

EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 10, 2019 - 5 p.m.
City Hall – Boardroom A

Minutes

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair and Council Member
Vickie Turvey	- Community Member
Jonathan Karmazinuk	- Community Member
Michael Cahill	- Community Member
Matt Brito	- School District #40 Representative
David Lowe	- St. John Ambulance Representative
Richard Desaulniers	- Royal Westminster Regiment

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Bryan Larabee	- Community Member
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STAFF PRESENT:

Fire Chief Tim Armstrong	- Fire & Rescue Services Representative
Deputy Chief John Hatch	- Fire & Rescue Services Representative
Cory Hansen	- Committee Clerk

GUESTS:

Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk
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1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.0 Committee Presentation and Oaths – Heather Corbett, Legislative Services

Heather Corbett reviewed the committee orientation package with the Emergency Advisory Committee. The oath was taken by the committee at the end of the orientation.

1.2 Adoption of the April 10, 2019 Agenda

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the April 10, 2019 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 Sept 5, 2018 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the September 5, 2018 Emergency Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

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

2.2 Adoption of the January 9, 2019 Notes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the notes of the January 5, 2019 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

4.1 Tl'etinqox Training (Carried forward from January's meeting)

Fire Chief Tim Armstrong advised the committee of the donation of a firetruck to the Tl'etinqox First Nations last year. The Fire Chief advised that this First Nation group will also be receiving sprinkler protection equipment this year.

Councillor Puchmayr advised the committee that the First Nation Community refused to leave the area when the threat of fire was imminent. The donated truck helped put out spot fires in the area and help saved their community. Currently we have sent instructors up to further train with them and help them protect their community from future threats. This training will continue and Councillor Puchmayr will provide updates as they occur.

The Fire Chief advised last year during wildfire season, they engaged a First Nation Liaison, which aided in the response on First Nations land, as many First Nation Communities refuse to leave their land. Councillor Puchmayr advised that he is worried if the First Nations Communities continue to take a stance that they are staying with their land, they could be in extreme danger.

Councillor Puchmayr advised the committee that New Westminister Fire & Rescue Services took a key leadership role in the provincial wildfire season last year, and will be taking one again this year.

4.2 Emergency Support Services

The Fire Chief advised that he has a meeting set with Dave Jansen, Acting Police Chief to move Emergency Support Services to the Emergency Management Division at the Fire Hall. The plan in the meantime is to reach out to neighbouring communities and to Emergency Management BC if New Westminister is in need of Emergency Support Services during an event.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Appointment of Alternate Chair

Alternate chair for the committee will be David Lowe.

5.2 UBCM Provincial Response to 2018 Resolutions

The Committee Clerk read the response from UBCM. The response advised that EMBC sent out a request for proposals to review the process for Local Authority activation. The Fire Chief reviewed the process that currently takes place at a provincial level for local alerting in the event of an emergency or disaster. The Fire Chief advised that currently this is problematic for a local emergency, as it has to go through the provincial levels in order to fan a message out quickly. By the time the message gets approved, it may be too late. The Fire Chief advised that access needs to be given to Local Authorities.

Councillor Puchmayr advised he met with Minister Farnworth and advised that we need this notification at a Local Authority level. The Councillor used the Vancouver container fire as an example as the messaging was not concise.

5.3 Freshet Update for April 2019

The Emergency Planning Assistant reviewed the outlook from the River Forecast Centre and presented to the committee that the outlook is currently looking at a low flood risk for the season.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 New Westminster Emergency Management Office

The Fire Chief advised the committee that we are conducting EOC training in May and June. This will be followed with an exercise in June in Whatcom County.

6.2 New Westminster Fire & Rescue Services

The Fire Chief discussed we will be working with the Office of the Fire Commissioner and will be attending a Wildfire Symposium in May. The province will be looking at accountability software that we are currently using called Salamander. This software allows for the tracking of inventory, people and equipment. The Fire Chief advised that the last couple of years we have learned a lot from wildfire season. This year Fire Departments need to have a task number and need to be requested to respond to the fire. The Fire Chief discussed how firefighters need to be careful when stepping onto others property as people are trying to declare costing and damage for the time the crews have spent on their properties.

The Fire Chief advised we are working with Fraser Health to gather information during the opioid crisis. Fraser Health is finding that there is some lag time between findings and is working with us for real time data. This is not personal information, but response data. They want to be able to respond in a timely manner if there is a spike in deaths or other problematic areas related to the opioid crisis.

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

June 26, 2019 – City Hall Council Chambers

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed _____
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Chair

Original Signed _____
Cory Hansen
Committee Clerk