

EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 10, 2015 - 5:00 p.m.
Century House Meeting Room
Minutes

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair
David Lowe	- St John Ambulance
Amy Van Sickle	- Community Member
Pastor Sharon Tidd	- Salvation Army
Hennisea Hoy	- Community Member
Vickie Trurvey	- Community Member
Jon Evans	- Community Member
Steven Reid	- BC Ambulance Representative

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Glen Henderson	- School Board Representative
Vacant	- Fraser Health Representative
Sony Johal	- Community Member
Richard Desaulniers	- Royal Westminster Regiment

STAFF:

Cory Hansen	- Committee Secretary
Deputy Fire Chief John Hatch	- New Westminster Fire & Rescue Services
Constable Wendy Bowyer	- New Westminster Police Services

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Received the Notes of March 11, 2015

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the notes of the Emergency Advisory Committee meeting held on March 11, 2015 be received and adopted

CARRIED.

All members of Commission voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Freshet Update (Cory Hansen)

The Emergency Planning Assistant reviewed a report from the River Forecast Centre. The flood risk is waning across the province; rivers have reached their peak levels for the year. Flooding from extreme rainfall still remains a possibility, but with a forecast for a warmer than normal summer there is a risk of extreme low flows this summer. The River Forecast Centre will continue to monitor the snow pack conditions and streamflow across the province and provide advisories as needed.

5.2 Email from Councillor Patrick Johnstone Re: Communication to Quayside and Downtown Residents (Deputy Chief J. Hatch)

Deputy Chief John Hatch discussed that there currently have been 2 derailments in the Quayside area that had no threat to residents in the area. If there is an incident that needs communicating to residents, residents will be advised through the City's Communications Office, News Outlets, Social Media and local newspapers. Door to Door communication would be made if residents are in threatening area.

The Chair discussed that the City is doing everything to oppose American Thermal Coal coming through the Surrey Fraser Docks. The cars that were spotted in Quayside are most likely not coal, its most likely petcoat. It is a very small amount, every couple of days, it is not moving at any great speeds, chances of dusting are very low. If coal was to come through New Westminster it will be coming through and over the rail bridge, with the greatest exposure to the Sapperton area.

The Chair has attended a Quayside Community Board meeting and tried to provide updated rail information, but was advised that he could not speak at the meeting. The chair then attended a Quayside Executive Board Meeting as a representative of the Railway Committee and discussed whistling sensation.

The committee discussed what type of information is communicated to residents in the City and what is not. Deputy Chief Hatch advised that if there is no dangerous goods and no threat to residents, information would not be communicated out to residents.

5.3 Lower Mainland Local Government Association Convention (Councillor Puchmayr)

The Chair discussed that they had a very successful convention in Harrison. Chief Armstrong, a representative from the Reserves/ Canadian Military, a representative from the Katzi Reserve and Telus all spoke at the convention. Telus brought forward the Calgary flood story. Chief Armstrong brought forward a report from the federal government that outlined that prevention will be the new focus in emergency management.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1. New Westminster Emergency Management Office

The Emergency Planning Assistant advised that on May 21, 2015 an EOC Level 2 was set up & Communications Drill was held with the following agencies participating NWFRS, Emergency Support Services and New West Police. During this drill the Mayor was onsite and was able to see an activation of the Emergency Operations Centre.

One June 24, 2015 an Emergency Operations Centre Level 3 drill will be set up. This is a large set up that will test all communication equipment. This is to insure that the layout of the set up works for each operational section. This drill will include New Westminster Emergency Management, New West Fire & Rescue, New West Police and Emergency Support Services.

6.2 New Westminster Fire & Rescue Services

The Deputy Chief discussed the evacuation exercise that will be held with the Quayside Residents Association. Southern Rail has signed on to be part of the exercise and working in the community. The Deputy Chief discussed using community rooms in the Quayside Area as muster stations.

On June 08, 2015 New Westminster Fire and Rescue discussed the Fire Safety Advisory that was issued for New Westminster. The fire Safety advisory is to remind citizens to be cautious when using outdoor open flames and disposing of smoking materials. Charcoal is restricted in the parks, open flame is still allowed in the parks

City Electrical – Deputy Chief Hatch discussed that the Royal II substation will now be maintained by an outside contractor. The discussion included the types of hazardous associated with high voltage substations.

Deputy Chief Hatch also met with the Mayor, and the National Energy Board. The Deputy Chief asked them what are their emergency response plans that are in place for the Braid Street area. Deputy Chief advised that before they build this pipeline questions regarding public safety need to be asked.

6.3 Fraser Health Service

No Representative on the Committee.

6.4 New Westminster Police Services

Constable Wendy Bowyer discussed that there are some structural changes currently taking place. New Westminster Police is currently working with New Westminster Emergency Management Office in the planning process for the Quayside Evacuation Exercise. Currently Constable Bowyer is also working on a plan for food and water for the Police Department in an emergency.

St. John Ambulance to bring an Earthquake Kit for the next meeting.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m. Next meeting Oct 7, 2015 River Market

**COUNCILLOR
CHUCK PUCHMAYR
CHAIR**

**CORY MCLAREN
COMMITTEE SECRETARY**