



EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 11, 2017 – 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, Meeting Room 1

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair and Council Member
Chief Tim Armstrong	- Fire and Rescue Services Representative
Dee Beattie	- Community Member
Richard Desaulniers	- Royal Westminster Regiment
Deputy Chief John Hatch	- Fire and Rescue Services Representative
John Hooker	- Community Member
Hennisea Hoy	- Community Member
Sonny Johal	- Community Member
David Lowe	- St. John Ambulance Representative
Vickie Truvey	- Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Wendy Bowyer	- New Westminster Police
Deirdre McLachlan	- Fraser Health Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

April Darke	- Committee Clerk
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The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 The following items were added:

- Item 5.5 St. John Ambulance Dinner
- Item 5.6 2018 Recruitment
- Item 5.7 Post Emergency Pharmacy
- Item 5.8 Fire Truck Update
- Item 5.9 Canadian Fire Chief of the Year 2017

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the October 11, 2017 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 June 7, 2017 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the June 7, 2017 Emergency Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

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

5.1 911 Memorial Ceremony (Peace Arch Canada/US Border Crossing)

Chief Tim Armstrong, Fire and Rescue Services Representative, provided the following presentation regarding the annual 911 Memorial Ceremony presented at the Peace Arch Canada/US Border Crossing on September 11, 2017:

- Given in memory of first responders and civilians who perished on September 11, 2001;
 - New Westminster's involvement is due to Chief Armstrong who is President of the Greater Vancouver Fire Chiefs and represents the cross border working group, Whatcom County;
- The memorial is also utilized as a training exercise for staff and includes:
 - Command vehicles;
 - Unified command with Whatcom County;
 - U.S. and Canadian border security;
 - Whatcom County Emergency Management;
 - Communication exercises;
 - Command and control exercises; and,
- First Responders from New York were invited, including police officers, fire fighters and a paramedic.

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following:

- An incredible job was done in organizing this annual event
- Well attended by service personnel
- Chief Tim Armstrong is co-Chair this Committee
- The Salvation Army hosted a BBQ during this event

5.2 Cause V Cross Border Experiment “Emergency Preparedness – Mt. Baker”

Chief Tim Armstrong, Fire and Rescue Services Representative, provided the following presentation regarding the cross border experiment:

- Joint venture between the Department of Homeland Security in the U.S., FEMA in the U.S. (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and DRDC (Defence Research Development Canada);
- Experiments are currently being planned and tests will take place in Fall 2017 which will include:
 - A mock eruption of Mount Baker, causing a lahar (?) to travel along the Fraser River eradicating the City of Abbotsford, causing extreme flooding and eliminating all communications;
 - Exercises in communications involving eradicating all forms of communications, including cellular telephones and internet;
 - Will build a cellular network provisionally to determine how quickly a network can be assembled and be operational; and,
 - Geotech computer modeling from the University of Washington will be used.

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

- Primarily a partnership between the Department of Homeland Security in the U.S. and DRDC
- Metro Vancouver has a disaster radio system
- A 3 day course is being offered by Whatcom County Emergency Management and sponsored by Homeland Security for the following dates and topics –
 - Monday October 23, 2017 – Social Media for Disaster Response and Recovery
 - Tuesday October 24, 2017 – Social Media Tools and Techniques
 - Friday October 27, 2017 – Unmanned Aerial Systems and Disaster Response

5.3 Union of British Columbia Municipalities Conference

Councillor Puchmayr, Chair and Council Member, provided the following presentation regarding the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Conference:

- Renewed action from newly elected provincial government to work with local government;
- It was a productive meeting and participants felt it was a positive experience;
- Premier Horgan complimented the City of New Westminster for the work done in the technological industry;
- BC ambulance, emergency and fire services will experience a renewal within the Province; and,
- The Committee is encouraged to pursue initiatives toward efficiencies within these services, for submission to government in obtaining assistance.

5.4 Impacts of False Alarms on Tenants with Mobility challenges (living in multi-unit residences)

Councillor Puchmayr provided the following presentation regarding the impacts of false alarms on tenants with mobility challenges (living in multi-unit residences):

- Has been discussed within the 2017 High-Rise Symposium; and,
- How can instruction on procedures for residents living with mobility challenges to exit their building in the event of an evacuation be provided to individuals.

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

- Individuals with mobility issues or impairments can register with Emergency Response Services as a Location of Interest by phoning 604-519-1000, which will notify responders of the mobility or impairment issue;
- Emergency Response Services is considering Connect Rocket who distributes public messages to parties who register their phone (cellular or home);
- Presently, public announcement systems can be used within buildings providing direction;
- Evacuation exercises need to be reviewed by individuals;
- Each multi family dwelling has a fire safety plan, usually stored in the lobby of the building, that provides all of the building's information, including:
 - First or second stage alarm system

- If the building utilizes a:
 - sprinkling system
 - public announcement communication system
 - firefighters elevator
- Must be updated by the building owners every 5 years
- Advancements in technology will enable the fire safety plan to be stored in a tablet that can be quickly accessed by the dispatch centre.

5.5 St. John Ambulance Dinner

David Lowe, St. John Ambulance Representative, provided the following presentation regarding the St. John Ambulance Dinner:

- Background:
 - There have been discussions on having a Cadet organization within the City
 - Business plans were submitted
 - An authorized Cadet organization has been assembled that includes:
 - 20 children between the ages of 10 and 16 years
 - Will receive training in first aid, leadership and team building
 - Will eventually move into the adult Cadet program
 - The adult Cadets:
 - Complete community work and provide medical support during Remembrance Day Ceremonies
 - Require funding which is obtained through donations and is used for the cost of medical supplies
- Enrollment
 - There are 20 members
 - There is a waiting list of individuals wanting to join
- Funding is required to complete the start-up of the program:
 - Fundraising has never been done previously
 - A fund raising dinner will be held:
 - November 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
 - At the Royal Westminster Armories in a semi military format
 - Cost is \$85 per person and tax receipts will be provided
 - Will include a buffet dinner and wine, catered by Austin Gourmet Caterers
 - The Mayor will be in attendance
 - John Blatherwick, former Chief Medical Officer for the City of Vancouver will be in attendance
 - Peter Julian, NDP MP for the City of New Westminster will be in attendance

5.6 2018 Recruitment

Councillor Puchmayr provided the following presentation regarding recruitment for 2018:

- Forms are ready and are accessible on line on the City site
- Members wishing to continue serving on the Emergency Advisory Committee must reapply
- The deadline to receive applications is November 10, 2017

5.7 Post Emergency Pharmacy Program

Councillor Puchmayr asked the Committee what the requirements were regarding pharmacies and emergency events.

Discussion ensued and the Committee made the following suggestions:

- Meet with:
 - Fraser Health and local pharmacists
 - Most hospitals and pharmacies have a 2 day supply
 - Previously, Emergency Support Services assisted individuals who were displaced, had lost prescriptions and identification, to obtain or renew their prescriptions and identification

Staff will determine what is to occur with the availability and distribution of medicines to the community after a pharmacy has survived an emergency situation.

5.8 Firetruck Update

Councillor Puchmayr advised the Committee that the firetruck was donated to the Ulkatcho First Nation, located in Anahim Lake. The truck was put into action 24 hours later.

5.9 Canadian Fire Chief of the Year 2017

Councillor Puchmayr advised the Committee that Chief Tim Armstrong was named Canadian Fire Chief of the Year 2017.

Congratulations Chief Armstrong!

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 New Westminster Emergency Management Office

Deputy Chief John Hatch, Fire and Rescue Services Representative, provided the following presentation regarding the New Westminster Emergency Management Office:

- In 2016 the Strata President for #10 and #12 Laguna Court was asked to participate in a simulated evacuation exercise of their high rise and low rise buildings and:
 - An evacuation will take place on Saturday October 21, 2017 at 09:00 for 1.5 hours
 - Will simulate a fire on the 12th floor of the 22nd storey high rise
 - Both low rise and high rise occupants have been invited to participate
- Objective:
 - To provide a simulated fire in a high rise building
 - Emergency Management will take command and control and:
 - Initiate the life safety systems in the building including:
 - Securing the elevators
 - Pressurizing the stairwells
 - Sending firefighters to recon the fire area
 - Commence a systematic evacuation utilizing the public address system
 - Identifying residents with mobility issues and ensure that this information is maintained in the fire safety plan
 - Residents will be provided with feedback
 - Emergency Management personnel will provide their input

6.2 New Westminster Fire Services – 2017 Greater Vancouver Fire Chiefs Association High Rise Symposium

Deputy Chief John Hatch, Fire and Rescue Services Representative, provided the following presentation regarding the New Westminster Fire Services – 2017 Greater Vancouver Fire Chiefs Association High Rise Symposium:

- The Greater Vancouver Fire Chiefs Association hosted the High Rise Symposium on October 4th and 5th, 2017
- Was held at the Anvil Centre
- Chief Tim Armstrong is the President of the Greater Vancouver Fire Chiefs Association
- Objective:
 - Identifying:
 - issues within high rises

- community resources available from neighboring communities
 - Neighboring communities to provide assistance to
- 161 delegates, presenters, sponsors and vendors attended from throughout North America
- Two guest speakers were involved
- The second half of the second day of the symposium included a simulated fire within a high rise building and:
 - the use of electronic software which teaches Fire Officers how to address this type of event
 - The use of an electronic command and control board to account for firefighters and outside agencies utilized as support

Discussion ensued and the Committee made the following comments:

- The Metrotown area contains 20+ high rises
- High frequency event due to the number of staff needed to manage a high rise fire
- Additional funds have been implemented to allow for cross border training
- Want to see the use of technology to store and provide information relating to high rises accessible to emergency services
- Look at software for:
 - Building plans and preplanning of emergency services
 - The use with inspections and pre-planning

MOVED AND SECONDED

That the Restorative Justice Committee recommends that a software application be utilized in conjunction with building plans for the use of emergency services' inspections and preplanning.

CARRIED.

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

6.3 New Westminster Police Services

This item was tabled.

6.4 Fraser Health Service

This item was tabled.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

January 10, 2018 at 5:00 p.m., location to be determined

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Certified Correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Chair

ORIGINAL SIGNED

April Darke, Committee Clerk