

EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, Boardroom A

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair and Council Member
Dee Beattie	- Community Member
Richard Desaulniers	- Royal Westminster Regiment
John Hooker	- Community Member
Hennisea Hoy	- Community Member
David Lowe	- St. John Ambulance Representative

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputy Chief John Hatch	- Fire and Rescue Services Representative
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MEMBERS REGRETS:

Chief Tim Armstrong	- Fire and Rescue Services Representative
Wendy Bowyer	- New Westminster Police
Sonny Johal	- Community Member
Deirdre McLachlan	- Fraser Health Representative
Marie Tran	
Vickie Turvey	- Community Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk
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The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 The following items were added to the Reports and Information section:

- 6.1) Queensborough Bridge Fire Summary; and,
- 6.2) Quayside Exercise.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the January 10, 2018 Emergency Advisory Committee agenda be adopted, as amended.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the October 11, 2017 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the October 11, 2017 Emergency Advisory Committee meeting be amended as follows:

- Correct the spelling of Whatcom County in multiple spots; and,

THAT the October 11, 2017 Emergency Advisory Committee minutes be adopted, as amended.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 2018 Firefighter Youth Program

Deputy Chief John Hatch, Fire and Rescue Services Representative, discussed the following points about the 2018 Firefighter Youth Program, which takes place annually in July:

- The program is open to high school students in Grades 10 to 12, and usually the program receives 8-10 applications but can accommodate more; and,
- There may be an opportunity for committee members to speak to their respective organizations and present this as a joint training opportunity.

David Lowe, representative from St. John Ambulance, agreed to mention the opportunity and take information along to a future meeting for discussion.

In response to questions from the Committee, Deputy Chief Hatch provided the following information:

- The Firefighter Youth Program is a community outreach program which provides one full week of firefighter training at the youth level, including activities such as a motor vehicle extrication scenario, public speaking, training on basic medical procedures, portable extinguishers, and breathing apparatus, and one full day at JIBC in a live burn setting;
- Currently, the program is promoted through Parks and Recreation, and includes an interview process, which provides the youth with another skill;
- The timeline is as follows: applications received after Easter, interviews in May, and the program rolls out in the first week of July; and,
- Grade 10s have participated in the program in the past.

Committee members made the following comments:

- This may be a great opportunity for St. John Ambulance cadets to see how their first aid training can be applied, and may also be an opportunity for young participants of the New Westminster Regiment and/or Scouts Canada; and,
- The Camp Ignite program, a female youth fire fighters program, is also an excellent opportunity provided to high school youth by the New Westminster Fire Service.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 New Westminster Emergency Management Office (EMO)

Deputy Chief John Hatch, Fire and Rescue Services Representative, summarized the on-table report regarding the New Westminster Emergency Management Office, which is a mobile command unit run out of Glenbrook Fire Hall, providing the following information:

- EMO volunteers were recognized for their service and participation in the maintenance of the EMO;

- Reviewed the system and the activations that take place during the year, which members of the public and are welcome to attend;
- Discussed the last time the unit was used (Windstorm of August 2016), during which time the system was manned for 12-13 hours;
- Monthly testing of the mobile command unit and satellite phone occurs by Fire Services admin staff;
- Testing occurs on the Provincial Emergency Response Communication System once per week;
- There is always at least one fire or police driver on shift; and,
- Fire Services have worked with the Communications department to strengthen the messaging that goes out to the public during use of the EMO.

Deputy Chief Hatch discussed the Queensborough Bridge electrical fire incident, which occurred on October 25, 2017 on the East side of the bridge, including the following points:

- The fire had likely been caused by friction on a joint within the metal conduit that crosses the bridge, causing melting of the exterior protection, which caused the conductors to melt and shut down the power feed to Queensborough, as well as the backup;
- The fire incident was responded to by the New Westminster Fire and Police Departments, as well as the Electrical Department, Ministry of Transport, and Police and Fire services from the surrounding area, including Burnaby, Maple Ridge, and Delta;
- Global TV provided coverage on traffic problems via a newscaster on the ground at the mobile unit and by helicopter communication, which allowed staff to redirect traffic;
- Communications staff took care of all communications to the residents and public via the City's website and social media channels;
- Power was shut off in Queensborough and there was an immense community response provided by the Fire Hall, Starlight Casino, and the Sikh community to ensure residents were fed and comfortable until the power came back on;
- In response to this incident, the Fire Chief is creating a community response team called CERT, which intends to educate and train people about disaster preparedness for unpredictable hazards and basic disaster response skills, which will include eight training sessions

In response to questions from the Committee, Deputy Chief Hatch provided the following information:

- The initial thought is to provide the CERT program in Queensborough because the most recent incident occurred there and it may be most challenged in terms of disaster, particularly in regards to flooding;

- The City is currently looking at a number of initiatives to mitigate some of the challenges experienced during the recent fire, including:
 - The installation of a new transformer in Queensborough to connect to Richmond;
 - Using the Q2Q ferry in emergency circumstances, if necessary; and,
 - Providing for quick access into Queensborough by emergency services from Delta and Richmond;

A committee member commented that in the past, residents in lower Sapperton would keep up a community message board on the locations of emergency generators in order to identify the location of disaster response resources – this may be an idea for neighbourhoods or streets to do again.

6.2 New Westminster Fire Services

Deputy Chief John Hatch, Fire and Rescue Services Representative, discussed the recent Quayside Exercise, in which the Fire and Rescue Services Department reached out to the Quayside Resident’s Association and conducted an exercise in evacuating a high-rise building in case of fire.

After communicating with residents, a simulation of a fire occurred on the 11th floor at 10 Laguna Court, and 25 volunteers took part in the evacuation, including an activation of the alarm panel and a test of the hose line. The result was a successful simulation; however it was identified that water corrosion had occurred within the water lines and sediments had plugged the hose lines, reducing good flow of water and resulting in solid black water output for 15 minutes.

In response to questions from the Committee, Deputy Chief Hatch provided the following information:

- Residential buildings are not required to get water flows tested, however it is part of routine fire systems maintenance that lines be flushed;
- An inspection routine every two years is recommended in high-rise buildings, however this usually requires an external company to inspect the panels and systems, and it would be the building owners’ responsibility to flush the system

Committee members made the following comments:

- Communication to building stratas from the Fire Services department on the information they acquired from the recent simulation and testing, and a recommendation that an external company or professional comes in to test building systems, may be a beneficial service to the City’s residential units;

- A discussion occurred between Chief Hatch and committee member John Hooker to conduct a test in John's building, which could then be used to provide a test case that could be a controlled scenario and written up as an example; and,
- It may be beneficial to approach the City's plumbing department and request an inspector to test for suitable pressures during the above scenario.

6.3 Fraser Health Service

There were no items.

6.4 New Westminster Police Services

There were no items.

Councillor Puchmayr discussed the donation of the fire truck to the Anaham Reserve and the goodwill that had been generated from the transaction between the City and Anaham.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

April 11, 2018 at 5:00 p.m., City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Certified Correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Chair

ORIGINAL SIGNED
Heather Corbett
Committee Clerk