

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

**August 19, 2020 – 1:30 P.M.
Virtual Meeting**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Robert Ellis	C.A.O. and Chair
Paul Clark	Council representative
Wayne Dick	Jamieson Road Fire Dept. District Fire Chief
Norm Dreger	Member-at-Large
Kevin Hebb	Member-at-Large
Rick Lyster	Exshaw District Chief, Director of Emergency Management
Tom McFadden	Ghost River Fire Dept. District Fire Chief
Stew Walkinshaw	Montane Forest Management
Lana Hill	Facilitator
Leslie Rea	Executive Assistant/Facilitator
Lynda Gale	Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by P. Clark to approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by K. Hebb that the minutes of the July 9, 2020 EMS Committee meeting be adopted with the following amendment:

- Page 5, 2nd line to read "...appropriate way..."

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. UPDATE FROM DISTRICTS

Chief Lyster said there have been 34 calls to the three departments in the past month. The Exshaw Hall responded to 5 motorcycle incidents, a stuck elevator at the Stoney Nakoda Casino and a drowning at the Seebe cliffs. Chief Lyster said there were two structure fires including a shed and a barn that had been struck by lightning and a grassfire near Little Kananaskis Village.

Chief Lyster said there was a fire at Ghost Lake Recreation campground caused by fireworks. He said the fireworks were set on the south side of Highway 1A, but landed at the campground, north of Highway 1A. He said Alberta Forestry arrived at the scene very quickly. He said one call to 911 was made from someone on a boat in the reservoir and dispatch sent Rocky View County fire department from their Bearspaw Hall.

Chief Lyster said Al Hogarth retired from the Exshaw department after 27 years of service.

K. Hebb asked how many active cases of COVID there were in the Bow Valley. Chief Lyster said he did not know.

Chief Dick expanded on the fire at Ghost Lake Recreation area. He said one of the Jamieson members saw the event and called him. Chief Dick said he saw the reports that were returned from Calgary Fire and thanked to Chief Lyster for looking into the miscommunication by dispatch. He said Jamieson Road should have been called to respond to that fire. Chief Dick said that Ghost Lake Recreation area should post a sign saying no fireworks, as this has happened twice in the last month.

Chief Dick said Jamieson Road Fire Hall responded to two motor vehicle incidents in the past month and B. Coleman met with Chief Lyster and a representative from Rocky Mountain Phoenix to go through specifications for the new mini pumper. He said delivery of the new truck would be less than one-year from now.

Chief Dick said he is recovering from a detached retina and will need a few weeks to recover. He said B. Coleman was taking over many of the responsibilities at the Hall while he recovers.

Chief Dick said there is an infrastructure issue with TELUS and said there was a recent outage that affected paging for both Jamieson and Exshaw fire halls. He said it took a day to contact Telus and another day before any action was taken. Chief Dick said the system is an antiquated loop carrier. He said TELUS did not call him to tell him when the issue was fixed.

Chief McFadden said the majority of calls the Ghost Fire Hall has been called to attend have been turned back. He said there is an ongoing issue with dispatch being unaware of territory.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) i) Draft Summary Report – MD Bighorn Emergency Management Policy/Bylaw Review July 2020, S. Walkinshaw

Mr. Walkinshaw said this is the first deliverable of the project and gave an overview of the report.

Mr. Walkinshaw said the overall recommendation is that the policies and bylaw need updated.

P. Clark said he was pleased to see evacuation planning, as it is a concern for rural residents.

K. Hebb asked if the C.A.O. and Director of Emergency Management would update the policies and bylaw. The C.A.O. said yes.

P. Clark asked when the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation came into effect. The C.A.O. said it came into effect January 1, 2020 and the M.D. is catching up now with this project.

ii) MD of Bighorn No. 8 Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) Hazard & Risk Vulnerability Analysis

Mr. Walkinshaw gave a brief overview of the report.

Chief Lyster said he worked with Mr. Walkinshaw and five administrative staff for 4 hours on the analysis.

The EMS Committee discussed the analysis.

Chief Dick asked that the wording for Oil & Gas spill be changed to release. Mr. Walkinshaw said he would make that change.

P. Clark expressed concern about a prevention plan for forest fires and invited the three fire chiefs to have a discussion and next steps. The C.A.O. said most of the forest reserve is crown land and noted that the M.D. cannot work on crown land. The C.A.O. also said that FireSmart work has been done in most of the M.D.'s hamlets and added that FireSmart is meant to give residents time to evacuate and to let first responders arrive safely to the scene. P. Clark said once a fire starts, there would be no way to stop it and said he would like to work on prevention.

Mr. Walkinshaw said there is a valley-wide fuel break in Banff National Park at the eastern boundary with Harvie Heights. He said that was done about 15 years ago. He said Banff National Park and Alberta Forestry spent a significant amount of money to create that fire break.

Mr. Walkinshaw said there are many FireSmart programs being done, but there are a few areas in Benchlands that require treatments.

Mr. Walkinshaw told the Committee that the M.D. has wildfire mitigation strategy for hamlets, but not rural areas. He said the M.D. worked with I.D. #5 (Kananaskis) and Banff National Park and has done significant work over the past 15 – 20 years.

Mr. Walkinshaw told the Committee that rural areas such as Jamieson Road are held in private title and the M.D. and Alberta government cannot work on private land.

The C.A.O. asked if the Hazard & Risk Vulnerability Analysis would be a stand-alone document. Mr. Walkinshaw said it would become part of the MEMP and would allow the Director of Emergency Management to have specific plans for the top five or six hazards, in Section 4.

Chief Dick asked why the plan would not specify all mitigations and controls. Mr. Walkinshaw said if there are too many plans, they get lost. He said all mitigations may not be necessary for an event that may happen once in one hundred years. He said most municipalities pick their top five or six hazards.

K. Hebb said that until 2013, overland flooding and a pandemic may not have made the list.

Mr. Walkinshaw said he discussed over-ranking items like flooding and a pandemic with the Director of Emergency Management and thanked Mr. Hebb for his comment.

N. Dreger said there will be some events where the M.D. will have a direct response and some events where other agencies like the federal or provincial governments would be providing direction. He said consideration should be taken for what events the M.D. would be taking a lead role.

7. **INFORMATION**

a) Government of Alberta – Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation Summary

The Director of Emergency Management told the EMS that this document came into effect January 1, 2020 and is good information to go along with the reports from Montane Forest Management.

K. Hebb said he appreciated the information.

P. Clark asked if there was a timeline for incorporating the recommendations into the MEMP. The Director of Emergency Services said he would be working with the C.A.O. to recommend amendments to council and to rescind some bylaws and revamp policies to meet the Regulation. He said it would take about two months to prepare and review before going to Council.

8. **INCAMERA**

There were no items to discuss.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.


CHAIRMAN