



MINUTES

Monday, March 20, 2023

Rosemont District Fire Board

10:00 am

Present: Elaine Capes-Chair-Town of Mono Julius Lachs-Vice Chair-Adjala-Tosorontio
Patricia Clark – Township of Mulmur Earl Hawkins - Township of Mulmur
Ronald O’Leary – Adjala-Tosorontio
Mike Blacklaws - Fire Chief Chris Armstrong - Deputy Fire Chief
Heather Boston - Secretary-Treasurer
Absent: Melinda Davie – Town of Mono

1) **Call to order by the Secretary/Treasurer:** The Secretary/Treasurer called the meeting to order at 9:58 am

2) Appointment of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

Moved by: O’Leary/Hawkins

THAT Elaine Capes be appointed as Chair, Julius Lachs be appointed as Vice Chair and that Heather Boston be appointed as the Secretary/ Treasurer.

CARRIED.

3) Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Clark/Lachs

THAT the March 20, 2023, Rosemont Fire Board agenda be approved as amended to include item 7 being the Presentation made by Andy Kennedy, item 9 e) being the Fire Chief’s Year End Report 2022, and item 9 f) being Land Acknowledgement.

CARRIED.

4) Approval of previous meeting minutes

Moved by: Lachs/O’Leary

THAT the minutes of November 30, 2022, are approved as copied and circulated.

CARRIED.

5) Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

The Chair stated that if any member of the Board has a pecuniary interest, they may declare the nature thereof now or at any time during the meeting.

6) Public Question Period - None

7) Presentation - Andy Kennedy

a) Benefits

- Look at recruitment and retention strategies.
- Five new recruits hired in 2023.
- Some recruits don't qualify and some don't pass physical.
- Orangeville is having retentions and recruitment issues.
- 1/3 of firefighters are self-employed or in jobs without benefits.
- Volunteer Firefighters get VFIS insurance which includes Life and AD&D insurance, and they also have an Employee Assistance Program.
- Risks to firefighters covered with VFIS and WSIB.
- 30% cut in pay with WSIB.
- Secretary to look in WSIB Coverage as Board is paying maximum WSIB amount.
- Would like to investigate comprehensive benefit plan or a self-funded plan, dental and medical.
- Suggested a graduated scale dependent on service to cover self-funded plan.
- Hope that it would reduce ongoing issues that would take firefighters out of service.
- Could help to increased attendance knowing that benefits are based on service.
- Secretary to look into benefit coverage costs and bring back a report to the next meeting.
- Shelburne and Mulmur Melancthon Fire Departments do not have benefits.
- What happens to fire fighters that have coverage already?
- Firefighters could pay for benefits themselves.
- Compare family vs single coverage.
- May want to look at benefits for all three Boards together in a bigger plan.
- Rosemont has 26 - 30 firefighters.
- Secretary to bring a report back to the Board first and then consider including other fire departments.

8) Treasury

a) Approval of Accounts

Motion by: Clark/Lachs

THAT the accounts as presented in the amount of \$198,016.67 are ordered paid.

CARRIED.

9) Administration

a) Tanker Quotes

i) Quote from Midwest Fire for \$452,452.00 USD

Motion by: O'Leary/Clark

THAT the Board approve the purchase of a new tanker from Midwest Fire at a cost of \$452,452.00 USD.

CARRIED.

b) COVID Policy

- Enquiry from resident if policy will now be rescinded.
- Policy requires that all new recruits be vaccinated for COVID-19.
- Chief will send Secretary a copy of the policy and it will be reviewed at future meeting.

c) Incident Summary 2023

Motion by: Lachs/Clark

THAT the Board receive the Fire Chief's Incident Summary 2023.

CARRIED.

d) Fire Chief General Update

- Compressor has been delivered and in process of getting hooked up.
- \$3500 raised at annual Caleigh.
- Pancake supper \$1000.
- Fire Department has been advertising public safety announcements on 104.9 FM radio.
- Working on engineering for storage container structure and that will go to Dufferin County for consideration and permit.

e) Fire Chief's Year End Report 2022

- 104 calls this year.
- During COVID calls dropped drastically.
- \$1.6 million in losses due to structural fires.
- Went into a training agreement with Adj/Tos at a cost of \$3500 per firefighter at the Fire Academy.
- Board may ask questions at next meeting after reviewing report.

Motion by: Hawkins/O’Leary

THAT the Board receive the Fire Chief’s Year-end Report 2022 as information.

CARRIED.

f) Land Acknowledgement

- Direction was given by the Board that the Secretary to bring back a couple of examples to the next meeting.

10) Closed Session

Closed session pursuant to the *Municipal Act*, 2001 S.O. 2001, Chapter 25, Section 239 (2) (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board.

Moved by: O’Leary/Hawkins

THAT the Rosemont District Fire Board move into Closed Session pursuant to Section 239 (2) (e) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, as amended at 11:27 a.m. for the following reasons: litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board.

CARRIED.

Moved by: Clark/Lachs

THAT the Board rise out of the closed session and into open session at 11:52 a.m. with the following motions/directions:

THAT the Fire Chief proceed as discussed in closed session.

CARRIED.

11) Adjournment

Moved by: O’Leary/Clark

THAT the meeting adjourn at 11:54 a.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

CARRIED.

Approved by:

Chair

Secretary/Treasurer