue teams. W. Dick said the information needs to be owned by the MD and should be available to all Fire Chiefs and Head Fire Guardians. The CAO said he would speak to the Operations Assistant about how to proceed.

- b) The CAO said he spoke with P. Schweitzer, regarding the mutual aid agreement with the City of Calgary. The CAO said he received the amended document today and would review it prior to MD Council seeing it at their March meeting.

5. UPDATE FROM DISTRICTS

- a) R. Lyster gave an update on 2017 and said there were a total of 285 calls received for the entire MD, up from 229 calls in 2016. He said there were 230 received in Exshaw alone. He reported that there were no significant calls to speak of. He spoke with Calgary dispatch and said the unnecessary medical assist calls were decreasing and Exshaw is only attending when Nakoda specifically requests their aid. He said he attended several Fire Chief meetings where there was general consent that fire fighters should not attend a vehicle incident unless the caller is actually on the scene, as many calls that the MD fire department responds to have already been attended to. He said having a bystander or EMS at the scene would help eliminate unnecessary responses. N. Dreger suggested getting more qualifying information from dispatch. R. Lyster said he would like to focus on AHS dispatch questions. R. Lyster said the MD had an awards night, where several MD fire fighters received 12-year medals, and T. McFadden received a 40-year bar. R. Lyster gave an update on the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS) and said he is working on the talk-groups and agencies the MD should be connected with. He said the MD was given ten talk-groups, which is ample. He told the Committee that once the talk-groups have been organized, the radios would be programmed, as the first programming is free. He told the group that the RCMP is going to be on the system but would have private channels and was not sure they would be able to communicate with fire departments. Discussion followed regarding how to access proper channels and how the talk-groups would be defined. R. Lyster said he would meet with W. Dick and T. McFadden to discuss. R. Lyster said in 2017 there were fire fighters who took the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 10-01, Level 1 training program. He said they still need their Hazardous Materials training. R. Lyster said the MD is putting fire fighters through level 2 along with the Kananaskis Fire department. He said this is a very good accomplishment. He finished by telling the group that the Ghost Fire Department hosted wildland training in 2017 and he has applied to CREST again to train another 16 fire fighters in the upcoming year.
- b) T. McFadden told the group that there was early detection on a fire on Richards Road and said it was very lucky there was such good response from members and civilians. He said it was a windy day and a powerline was knocked down, putting three residences in immediate danger. He said the response from Alberta Forestry, Exshaw Fire and Cochrane Fire was excellent. He said they considered having to evacuate the Summer Village of Waiparous and added that it was similar to the Bar C fire. He said the wind died down for an hour, and they were able to contain the fire. Tom McFadden said the Ghost Fire Department responded to an odour complaint at the Girl Guide camp. He said there were significant levels of carbon monoxide and was thankful the odour was reported, as the consequences would have been lethal. R. Lyster drafted a letter to Girl Guide headquarters regarding smoke detectors, carbon

monoxide detectors and old heating appliances. T. McFadden said other camps should be made aware of these types of issues and schedule inspections. Girl Guides cancelled all its bookings at the camp until upgrades and inspections are complete. R. Lyster said the camp was established under the jurisdiction of the province, not the MD. R. Lyster stated that the MD only does inspection on request or by complaint.

T. McFadden said there have been issues at the Ghost Firehall with the potable water and septic tanks freezing because they are not heated and not buried deep enough. He said there is no level gauge in the tanks, and though he requested a float, he was not provided with one, so he has been using a nut tied to a string to check the levels. He said someone put a lightbulb in the tank to help heat the contents, but he cannot purchase incandescent lightbulbs anymore, and a new heat system needs to be put in place. He said a solution needs to be found, as there is increased use of the hall from the community.

- c) W. Dick gave an update on the Jamieson Firehall stating that they have responded to a few medical calls since the last meeting. He said in the summer of 2017, the hall responded to a powerline fire that was off-road and required Fortis to repair. He said that incident knocked out power to the hall, which resulted in fire fighters not being able to see their bunker gear, and some gear was run over by the trucks. Since then, he has purchased and mounted a bunker rack to separate gear, replaced the exit sign, and hung battery operated LED lights that shine down on the bunker gear. W. Dick said he stops by to shovel snow at the hall when needed.

He told the Committee that the Jamieson crew had naloxone training in November and now have kits on their truck.

This past weekend, he had a tour of Carraig Ridge, where he was shown the water storage tanks and couplings that could be used in the event of a fire.

- d) R. Lyster said he was sending one person to an upcoming training session for assessing damaged buildings. He said there will be another scribe course that he would like members of the public and MD staff to attend.

He gave an update on a generator for the Jamieson Firehall, noting that powering it is critical, as it links Exshaw to Calgary. He said he spoke with an electrician and generator suppliers and has a few quotes for a properly sized generator. He said this would have to be reviewed by Council, but he still has research to do prior to it being presented to them. P. Clark said MD fire departments need to be ready to go in an emergency.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Review of Municipal Recognition and Events Policy – R. Lyster

The Committee reviewed the policy and had an extensive discussion regarding fire fighter recognition and appreciation.

Moved by K. Hebb that the Emergency Services Committee recommend the word “recognition” be replaced with the word “appreciation” where appropriate within the context of the draft Municipal Recognition and Events Policy, and further, that Schedule “A” to the policy apply to M.D. employees only.

CARRIED

- b) Mutual Aid Agreement with Alberta Forestry – R. Lyster
R. Lyster suggested the MD have a mutual aid agreement with Alberta Forestry. Discussion followed regarding MD mutual aid rates with other jurisdictions.

Moved by K. Hebb that MD Administration draft a mutual aid agreement for Alberta Forestry with service fees to be set at 1.5 times the Town of Cochrane's rates (as shown on Page 37 of the agenda package), and refer the proposed rates to Council for approval.

CARRIED

It was indicated that the issue of M.D. response to 9-1-1 calls generated by such forestry-related problems as abandoned fire pits in the Ghost region also be addressed within the Forestry mutual aid agreement.

- c) Critical Illness Insurance – R. Lyster
R. Lyster shared concerns regarding fire fighter insurance, 24-hour coverage and critical illness coverage. The CAO said he would investigate whether active fire fighters have insurance coverage over the age of 70 and said he could request a representative from the insurance company to make a presentation to the EMS Committee.
- d) RFP for Air Quality Study at Exshaw Fire Hall – R. Lyster
The EMS Committee had an in-depth conversation about the options for an air filtering system for the Exshaw fire hall. R. Lyster said he was concerned with air quality issues from off-gassing from equipment, dust from Lafarge, H2S and diesel fuel on the ground.

Moved by P. Clark that MD Administration move forward with an Air Quality Study and related tests and that Administration pick the appropriate contractor to deliver those services.

CARRIED

- e) Fire Bylaw
R. Lyster indicated that there were a number of changes required to the Fire Bylaw; it was noted that, given both the lateness of the meeting, and the lack of documentation for Committee members to review, the Fire Bylaw issue would be set aside to the next meeting of the EMS Committee.

7. INFORMATION

- a) Infrared Sauna Benefits

8. INCAMERA

Moved by P. Clark that the meeting go incamera at 8:50 p.m.

CARRIED

D. Senn vacated the Chambers at 8:50 p.m. and did not return to the meeting.

Moved by P. Clark that the meeting go out of camera at 9:00 p.m.

CARRIED

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date will be scheduled at the call of the Chairman in late April or early May 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

DRAFT