

## **EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Sept 5, 2018 - 5 p.m.  
Glenbrook Fire Hall**

### **MINUTES**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

#### **MEMBERS REGRETS:**

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

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Chief Tim Armstrong	- NW Fire & Rescue Services Representative
Cory Hansen	- Committee Clerk

#### **GUESTS:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:11 p.m.

### **1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

#### **1.1 Adoption of the September 5, 2018 Agenda**

##### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Sept 5, 2018 Emergency Advisory Committee agenda be adopted.*

**CARRIED**

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

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 Adoption of the June 13, 2018 Minutes**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the June 13, 2018 Emergency Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

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

## **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

There were no items.

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### Meeting with Solicitor General re: Alert Ready Communication

Councillor Puchmayr advised the resolution the committee made is going forward to Union of BC Municipalities but as a non-recommendation. This means that further information is required. The Councillor met with Solicitor General Mike Farnworth. He explained how the Alberta model of “Alert Ready” operates and how you can narrow down the location, neighbourhood and even target those individuals with mobile devices. Councillor Puchmayr reminded the Minister about the container fire at the Vancouver Docks. He discussed that if this type of alert system was in place, information could be disseminated to the public to avoid the area. The Manager of Emergency Management BC will be hiring a contractor to create a model similar to Alberta.

The committee discussed the following points:

- Who has direct access to the system, and how the current procedure works in the event of an emergency.

The committee discussed New Westminster Fire & Rescue Services wildfire deployment. The following points were discussed:

- Supporting First Nations Communities.
  - Fire Chief Tim Armstrong advised the committee that they used a First Nations Liaison to obtain access to First Nations lands in order to help them further support their local communities and structures from the approaching forest fires.
  - FINESS has joined the Greater Vancouver Fire Chiefs Association.

Councillor Puchmayr left 5:16 p.m. Vickie Truvey resumed meeting as Chair of the committee.

## **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items.

## **6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

### **6.1 New Westminster Emergency Management Office**

The Fire Chief informed the committee that he attended Whatcom County's Emergency Operations Center with Deputy Chief John Hatch and Emergency Planning Assistant Cory Hansen for a training exercise. The Fire Chief discussed the great working relationship New Westminster Fire & Rescue has made with Whatcom County. They have invited us to participate in exercises and training in the near future.

The Fire Chief discussed that he would like to start a CERT program in New Westminster and a map your neighbourhood program, where you find out who your neighbours are.

The Fire Chief and Emergency Planning Assistant gave the Committee a tour of the Emergency Operations Center at the Fire Hall and explained its function and operation.

### **6.2 New Westminster Fire & Rescue Services (NWFRS) Wildland Deployment**

The Fire Chief presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee highlighting the following points:

- On August 13, 2018 The Fire Commissioner's Office in Victoria called Chief Armstrong and asked him to deploy the mobile command unit and take command and control of the Fort St. James area, where the town had declared a local state of emergency.
- The Fire Chief described what took place during the time of deployment.
- 50 municipal fire departments were deployed, 70 pieces of apparatus and 300 firefighters.
- The Fraser Lake Complex Fire and the Burns Lake Complex Fire started to increase in activity.
- 6 staff deployed, assignment was command and control, running 24 hour operations.
- 300 fire personnel slept in classrooms of the local high school in Vanderhoof.
- Communications: there were a lot of areas that did not have cell coverage, used forestry radios/repeaters to speak to one another. The only thing that really worked was satellite phones. Crews were checking in via payphones, radio and satellite phones.

- Any Costing will be covered by the Province and the Office of the Fire Commissioner.
- The Fire Chief discussed that the province liked that there was good command and control of the deployment that took place.
- A Command and Control Kit was purchased for the wildfires called Salamander.
- Victoria Wildfire has asked the Fire Chief to come and help build out the command and control structure for wildfire deployment in preparation for 2019.

The Fire Chief shared information regarding the upcoming Southern Rail Exercise on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018; the Fire Chief invited the committee to participate in the exercise as evaluators and to advise Cory Hansen, Committee secretary if interested.

The Fire Chief informed the committee that the Fire Department has purchased a drone with a heat signature, and one with a high powered zoom. We will be using these drones to downstream recon information and to do air monitoring during the upcoming exercise. The drone company we have been working with was recently contracted by Richmond Fire to scan the bog property and locate hot spots during the bog fire last month.

**6.3 Fraser Health Service** – No report was provided.

**6.4 New Westminster Police Services** – No report was provided.

## **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING**

September 5, 2018 – Glenbrook Fire Hall

## **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
**Councillor Chuck Puchmayr**  
**Chair**

Original Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
**Carilyn Cook**  
**Committee Clerk**