

EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jan 6, 2016 - 5:00 p.m.
City Hall Meeting Room 1
Minutes

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair
David Lowe	- St John Ambulance
Amy Van Sickle	- Community Member
Hennisea Hoy	- Community Member
Vickie Truvey	- Community Member
Richard Desaulniers	- Royal Westminster Regiment
Sony Johal	- Community Member
Steve Reed	- BCEHS Representative

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Glen Henderson	- School Board Representative
Vacant	- Fraser Health Representative
Vacant	- Salvation Army

STAFF:

Cory Hansen	- Committee Secretary
Fire Chief Tim Armstrong	- New Westminster Fire & Rescue Services

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Received the Minutes of October 7, 2015

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the notes of the Emergency Advisory Committee meeting held on October 7, 2015 be received and adopted

CARRIED.

All members of Commission voted in favour of the motion.

Correction need for Oct 7, 2015 minutes Amy Van Sickle was not present at the last meeting.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 2015 Year in Review and moving forward into 2016 (Cory Hansen)

The Emergency Planning Assistant, Cory Hansen reviewed the activities and planning that occurred throughout the 2015 year and the plans for moving forward into 2016.

The Chair discussed communications could be linked to the new Police Department App. The committee discussed tying into a system that is much further widely used. The Chair discussed using facebook and twitter during the windstorm and how City staffs were in response mode and there was no one available to update the public at the beginning of the storm. The Fire Chief discussed that sometimes it takes time to respond and advise the public that emergency services are responding. The committee discussed using a product that is more widely available whether it's geo-caching, google etc. Information will be provided from this discussion at the next committee meeting.

5:26 pm Steven Reed from BC Ambulance Representative arrived

5.2 Earthquake that occurred Dec 29, 2015 (Fire Chief Tim Armstrong)

The Fire Chief discussed he was notified from Emergency Management BC that there was a minor earthquake that occurred. The Tsunami notification system advised there was no warning indicated. ECOMM advised crews that they were still operational and

fully functioning. All Firehalls were assessed for damage, as a result there were no calls for service. Chief Armstrong spoke with City Engineering in regards to doing assessment on all the bridges and overpasses in the area, engineering did not see the need due to the magnitude of the earthquake as it was a small earthquake and there were no reports of damage.

The Fire Chief advised that a Department Manager from each City Department will be appointed and designated to advise the Emergency Operations Centre regarding critical infrastructure updates in the City, during an emergency. The Fire Chief advised that Translink shut down their skytrain system.

The Chair discussed a previous earthquake and how Seattle responded. The Fire Chief advised that guidelines are being reviewed and crews will be doing wind shield surveys, to identify critical infrastructure and other areas of damage within the City during an earthquake.

All Fire crews have been trained in ATC 20, which is a rapid damage assessment for placarding buildings. The committee discussed how to get the community more engaged to be prepared in the event of an emergency. The Fire Chief discussed that the majority of people are complacent and it does not seem to resonate that people need to be prepared for an emergency.

The committee discussed further advertising where to purchase a kit and perhaps putting that on social media and creating a buzz. Having a flyer that can go to building strata's advertising to have a kit, or advertising to everyone in their electrical bill/taxes. The committee discussed the 26 weeks to emergency preparedness and using other avenues such as rapid notify for mass communication and or hoot suite. The committee discussed using the stratas to disseminate information and or possibly using tax breaks for purchasing an emergency preparedness kit for each household for a yearly amount.

The Fire Chief advised that in March they have a meeting with parliament. The Fire Chief has requested to have a meeting with the new Defense Minister to discuss the grants for emergency preparedness and re-instituting the USAR grants for structural collapse training in communities.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Mayor and Council discuss the idea of having a Provincial tax refund for emergency preparedness kits. Council to further this recommendation on to Local Members of Parliament to for discussion in parliament.

The committee discussed having an approved list of suppliers that could lead to a tax refund and then we are not impartial to an organization and or business. Business would most likely jump at this option to advertise for emergency kits and supplies.

The committee discussed using the JI, BC Housing and or another organization to train the citizens in the community. The Fire Chief discussed that using our military and or reservists as a resource. But having a municipality deploy them is very complex as they need to be deployed by the Provincial Government. The Chair discussed that activating the military in our community is very difficult and many approvals are needed.

The Fire Chief discussed disaster response routes and how emergency personnel will travel from one municipality to another in the event of a large emergency. The City used to have a mandatory resident clause for first responder employees to live within so many kilometers, but this became a contractual issue and most municipalities now cannot enforce that. For BCAS they have mandated that if you are available you report to the closest Ambulance Station and report in.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1. New Westminster Emergency Management Office

The Emergency Planning Assistant discussed the various wet weather events that occurred through October and November and that there were coordination and communication through the PREOC. Emergency Management has been working with Emergency Support Services to inventory and review supplies for group lodging.

The Emergency Operations Centre is currently receiving upgrades to its phone systems and 2 new monitors that will be placed on tripods have been purchased should we have to activate to the truck bay floor for level 3 activation. Testing will continue for level 2 and 3 activations once all supplies have been received and documentation updates have been made.

6.2 New Westminster Fire & Rescue Services

The Fire Chief advised New Westminster Fire & Rescue Service is continuing to work with the rail companies. In a press release today, a memorandum of understanding was released to develop a standardized program across Canada for emergency preparedness involving rail incidents involving flammable liquids. Rail still seems to be a hot topic of conversation and we continue to work with the rail companies. There was an APP created for first responders called ask rail; this tells first responders what type of commodity is on each car and the products supplier information etc. The committee discussed getting information back from the rail companies regarding checking the tracks following an earthquake or an emergency.

The Fire Chief discussed that the Fire Department has been working with Engineering regarding bypassing water mains in an earthquake. Currently the Fire Chief has had discussions with Krueger regarding using their pumping system as a possible source of water in the city if there was a large emergency.

The Chair discussed that there is huge push back from the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance regarding the transportation of crude oil. The railcars can now export oil. A lot

of the crude is now going through Seattle and the Pacific Northwest. There is one refinery that is taking more oil by train and is transporting more crude than the Keystone Pipeline can take every day. There are huge plans for major refinery and export plans in the United States. The Chair discussed that we do not see this problem in our area as we do not have the port capacity to process this.

The Fire Chief advised that Royal Columbian Hospital will be moving their heliport temporarily for the next two years and relocating it as they build a new tower in its place.

The committee discussed local medical clinics and now requiring having emergency preparedness and business continuity plans for their clinics. These clinics need to be confirmed and noted in critical infrastructure if they would be open and available during an emergency.

The Fire Chief advised there is a large earthquake exercise that will be happening in June that will be cross border called Cascadia Rising. Both sides of the border will be engaged at looking at streamlining resources across the border.

6.3 Fraser Health Service

No Representative on the Committee.

6.4 New Westminster Police Services

Representative was not present

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m. Next meeting March, 2016 Meeting Room#1
CityHall

**COUNCILLOR
CHUCK PUCHMAYR
CHAIR**

**CORY MCLAREN
COMMITTEE SECRETARY**