

EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 18, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, Committee Room #2

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair and Council Member
Michael Cahill	- Community Member
Hennisea Hoy	- Community Member
David Lowe	- St. John Ambulance Representative
Vickie Turvey	- Community Member
Nicholas Page	- Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Wendy Bowyer	- New Westminster Police
Matt Brito	- School District #40 Representative
Jenette Ziegler	- BC Ambulance Service Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Deputy Chief John Hatch	- Fire and Rescue Services Representative
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 2018 Committee Orientation and Oaths of Office

Ms. Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk, provided a PowerPoint orientation presentation, and reviewed the following documents:

- EAC Terms of Reference;
- Committee Rules of Conduct;
- Respectful Workplace Policy;
- Social Media Policy; and,
- Freedom of Information Permission Forms.

Ms. Corbett administered the Oath of Office to all members of the committee present.

1.2 Appointment of Alternate Chair

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Vickie Turvey be selected as the Alternate Chair for the 2018 Emergency Advisory Committee term.

CARRIED

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

2.1 MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the April 18, 2018 Emergency Advisory Committee agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the January 10, 2018 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the January 10, 2018 Emergency Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

7.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

7.1 New Westminster Emergency Management Office (EMO)

Deputy Chief John Hatch, Fire and Rescue Services Representative, discussed the Multi-Industry Preparedness and Response Symposium, held on March 21-22, 2018 in Abbotsford, which he and Fire Chief Tim Armstrong had recently

attended, and reviewed some of the topics and speakers at the symposium, including:

- Geographic response planning for the Kinder Morgan pipeline;
- Response and engagement planning;
- Shoreline cleanup assessment technique (SCAT), with regards to dangerous spills; and,
- Speakers from Kinder Morgan, CP Rail, CN Rail, Husky Energy, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, among others.

Deputy Chief Hatch explained that, at the conference, an idea was discussed with a representative of the Railway Association of Canada to hold a rail exercise for dangerous goods evacuation in the Quayside community, which is currently being planned for October 3. So far, the Fire Department has reached out to the four major railways that operate in the City (BNSF, CP, CN, SRY) to confirm their involvement and the EMO is planning a minimum Level 2 exercise.

Committee members were invited to participate in the exercise as observers, controllers or evaluators, and were informed that more information would be made available at the next committee meeting in June.

In response to questions from the committee, Deputy Chief Hatch provided the following information:

- There are three emergency levels, with varying degrees of severity and response;
- The exercise would take place in the Quayside area and would include the participation of a major railway and the Railway Association of Canada;
- A building would likely be needed for the exercise, but the planning of requirements is not complete as yet;
- Quayside residents could be included in the exercise;
- The computer equipment used by the EMO is up-to-date and can accommodate up to 30 stations if need be;
- The exercise would likely involve two on-duty engine crews (one squad and one rescue) and if an emergency call were to happen, the crews would be deployed, but the exercise would not necessarily stop; and
- The Railway Association would likely create templates for the exercise.

In response to a request from Councillor Puchmayr, Deputy Chief Hatch discussed the details and response to a recent tanker fire in Port Coquitlam (PoCo), and discussed what would happen if a similar occurrence happened in New Westminster:

- It was determined that the foamer used to extinguish the fire in PoCo did not work and the Chief had been asked to look into a foamer unit for the

City, which will be discussed at the next Railway Community Advisory Panel meeting for decision with the Railway companies; and,

- Testing of a similar occurrence in local railyards may be in order.

Lastly, Deputy Chief Hatch informed the Committee that the snow packs are above normal levels this year, and therefore the Fraser River Spring Freshet levels is expected to be high. As a result, the EMO would be testing their communications equipment regularly and would provide updates to the City once the water levels and levels of risk to residents are identified.

7.2 New Westminster Fire Services

Deputy Chief John Hatch, Fire and Rescue Services Representative, discussed the Office of the Fire Commissioner, which is part of Emergency Management BC, and reported that members of the New Westminster Fire Department, including he and Chief Tim Armstrong, had been asked to be part of the EMBC Command Staff team. He discussed that the City's team had also signed up for participation with command staff to help any First Nations that may be at risk and may require training.

Councillor Puchmayr commended the City's fire crews who were involved in the Williams Lake fires in 2017, and their participation in staging areas and preventive measures.

Deputy Chief Hatch informed the Committee about the Firefighter Youth Program which will take place in May, and noted that applications would be going out to the high school shortly. David Lowe commented that he had mentioned the program to some of the St. John Ambulance cadets, and there may be a couple who are eligible and interested.

Deputy Chief Hatch also informed the Committee of the Fire Department's recent hiring process, in which there were 210 applicants, seven of which were women. Of 15 candidates who participated in recruitment training, the top three most suitable applicants were hired; and one female applicant made it to the #7 spot.

Lastly, Deputy Chief Hatch informed the Committee about Emergency Preparedness Week, taking place the week of May 6 – 12th. He distributed brochures to the committee members.

7.3 Fraser Health Service

There were no items.

7.4 New Westminster Police Services

There were no items.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is June 13, 2018 at 5:00 p.m., in City Hall.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Chair

Original Signed
Heather Corbett
Committee Clerk