

## **EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Jan 8th, 2014-5:09 p.m.  
City Hall EOC Meeting Rm 1  
Minutes**

### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair
David Lowe	- St John Ambulance
Cheryl Rogers	- Community Member
Patrick Johnstone	- Community Member
Karou Bracewell	- BC Ambulance Representative
Pastor Sharon Tidd	- Salvation Army
Josh Pablo	- Community Member
John Evans	- Community Member

### **VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:**

Brian Sommerfeldt	- School Board Representative
Deirdre McLachlan	- Fraser Health Representative
Nancy Brar	- Community Member
Captain Braden Greaves	- Royal Westminster Regiment

### **STAFF:**

Cory McLaren	- Secretary
Inspector Phil Eastwood	- New Westminster Police Services
Fire Chief Tim Armstrong	- New Westminster Fire & Rescue Services
Deputy Chief John Hatch	- New Westminster Fire & Rescue Services

## **1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 Received the Notes of October 2, 2013**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the notes of the Emergency Advisory Committee meeting held on October 2nd, 2013 be received for information*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Commission voted in favour of the motion.

## **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Automatic Aid (Tim Armstrong)**

New Westminster Fire Chief Tim Armstrong discussed the process of mutual aid agreements with neighbouring municipalities. A committee has been formed with Coquitlam, Burnaby, Richmond and Delta Fire & Rescue Services called the Interoperability Working Group, which is currently looking at working with shared services and offering support to one another's communities. Shared services would include help with aid, equipment, hazmat etc. The Interoperability Working Group is also looking at automatic callout and notification from ECOMM for a larger event in a neighbouring community such as the one that was on Columbia last October.

The committee discussed the response levels in Queensborough and discussed how Richmond and Delta Fire Departments both respond to that area.

### **5.2 Hazmat Training Initiatives (Tim Armstrong)**

The Chair, Councillor Puchmayr discussed truck and rail transportation of dangerous goods though New Westminster and the updating of the Emergency Plan for this type of event.

The Fire Chief further explained the exclusion zone that was put in place during the Olympics in 2010 and that it encompassed the transportation of dangerous goods through Burrard Inlet and through Vancouver, this was supposed to be a temporary measure but it still exists today. The Fire Chief advised the committee that a report was brought forward to Council that identified an all hazards approach to dangerous goods and the known commodities that travel through the City. The rail companies and Fire Department have been in contact and have had meetings to discuss preventative measures. The Rail Companies are all very supportive and are listening to the concerns of the citizens and the Fire Department. Currently New Westminster Fire & Rescue is working with the Police Department on operations during an event.

The Chair advised that the dangerous goods issue in Vancouver took away the barging of dangerous goods throughout BC. Southern Rail took over the transportation of dangerous goods and currently there are approximately 25 trains a day that are currently being moved up the coast. The Fire Department has sent crews down to Colorado for further Hazmat training. Currently the Fire Department is working on the response for the Quayside area, and identifying what types of materials and our response levels. Looking forward, a mock table top exercise will be created involving a spill in the area, and a full scale hazmat exercise will be conducted.

The committee discussed the capacity at which the Fire Department is currently working with the Rail Companies. The Fire Chief advised that they are helping with training, future funding and planning. Southern Rail is very supportive and a great relationship has been formed with this New Westminster business.

Anti-Whistling is also currently being looked at by the City. A memorandum is currently being reviewed and is almost ready for signatures by Port Metro Vancouver, Southern Railway and the City, for a more creative approach to anti whistling throughout the Queensborough corridor and the Quayside crossing. People are noticing the rail whistling more now than ever due to the news and previous events, and need to realize that we need to work with the Rail Companies to make this better.

The committee discussed the railways emergency response plans. The rail companies will manage the spill, but from a public safety response the Fire Department will be taking over the event. The committee discussed the interoperability with neighbouring communities and the sharing of resources.

### **5.3 Relocation of EOC to Glenbrook Firehall (Cory McLaren)**

Cory McLaren, the Emergency Planning Assistant discussed the relocation of the Emergency Operations Centre, a report was brought forward to management that included a list of equipment to move and some quotes. Currently several quotes are outstanding and once obtained will be able to apply a cost to moving the equipment. Once the move is completed further training can be applied to the fire crews for set up. The Fire Chief discussed that further training will be given to staff and senior Management will be approached to discuss their role in the event of an EOC operation, and if they can offer up any other staff to dedicate to emergency operations.

The Fire Chief discussed the Columbia Street Fire that occurred October 10, 2013, and some of the complications and requests that logistically came forward as the event progressed. The Mobile Command Unit, was a huge asset during the event, the committee reviewed some photos brought forward from Karou Bracewell from the fire scene and discussed some of the outcomes from the fire.

## **6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

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

The Emergency Planning Assistant discussed that currently the emergency planning office is working on the plan for the emergency operations centre relocation, the Home Safe Program and the viceroy radio communications transfer.

### **6.2 New Westminster Fire Services**

Deputy Chief Hatch advised that the new heavy rescue has been received, and training will start and within the next 2.5 weeks it should be in service, new gas detection equipment and airbag systems have also been ordered for this truck. A Hazardous Material Training Development Plan is currently being worked on. An Operations level course will be offered this year in spring and fall, and a Technicians level will be offered at a later date. A strategic planning session was held for the Battalion Chiefs, where feedback was received regarding the Officer Development Program. New Recruits have had their interviews; there are 19 recruits that will go through skills training over 10 days.

The committee discussed hazardous material training and what it encompasses. The Fire Chief discussed that he has been in contact with the state of Oregon, as they have offered their training materials and operating guidelines.

### **6.3 Fraser Health Service**

Not Present

### **6.4 New Westminster Police Services**

Inspector Phil Eastwood advised that the H1N1 is on the rise, and that they are providing additional flu shots to officers. The Inspector discussed that the CBRNE masks were used in the Columbia Street fire. He advised that there were no voice amplification units on these masks, and that this is something that will need to be purchased. Police Services vehicles are changing from Crown Victoria's to Ford Explorers, this will be completed by next year. The Police Inspector discussed the Tour de Disaster that was held in Victoria. He further discussed that he would like New Westminster to hold a version of this event.

**Motion to look at engaging in this exercise for New Westminster.**

**ALL CARRIED.**

## **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m. Next meeting March 19, 2014

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**COUNCILLOR  
CHUCK PUCHMAYR  
CHAIR**

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**CORY MCLAREN  
COMMITTEE SECRETARY**

