

EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 26, 2019 - 5 p.m.
New Westminster Police – Lobby Meeting Room

Minutes

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair and Council Member
Jonathan Karmazinuk	- Community Member
David Lowe	- St. John Ambulance Representative
Bryan Larabee	- Community Member
Matt Brito	- School District #40 Representatives

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Vickie Turvey	- Community Member
Michael Cahill	- Community Member
Richard Desaulniers	- Royal Westminster Regiment

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 Adoption of the June 26, 2019 Agenda

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the June 26, 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 April 10, 2019 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the April 10, 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

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Office of Emergency Management Emergency Operations Centre Training

New Westminster Fire Chief, Tim Armstrong reviewed the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) training held June 11, 12, & 13, 2019. This training was conducted across the border at Whatcom County EOC with twenty of our City Staff from various departments. One of the key objectives was to move across the border using established cross border procedures. Staffs were expedited through the border with 10 vehicles, including our Mobile Command Unit. Staff Departments included: New Westminster Fire & Rescue Services, New Westminster Police, Human Resources, Engineering, City Electrical and Corporate Communications. The exercise was based on getting our Emergency Operations Centre team together and staying down there for three days of training. Facilitators advised that the City has established a great team. City staffs have commented that this was a great training and learning environment. The Fire Chief advised that this was a great success and we will be looking to do this next year with the rest of our EOC Staff.

As part of the exercise we tested our Satellite Communications system. This system allows us to use standalone internet and phone lines using satellite technology. We also used our Salamander Accountability System to track staff during the training and exercise for each of the three days.

The Fire Chief advised he is hopeful that we have established a good committed group of people, and that if there is an emergency in the City these staff members are ready to respond at a moment's notice.

5.2 Freshet Update for June 2019

The Emergency Planning Assistant advised the committee that the snow survey was released from the river forecast centre. Currently we sit at 3% of normal. There is currently no threat of flooding at this time, unless weather induced.

5.3 RCMP Integrated Task Force

The Fire Chief advised we were approached by the Operational Response and Readiness Protective Technical Services Section. This section is in charge of counter terrorism and search & rescue. They have reached out to the Greater Vancouver Fire Chief's Association and want to train up specific fire fighters to be used on a regional task force. This team will have taskforces consisting of both fire fighters and police officers, and their main task will be to work mass crowd gatherings and large events. The Fire Chief has been asked to sit on the steering committee. A meeting has been scheduled for later in the year.

Through the cross border working group, Ferndale did an active shooter exercise. The biggest take away from the exercise was the lack of coordination and accountability. Police Constable Wendy Bowyer advised the teachers are the first line. They used to announce to students to shelter in place if gunfire is heard, but now they advise to evacuate the building and run for cover.

The Fire Chief commented that this taskforce is a pre-deployed response team for those larger scheduled events, i.e. Remembrance Day, Political Visitors etc.

The Chair, advised this is a great concept and that once assembled would be a powerful team, even if it was just New Westminster, City of Burnaby & Vancouver participating to start the task force.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 New Westminster Emergency Management Office

The Emergency Management Officer is currently working on the following:

- Updating our forms and documentation in our Emergency Management Office
- Upgrading supplies and documentation in our Mobile Command Unit for Wildfire Season
- Continuing to train staff on our Salamander Accountability System, this system tracks personnel and equipment.

6.2 New Westminster Fire & Rescue Services

The Fire Chief advised there is a chance that we will be deployed for this year's wildfire season. Last year we were deployed to Fort St James and ended up staging in Vanderhoof.

BC Wildfire has created a Structure Protection team out of the Office of the Fire Commissioner. This allows for greater coordination during deployments. Chief Armstrong advised he is very proud of New Westminster Fire Rescue Services personnel for the role they have played during the BC Wildfire responses.

Michael Cahill Arrived at 1731 hrs.

The Committee Chair advised that since then we have donated a fire truck to the T'tinqoux First Nations last year, but it has since had battery failure. They are currently looking at building a container for the unit so it is not left out in the elements. The Chair advised that what we achieved during the wildfire season is really incredible and that the Mayor of Burnaby will also be donating a fire truck to the First Nations group this year.

The Fire Chief advised the Fire Commissioner used New Westminster's invoicing template for other communities that were deployed. The Fire Chief advised now there is a system in place for each piece of equipment deployed. Each vehicle will need to be pre-credentialed, as some agencies were deploying old equipment.

The Fire Chief referenced that there are a few large City events that we will be attending this year, which will allow us to use our drone. This helps us to be able to provide information to first responders for crowd control and traffic management. Deputy Fire Chief John Hatch advised that using a drone helps with traffic management, crowds, parking situations and larger events.

There are a lot of regulations and stipulations when controlling a drone. The Fire Chief advised we were looking at training our staff but currently we have hired a contractor to fly our drone. We may train some staff to do the cinematography and filming in the future. Currently there are some issues with the privacy commissioner, regarding the storing of the data and how the data is being used.

The Fire Chief discussed that there is a rail exercise being held in October called Grey Fox. Currently our crews are trained to an operations level for hazardous material response. New Westminster Police's response would include perimeter control and investigation.

6.3 Fraser Health Service

The Fire Chief advised that we have been working with Fraser Health to gather real time stats for the opioid stats. The only information Fraser Health receives is from the coroner's office. A working group was established. They are looking at establishing harm reduction kits, and harm reduction sites. The Fire Chief advised that New Westminster Fire & Rescue Services success rates for injecting naloxone has made a large difference and our overall mortality rate has not risen.

The Committee Chair discussed that he is part of the Lookout Society Committee. He discussed that people are overdosing in their rooms and this is a greater problem than we know.

6.4 New Westminster Police Services

Constable Wendy Bowyer, advised that special events in the City are currently ramping up. We are creating operational plans and assigning resources as appropriate. For deployment of Police Officers it depends on how large the event is and the location in the City.

The Fire Chief advised that all food trucks now have to be certified. We have partnered with Technical Safety BC to create a standardized process that includes an inspection where the food truck will get a licence sticker for a year across almost all municipalities. 200 food trucks attended this year's inspection.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

October 9, 2019 – City Hall Committee Room # 2

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed _____
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Chair

Original Signed _____
Cory Hansen
Committee Clerk