

MINUTES
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH/CARDINAL
SPENCERVILLE MUNICIPAL OFFICE
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017
7:00 PM

PRESENT:

Pat Sayeau, Mayor
Peggy Taylor, Deputy Mayor (arrived at 8:15pm)
Michael Barrett, Councillor
Karie Smail, Councillor

REGRETS:

Gerry Morrell, Councillor

STAFF:

Dave Grant, Director of Operations
Rebecca Williams, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mayor Sayeau called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Mayor Sayeau provided opening remarks to the Fire Department, noting that Council wishes to openly discuss the fire department structure, specifically the position of Fire Chief. Mayor Sayeau noted that there is no succession plan for the Fire Chief position and that there needs to be a full discussion to determine if the Township requires a volunteer, part time, or full time fire chief.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R2017-86

Decision: Moved by: K. Smail seconded by: M. Barrett that Municipal Council approves the agenda presented.

Carried

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature Thereof – None

4. Discussion Items

a) Fire Department Structure – Full Time Fire Chief

It was the consensus of Council to allow for an open discussion forum with the Fire Department. It was noted that Council usually takes a hands off approach for the fire department with respect to ranks, positions and succession planning. Council noted that the current interim fire chief has recommended that a full time fire chief is needed in order to fulfill the requirements set out through provincial legislation and overall work required in the Township. It was noted that the Mayor and CAO had discussed the idea of a full time paid fire chief with Chief Moore and most of the department's officers.

Council opened the discussion to the fire department, highlighting that there could be budget implications depending on if the chief position stays as a volunteer position or changes to a part time paid or full time paid position. Council noted that they want to open the lines of communication between Council and the fire department to get a better understanding from the volunteers that provide the many needed services to the community.

Council received many comments from the fire department with respect to the fire chief position and the level of involvement required to complete the necessary tasks and duties. Council and the fire department discussed the need for a full time paid fire chief, with some members supporting a full time, while

others recommended either a part time or volunteer chief with more assistance from the fire firefighters to accomplish the required duties.

Council enquired about the education and training required for fire department members to become certified, specifically as fire prevention officers. Members noted that education to the community is a key aspect to fire prevention, as the provincial government and Fire Marshall Office are continually encouraging fire departments to increase training and education to become proactive instead of reactive in the community. It was noted that many of the courses and training programs are held in Gravenhurst for a week at a time. Members commented on the difficulties of being able to attend the courses due to lack of personal time, employer granting time off, giving up vacation time, and family responsibilities. Council asked if there are any other locations that are closer to the area that provide the training courses, or if the Township would be able to bring the training courses to the department. Council confirmed with the fire department members that it was not due to a lack of funding from the Township, but due to the lack of available spaces and timeframe the courses were offered in Gravenhurst.

There was a general discussion with the fire department about the education, time, duties, roles and responsibilities for the Chief, officers, and other volunteer positions. Council enquired about the time that is dedicated to fulfill the various positions and why other volunteer members are not interested in the duties. Members noted the difficulty of narrowing down the time it takes for each position, especially with the other responsibilities, such as work and families that most fire members have on a daily basis. There was a discussion with respect to the current honourariums, including those for training courses and whether there was a benefit to having a part time or full time fire chief. Members suggested that Council should have a meeting with the current and past fire chiefs and deputy chiefs to gather a better understanding of the responsibilities and time required to fulfill the chief position.

There was a discussion with respect to paid chief and fire prevention positions in other municipalities, specifically noting the salary range and support staff available. There was a brief discussion with respect to the impact on taxes if the Township was to consider a part time or full time paid chief position. Members voiced their concerns of hiring another full time chief and how it affected the member's moral. Council commented on the suggestion to split a full time chief with the Township of Augusta. There was a brief discussion with respect to the possible hiring process and if it would include the possibility of hiring from within the current department. It was noted that even if the position were to change to full time, there would still not be enough time to complete the necessary duties unless there was more support from the volunteer members.

Deputy Mayor Taylor arrived at 8:15pm. Council explained Deputy Mayor Taylor's late arrival being due to her representing the Township at the UCDSB closure meeting in North Grenville.

There was a general discussion as to whether Chief Moore would remain as the interim chief if more members were willing and able to take on more duties and responsibilities. Council noted that it may be a possible solution for the time being; however they would need to confirm with Chief Moore that the delegation of duties is an effective solution.

There was a consensus of the fire department members that a fire meeting is required to fully discuss and explore the current fire department structure and the need for a volunteer, part time, or full time fire chief.

Council thanked the fire department members for attending and participating to provide helpful feedback. Council noted that they will take the information provided from the meeting under consideration.

5. Action and Information Items – None

6. Question Period – None
7. Confirmation By-law

R2017-87

Decision: Moved by: M. Barrett seconded by: K. Smail that the mover be granted leave to introduce a by-law to adopt, confirm and ratify matters dealt with by resolution and this shall constitute first and second reading thereof.

Carried

R2017-88

Decision: Moved by: M. Barrett seconded by: K. Smail that a by-law to adopt, confirm and ratify matters dealt with by resolution be now read a third time and finally passed, signed, sealed and numbered 2017-15.

Carried

8. Adjournment

R2017-89

Decision: Moved by: K. Smail seconded by: M. Barrett that Municipal Council does now adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Carried

These minutes were adopted by Council this 27th day of March, 2017.

Mayor



Deputy Clerk

