



The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

Staff Report

Report Title: Proposed Lightweight Construction Identification Legislation update

Prepared By: Chris Cleave, Fire Chief/CEMC

Department: Fire & Emergency Services

Date: Apr. 4, 2022

Report Number: FIRE-2022-04-13

File Number: C11-FIRE-22

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number FIRE2022-04-13 prepared by Chris Cleave, Fire Chief / CEMC

Background:

In July of 2016 Randy Pettapiece, MPP for Perth-Wellington has submitted a letter seeking support of his private members bill amending the Fire Protection and Prevention Act 1997 to include a part on Lightweight Construction Identification. MPP Pettapiece was seeking a letter of support for the private members bill from the Township.

The intent of Lightweight Construction Identification is to enhance firefighter safety when conducting interior fire suppression operations in buildings that are constructed using lightweight construction. The proposed labeling system would indicate lightweight construction in the form of labels on the front of the building that identify where the lightweight construction components exist. Floor, Roof, or both.

At the September 07, 2016, Committee of the Whole meeting, The Fire Chief brought the letter forward asking council for their consideration in supporting this private members bill. The Fire Chief indicated that we should be supporting any legislation that will enhance the safety of firefighters including this private members bill. Council members approved the motion to have the Fire Chief write a letter of support on behalf of the Township and submit to MPP Pettapiece.

Discussion:

This report will provide Council with an update as to the changes that the province has recently made in relation to the proposed Private member's bill. Although the private members bill has not been passed, the Government of Ontario has made changes to existing legislation that captures most of the intent of the private members' bill. Specifically, the Ontario Building Code Regulation and the Fire Protection and Prevention Act's Community Risk Assessment Regulation.

These changes are as follows:

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has made amendments to the Ontario Building Code to require identification of new and renovated buildings constructed using truss and lightweight construction systems on a go forward basis, beginning on July 1, 2022.

The program requires the Chief Building Official to notify fire departments that a building, other than a house, will be constructed or renovated using a truss and lightweight system.

On May 8, 2018, O. Reg. 378/18 was filed, and it came into force on July 1, 2019. As previously reported to Council, this regulation requires that by July 1, 2024, every municipality must complete a Community Risk Assessment (CRA) and use it to inform decisions on the provision of fire protection services. Additionally, this requires that the Fire Chief review and Council approve the CRA annually.

On February 25, 2022, the Fire Marshal of Ontario issued directive 2022-001 specifying that we are required to use information provided by the Chief Building Official on the presence of truss and lightweight construction systems in a community's building stock, that is known, and we must document it in the Community Risk Assessment and update annually as required. Section 9(1) of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act grants authority to the Fire Marshal of Ontario to issue directives to which a Fire Department must comply.

Financial Impacts:

Additional administrative time because of data collection, annual review, reporting, and compliance requirements associated with the regulatory changes.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by having services and amenities nearby.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Chris Cleave, Fire Chief/CEMC

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer