

Lucknow and District Fire Board Minutes

Date: June 4, 2024
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Lucknow, ON

Members Present Bill Vanstone, Chair
Scott Gibson
Jim Hanna
Glen McNeil
Carl Sloetjes

Members Absent Curtis Blake

Staff Present Jeff Bradley, Fire Chief
Jennifer White

1. Call to Order

The Secretary called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1.1 Election of the Chair

1.1.a Nomination for Chair Open

Motion No.: 06/04/24 LDFB - 01

Moved By Jim Hanna

Seconded By Scott Gibson

THAT Carl Sloetjes be nominated for the Chair position for 2024.

Carried

Motion No.: 06/04/24 LDFB - 02

Moved By Glen McNeil

Seconded By Jim Hanna

THAT nominations for the position of Chair be closed.

Carried

1.1.b Nominations for Chair Close

Carl Sloetjes accepted the nomination.

1.1.c Appointment of Chair

Motion No.: 06/04/24 LDFB - 03

Moved By Jim Hanna

Seconded By Glen McNeil

THAT Carl Sloetjes be appointed Chair of the Lucknow and District Fire Board for 2024.

Carried

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None disclosed.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Motion No.: 06/04/24 LDFB - 04

Moved By Bill Vanstone

Seconded By Glen McNeil

THAT the minutes of the December 14, 2023 meeting of the Lucknow and District Fire Board be adopted as presented.

Carried

4. Financial Reports

4.1 Financial Report – 1st quarter 2024, LDFB-2024-05-03

Motion No.: 06/04/24 LDFB - 05

Moved By Jim Hanna

Seconded By Scott Gibson

THAT the Lucknow and District Fire Board receive for information Report LDFB-2024-05-03.

Carried

5. Staff Reports

5.1 Introduction of Fire Chief, LDFB-2024-05-04

The Fire Board welcomed the new Fire Chief, Jeff Bradley. The Fire Chief provided a verbal update on activities to date, including that District Chief interviews have been conducted and an announcement regarding this appointment is likely to come soon.

The Chief noted that attendance of firefighters at training will be an area of focus to ensure that training is being completed by all firefighters. Bradley also noted that the first month in the position has seen a higher than normal volume of fire calls.

Plans to introduce changes gradually.

The Board requested feedback on an emergency management exercise attended by the Fire Chief in Huron-County. Bradley discussed several recent exercises that they had been a part of in Huron-Kinloss, Huron County and a joint exercise with the Canadian Military. The Fire Chief stressed the importance of Emergency Preparedness to communities both at a municipal level, and a residential level. The Chief noted satisfaction with how mutual aid is being received and given.

Motion No.: 06/04/24 LDFB - 06

Moved By Jim Hanna

Seconded By Bill Vanstone

THAT the Lucknow and District Fire Board receive for information Report LDFB-2024-05-04.

Carried

5.2 Lucknow District Fire Department - Periodic Activities Report January-March 2024, LDFB-2024-05-02

Motion No.: 05/16/24 LDFB - 07

Moved By Scott Gibson

Seconded By Glen McNeil

That the Lucknow & District Fire Board hereby receives for information Report LDFB-2024-05-02 prepared by Jeff Bradley, Fire Chief.

Carried

6. Information

7. New Business

Board Members introduced the concept of lakeshore satellite facility that could house a smaller emergency rescue vehicle to determine interest from the entirety of the Board. Members cited that this had been introduced in a Fire Services Master Plan for the Township of Huron-Kinloss, and is suggested to provide coverage for calls along the lakeshore area. Members suggested looking at facility that could be located near Highway 86 and include shared services with Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh.

Board members noted that the Lucknow Fire Station had been built due to a "shovel ready" project being available when federal or provincial funding was made available. Members suggested that if drawings were in place and land could be donated, a project would be ready when funding becomes available.

The Board discussed the need for answers such as how would this be staffed, how would it be funded, where it would be located, coverage area, insurance impact, types of vehicles available, and any liability to firefighters responding before a full complement had arrived.

The Board questioned whether there would be erosion issues on slopes related to water application. The Fire Chief did not anticipate this to be an issue due to the existing structure sizes in the area, and the required water volume for erosion to occur.

The Fire Chief inquired whether the concerns noted in this area are mainly medical or fire related, and noted there is likely to be a staffing issue with development of another station in the Township. The Fire Chief would like to investigate with EMS the response times for this area, and how could this be improved before proceeding. The Fire Chief also provided information on the standards regarding number of firefighters required to be on scene for a structure fire, and identified that this could be an issue or minimize the impact of response times intended to having a satellite facility.

The Fire Chief noted that there is a strong commitment to volunteer training required, which usually means that although they may have qualifications through other agencies, not all people are willing to commit as required for fire department needs. The Fire Chief clarified that there are currently trained EMS in Point Clark who can respond to medical emergencies. The Chief cited concerns with having only one person respond to any call.

The Board discussed the types of information that they are looking for in future reports, including training and NFPA compliance statistics. The Board additionally requested the Fire Chief be pro-active in putting items for consideration before the board as required by the Department needs.

At the request of the board, the Fire Chief indicated that Decontamination of bunker gear would be on his request list. Decontamination removes carcinogenic materials, cancer causing agents.

The Fire Chief explained a decontamination procedure for bunker gear, and suggested an approximate cost of \$80,000 to set it up. This would involve two sets of gears for each firefighter. A separate room is ideal, but decontamination can be done without that.

The Board indicated support for outreach initiatives such as recent visits to the local public schools by firefighters with the trucks.

Motion No.: 06/04/24 LDFB - 08

Moved By Glen McNeil

Seconded By Jim Hanna

THAT Staff be directed to investigate issues related to response times in the lakeshore area and provide a report at the September LDFB meeting.

Carried

Motion No.: 06/04/24 LDFB - 09

Moved By Glen McNeil

Seconded By Jim Hanna

THAT the Fire Chief bring back a Report to the September Board meeting on budget implications related to decontamination of bunker gear measures and the purchase of two extractors and additional turn out gear.

Carried

8. Meeting Schedule

The Lucknow and District Fire Board meeting schedule has been set as follows;

Thursday September 19, 2024 7 pm,

Thursday December 19, 2024 7 pm.

9. Adjournment

Motion No.: 05/16/24 LDFB - 10

Moved By Bill Vanstone

Seconded By Scott Gibson

THAT the meeting adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Carried

Chair

Secretary

DRAFT