

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

**May 18, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.
Held at the MD of Bighorn Administration Building**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dino Senn	Chair
Robert Ellis	C.A.O.
Wayne Dick	Jamieson Road, District Fire Chief
Kevin Hebb	Member-at-Large
Rick Lyster	Exshaw District Chief, Director of Emergency Management
Tom McFadden	Ghost River Fire Dept. District Fire Chief
Jen Smith	Council Representative
Lana Hill	IT Liaison (dep. 5:56 p.m.)
Lynda Gale	Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by J. Smith to approve the agenda with the following addition:

- 7. Information – a) WASP Wildfire Protection information.

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by K. Hebb that the minutes of the March 23, 2022, ESC meeting be adopted with the following amendments:

- Page 2, last sentence to read "... training on the new truck once it arrives."

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) The C.A.O. informed the ESC that Council approved amended Emergency Services Policies ES-17, ES-18, and ES-21 that were recommended by the ESC.

5. UPDATE FROM DISTRICTS

Chief Lyster gave an update as the Director of Emergency Management and said MD staff are taking Incident Command System (ICS) training. He said the training is section-specific and there will be a tabletop exercise.

Chief Lyster said on June 4, Canmore will be participating in a mock, active exercise with mock evacuation. He said he would send a small sprinkler setup to Harvie Heights and that it would be good for MD fire crews to practice.

Chief Lyster said on June 11, the Dead Man's Flats Community Association (DMFCA) is hosting a FireSmart Day and BBQ. He told the ESC that Canmore would send their Structure Protection Unit (SPU) and that Alberta Wildfire would have a crew there and that Exshaw crews would do a sprinkler setup and demonstration. He said he would have the Structural Protection Plan for Dead Man's Flats available for residents to see. District Chief McFadden said he could provide some WASP units he could give for demonstration at this event. District Chief Dick said JRFD may bring a bush buggy to help at the event. GRFD would act as backup for JRFD for the day.

Chief Lyster gave an update as Fire Chief. He said there have been 75 calls received to-date and last year, there were 99 calls at the same time. He said Exshaw Fire assisted with a cabin fire on Richards Road, where an 80-year-old cabin was severely damaged. He said the fire is under investigation.

Chief Lyster said there have been six carbon monoxide investigations in Exshaw and three were related to water heaters. He said he was glad the results of the calls were positive.

Chief Lyster said the new SPU trailer should be delivered in approximately 8-weeks' time and will arrive in time for grass fire season.

Chief Lyster said the Exshaw hall has a new gear dryer that will dry gear within a few hours.

Chief Lyster gave an update on the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS) and said they have decided on channels and that it will be a big improvement. He said everything should be in use by the end of June.

Jamieson Road Fire Department (JRFD) District Fire Chief, Wayne Dick gave an update and said they have attended three medical assists and a fire investigation report at Ghost Lake. He said the fire investigation was for a burn pile.

Chief Dick said Captain Brad Coleman attended a course for Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). He said four members attended a 10-51 course with Ghost River Fire Department.

Chief Dick said the regular practices have included training with hose handling, traffic control and STARS landings. He said they have been testing the hoses for pressure.

Chief Dick told the ESC JRFD crews have had issues with dispatch reading notes attached to calls. The ESC discussed issues with dispatch, using Mobile Responder and updates to calls.

Chief McFadden gave an update and said they have had six calls since the last meeting and that most were minor medical calls. He said there was a significant structure fire, with the call coming in at 9:30 p.m. The fire was an older log cabin, and the point of origin was found. He said the crews did a good job and said he was happy with the response. Chief McFadden said this was the first call with the new tender and said they discovered one issue with the truck that will need to be fixed.

Chief McFadden said GRFD has participated in several training sessions and one member attended the CISM in Kananaskis. Chief McFadden said it is a benefit to the crews to have VFIS insurance coverage for crews.

Chief McFadden said GRFD had 2-members complete the 10-51 Wildland Course, another two members completed a rope course in Kananaskis that will augment in-house training. He said eleven members completed First Aid training along with two JRFD and one EFD member.

Chief McFadden said one of the GRFD member's daughters has applied to Camp Courage, a 4-day, female only course as an introduction to being a First Responder. He said he is hoping for feedback, as 30% of GRFD is female.

Chief McFadden said GRFD has vehicle extrication training coming up.

J. Smith said safety in forestry areas is a big topic for provincial councils and asked the Fire Chiefs to record all rescue calls in the forestry area.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) **Moved** by K. Hebb that the ESC accept Policy ES-9 as presented and that the ESC recommend Policy ES-9 to Council for approval.

CARRIED

b) Memorandum re: VOYENT – New Emergency Alert Program

The IT Liaison gave a presentation to the ESC regarding the VOYENT system being used to replace the MD of Bighorn's current emergency alert system, ReGroup.

Chief Lyster said the VOYENT program is currently in test mode and said they would make announcements to current subscribers of ReGroup when it is time to change.

The IT Liaison told the ESC several advantages to subscribing to the VOYENT system including:

- Rural addressing solutions
- Ease of registration
- Flexibility with alert areas, subscribers, alert management, attachments to alerts, including maps
- VOYENT head office is in Calgary
- Ability to repost Alberta Emergency Alerts

The IT Liaison said Administration will need to prepare policy so the program can be rolled out properly.

Chief Lyster said it will be important to have as many subscribers as possible for the VOYENT system.

7. INFORMATION

a) WASP - Chief Lyster said he would send information to Council with information on how to buy the product online.

8. CLOSED SESSION

There were no items to discuss.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date will be at the call of the Chair.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by J. Smith that the meeting be adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIRMAN

DRAFT