

EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 7, 2015 - 5:00 p.m.
City Hall EOC 1 Meeting Room
Notes

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair
David Lowe	- St John Ambulance
Amy Van Sickle	- Community Member
Pastor Sharon Tidd	- Salvation Army
Cheryl Rogers	- Community Member
Glen Henderson	- School Board Representative

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Doug Templeton	- School Board Representative
Deirdre McLachlan	- Fraser Health Representative
Mark Hollett	- Community Member
Nathan Blackstock	- BC Ambulance Representative
Captain Robert Pettigrew	- Royal Westminster Regiment
Sonny Johal	- Community Member
Jon Evans	- Community Member

GUEST:

Steve Reed	- BC Ambulance Representative
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STAFF:

Cory Hansen	- Secretary
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 Minutes of October 8, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Emergency Advisory Committee meeting held on October 8, 2014 be received and adopted

CARRIED.

All members of Commission voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Cold Weather Response Discussion (Cory McLaren)

Cory McLaren, Emergency Planning Assistant reviewed a meeting which was held between NW Fire & Rescue, NW Emergency Management Office, NW Police, NW Engineering and NW Electrical, to discuss cold weather response within New Westminster. Items brought forward from the meeting included the following:

- A resource list needs to be created not only to aid during an emergency but to help during EOC activations. This list would include what we currently have in the City as an asset/resource, as well as what businesses, agencies, organizations can provide us with resources during this type of response.
- Identify the key skill sets that staff have in the City
- Communication with departments to work as unified command at an incident.
- Creating plans with other agencies for the future- Salvation Army, Red Cross, St. John Ambulance.

The Chair, advised that the shelters during cold weather response have been full this year, compared to last year where there were vacancies. Tim Armstrong, Fire Chief New Westminster Fire & Rescue Services discussed using the skill sets in the community, as most people come forward in an emergency and ask where they can assist, having a list of community skill sets, would be a great resource in an emergency. Creating a list prior to an emergency or event would be beneficial.

The Fire Chief will be updating Council and ask that identified staff be assigned to the City's Emergency Operations Centre during an EOC Activation. The Fire Chief will also

be requesting that the staff person assigned during an emergency event be dedicated for the entire EOC activation, and are not to return to their regular position until the emergency or event is concluded. The Chair discussed the possibility of Emergency Management drawing from the community volunteers to help set up the Emergency Operations Centre if necessary. The committee discussed approaching ESS to assist with the EOC during an incident.

Glen Henderson, Representative from New Westminster School District stated that there are potential resources the School District could offer if needed, as they also have carpenters and other trades. The Chair proposed having future discussions with the school district on this topic, and that it is great to have a representative from the School District on this Committee.

5.2 Princess Street Fire – Cold Weather Evacuation (Deputy Chief John Hatch)

The Fire Chief provided an overview of an incident that occurred on Princess Street December 2nd, 2014. The problem: no maintenance completed on the electrical components in the building. The electrical switch caught fire, switching to a backup generator, but unfortunately this was damaged leaving the building without back up power, hvac, or pressurized stairwells. The average age of the occupants in the building was over seventy years old, and many residents had mobility problems. NW Fire & Rescue Services, along with ESS and NW Police went door to door and advised residents to shelter in place.

New West Fire & Rescue Services purchased temporary lighting from Lowes and lit the stairwells for safer access. A request was placed for chair cots from BC Ambulance as there were approximately 20 people that would need help evacuating the building. It took 6-7 hours to evacuate residents out of the building. Residents were relocated with family members, friends and or hotel; the residents were out of their building for a total of seven days, as the restoration contractor cleaned and made repairs. A challenge was explaining to the elderly that they had to vacate the building.

The Fire Chief made reference to the New Westminster Fire & Rescue Services Taskforce, advised that they will be working with stratas and high rise buildings to ensure that there is an accurate list of residents in each of the building, the fire safety plan is updated and that keys are maintained so that fire dept. can gain access to all the necessary areas if required. The Fire Chief referenced updating fire bylaws for building requirements.

5.3 Status of new EOC (Cory McLaren)

The Emergency Planning Assistant provided a brief PowerPoint Presentation on the activation of the Emergency Operations Center and the floor plan for a Level Two and Three activation. The Emergency Planning Assistant demonstrated a pelican case from the Operations Section to review with the committee what each section has for supplies. The Chief discussed that in the near future we will have the committee come and view the EOC setup during a future meeting date.

5.4 Evacuation Planning Quayside

The Fire Chief advised the committee, currently the Fire Department is working on a comprehensive evacuation plan for the Quayside area. This plan will include an exercise that is specific to evacuation and or sheltering in place. We will be creating the evacuation plan with the Residents Association in the Quayside Community. The Committee discussed mass communication and types of information which can be provided during an emergency event.

5.5 Lower Mainland Local Government Association Convention (Councillor Puchmayr)

The Chair advised at the next Lower Mainland Local Government Convention in Harrison the topic: how local governments prepare to interface with senior levels of government. There will be several expert speakers at the convention, including a representative from the flood in Calgary. The Chair advised that this will occur the 2nd week of May.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1. New Westminster Emergency Management Office

No further report.

6.2 New Westminster Fire Services

The Fire Chief stated a new collective bargaining settlement has been reached between the union local 256 and will be in place until 2019. There will be some changes to incident response and the staffing of apparatus. The Chair referenced Delta Fire Department received a 2.5 annual wage increase. The Chair was pleased with the decision.

6.3 Fraser Health Service

Not present at this time.

Steve Reed, BCAS representative stated hospitals are currently overloaded; with patients. Many people have contracted influenza which has progressed to chest infections. People need to be a more proactive with their health. The representative currently has no new information regarding new buildings for BCAS. The Fire Chief referenced using a possible depot system and if this was an option discussed. The BCAS representative replied that there currently are no plans in place at this time.

6.4 New Westminster Police Services

Not present at this time.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. Next meeting March 11, 2015 TBA