



MINUTES

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

ZONE 1 MEETING

Host: Blandford-Blenheim Agricultural Hall

Oct. 10, 2013

Members in attendance:

Rick Arnel	Chatham-Kent/2 nd VP-OAFC	Rick Richardson	Blandford-Blenheim
Dave Sutton	LaSalle	Walt Anderson	St. Clair Twp.
Lawrence Swift	Petrolia	Steve Bicum	St. Clair Twp
Tom Gibson	Strathroy-Caradoc	Arend Noordhof	Adelaide-Metcalf
Dale Stacey	Strathroy Caradoc	Raymond Dodmon	Southwest Middlesex
John McFarlan	Zorra	John Holmes	Ingersoll
Scott Alexander	East Zorra-Tavistock	John Kingyens	Sarnia
Wayne Shipley	Middlesex Centre	Jeff Smith	Tillsonburg
Don Crocker	Central Elgin	Terry Saelens	Tillsonburg
Randy Kalan	Thames Centre	Nelly Green	OFM
Bob Parsons	Nowich Twp		

Guest: Doug Goodings OFM

1. Greetings

OAFC 2nd VP Rick Arnel chaired the meeting at the request of Zone Rep. John Kobarda who was unexpected absent due to emergency needs in his municipality.

The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 1015 hrs. and introduced host Chief Rick Richardson who welcomed members to the community and their great agricultural hall facility

2. Guest Speaker

Doug Goodings, OFM Manager of Academic Standards & Evaluation provided a comprehensive update on the status of the gap analysis and the transition of the Ontario firefighter training curricula to the NFPA standards. Doug presented information on the following main points of interest:

The Grandfathering Policy to grant equivalency based on current education and experience is now in the hands of stakeholder groups with a deadline for comment of Oct. 15.

Immediately following this comment period all Fire Chiefs will receive details and instructions on the Grandfathering Policy via Communique

In most cases current certifications will be correspond with NFPA level II equivalencies, with the exception of the Fire Prevention Officer program which will receive level I equivalency

New NFPA pilot courses will begin as early as November & December with full implementation of NFPA course offerings beginning in 2014

Provincial Evaluators will be required to complete skills evaluations for Firefighter I & II elements, in a similar fashion to the T/F program in the Ontario curriculum. A series of 1 day workshops are running at the Fire College the week of Nov 18-22 to qualify Provincial Evaluators. In the first part of 2014 regional or district courses will be conducted to qualify local Provincial Evaluators. It was noted that an Evaluator for a specific skill is not permitted to be involved in the “hands-on” training of the candidates to be evaluated but local departments can share or interchange Evaluators

Grandfathering Window will be open till Dec.31 2015 for departments to apply for equivalency for existing staff

Effective Apr. 1 2014, an updated “Legislation” course similar to the previous CO/FPO 101 course will be mandatory for all firefighters and Pre-Service students in the province. This course will address specific Ontario content not included in NFPA standards

Drafting of the 2014 Course Calendar will begin the week of Oct. 15. At this point its difficult to estimate a release date or course registration dates due to internal reorganizations

In cases of specific department needs during the transition and grandfathering phase, please contact Doug Goodings for assistance

It has recently been announced that The Ontario Fire College, as well as the Ontario Police College and the Correctional Services College, are now collectively part of the *Public Safety Training Division*, of the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services

Doug candidly responded to questions from members present regarding cancellation of many scheduled courses at the Fire College and the frequent short notice of the cancellations. The frustration is understood & the primary reasons for the cancellations are the realignment of the former courses with the NFPA standards. In some cases the content of scheduled courses is not included in the NFPA equivalent program so some of the courses have become redundant. The other contributing factor is that many departments have opted to wait for the transition to be completed and have been cancelling attendance at scheduled courses. Given the staffing challenges, the transition to NFPA, the reorganizations of the OFM and EMO, as well as the internal reorganization of the Public Safety Training Division & its affect on the Fire College, staff are attempting to be as responsive the Fire Service as possible

3. O.F.M. Update

OFM Advisor Nelly Green provided the following updates from the OFM

OFMEM Staffing Changes

- Asst/Deputy Fire Marshal – Barney Owens (Dir. of Ops – “EMO”): 33 years with OPS; over 20 years in Emergency Mgmt) [replacing Trevor Bain who has left to accept a D/C position with Sudbury Fire and Paramedic Services]
- A/ADFM- Exec Officer – Pierre Yelle
- A/ADFM – Fire Protection Services – Art Booth
- A/Ops Mgr NE - PS Monique Belair
- **OFMEM Integration**
- Officially announced Aug. 15th, 2013
- Relocation of OFMEM HQ to Forensic Services and Coroner’s Complex at corner of Wilson Ave. and Keele St. in Toronto
- Fire Marshal has been meeting with Joint OFMEM Senior Exec Committee to identify and validate corporate priorities, business lines, org structure, etc.
- Sept. 11-12 - OFMEM staff conducted first joint deployment in support of communities impacted by flooding in Northern Ontario
- Deployed “EMO” field staff will be utilizing “OFM” regional offices
- Shared training to begin (“EMO” staff will be attending “OFM” fall training sessions)
- Invitation has been extended to OFM staff to attend “EMO” regional meetings
- 3 new high-level positions being discussed: Deputy, Response – Deputy, Field and Advisory Services – Deputy, Prevention and Risk Mgmt
- **Establishing and Regulating By-Laws**
- Update to include ‘core services’ delivered
- Your training program should reflect core services provided as approved by council

4. O.A.F.C. Board Update

2nd V.P. Rick Arnel provided the following update to members on current issues being addressed by the OAFB executive board:

- T.A.C. update
 - A 1 day seminar has been added to the upcoming Mid-term meeting in Niagara Falls to provide training and clarification on the OFC requirements resulting from the Technical Advisory Committee recommendations regarding vulnerable occupancies and care facilities
 - Also included in the 1 day seminar will be a workshop on the Integrated Risk Management tool. It is expected that the IRM will be distributed for use by the end of 2013
 - The OAFC is recommending a similar Technical Advisory Committee approach to adequately address concerns regarding mid-rise construction methods
 - Propane legislation is now moving to include RSMP process for installations under 5,000 gal water equiv. Ted Bryan & Frank Lamie are working on the process for the OAFC board
 - The OAFC has been approached by the Sprinkler fitters association for support in implementing a certification process for their trade
- Elliot Lake Coroners Inquest
 - inquest has just concluded
 - Hicks/Morely was retained to represent the OAFC interests
- LODD Assistance program
 - information will be provided at the Mid-term meeting regarding a launch of a program requested by the membership to assist affected by Line of Duty Deaths
 - the program will be implemented by Zones
- Candidate Testing
 - the board is working on releasing an RFP to establish a program that would consolidate all pre-employment testing for career departments
 - OAFC will be seeking expressions of commitment from career departments that are interested in using the service
 - interest has been expressed among some volunteer departments for a similar process and the board will attempt to model an appropriate process once the career process is established
- A.M.E.S.
 - change in format was discussed with the move to the Congress Center
 - this venue will provide for better accommodation of our needs and more room for growth of the event
 - discussions have been ongoing regarding the feasibility and possibility of the public educators group joining the conference
- Legislation
 - CO legislation to be effective in December & inserted retroactively into the code
 - new OFC to be released in July with over 300 new amendments
- OFM/MOL Outreach Strategy
 - OFM & MOL have partnered to deliver a “Perspectives of Compliance for the Fire

Service” series of presentations to regional AMCTO meetings across the province
-Zone 1 offering is at the AMCTO meeting at the London Convention Centre on Nov. 15

5. Regional Issues – Round Table

R. Richardson - Blanford-Blenheim

- new station opened in Plattsville
- new pumper on order
- JTAG (joint training action group) in region is up and running & working very well

B. Parsons – Norwich Twp.

- working to standardize training throughout department & among stations

W. Anderson – St. Clair Twp.

- Chief Roy Dewhirst has retired, a retirement celebration is being planned for Nov. 23, details will be circulated through departments as available
- all else going well

L. Swift – Petrolia

- department has launch a capital fundraising campaign which is generating enthusiasm
- have implemented a J.T.A.G. training group in the area & are beginning the first recruit class

T. Gibson – Strathroy-Caradoc

- have taken delivery of new pumper/tanker and tanker trucks, pleased with both trucks from Metal-Fab
- dept used an open RFP process this time for suitable demo or stock trucks to reduce costs and delivery times. Was well pleased with response from vendors & felt the process served their needs as planned

J. Holmes – Ingersoll

- new truck on order
- seeking advice & recommendations regarding replacement of SCBA's. Please forward any assistance or information you may have

S. Alexander – E. Zorra-Tavistock

- taken delivery of new tanker. Large truck but very manouverable. Vendor worked well with their needs
- recent MVC with poultry truck – had to work with police & truck owner re concerns over animal rights activists gaining access to scene & using it for protest

R. Dodman – Southwest Middlesex

- looking to replace rescue unit with a mini-rescue model
- air monitoring concerns re cattle rescue in a large below-grade manure pit

A. Noordhof – Adelaide-Metcalf

- experiencing dispatch issues in the region with reports & proposals circulating between upper & lower tiers of governments

W. Shipley – Middlesex Centre

- Master Fire plan recently completed & released recommending closure of 1 station
- posting for full-time Fire Chief position

R. Kalan – Thames Centre

- part of the same regional dispatch as discussed by Adelaide-Metcalf
- currently working on a proposal to set up & operate their own separate dispatch system
- Council has acquired land to replace an outlying station in remote area
- scheduled truck replacement has been delayed
- introduced a fire prevention week program aimed at babysitters in Gr. 6,7 &8

J. Smith – Tillsonburg

- introduction & welcome to new Deputy Chief Terry Saelens
- will be working on strategic planning in the new year
- providing temporary assistance to Bayham Twp. as requested until Chief position is filled

J. Kingyens – Sarnia

- recently promoted internal Deputy Chief Bryan VanGaber
- have ordered a new engine & SCBA replacements
- 1 older station undergoing renovations
- working on a strategic plan for the department

D. Crocker – Central Elgin

- 2 recent marine rescue – 1 very challenging involving a parasailer onto the rocks in Lake Erie
- moving toward a fully digital county-wide communications system with 7 municipalities, expected to be implemented over the next year
- HCN monitor training and awareness being expanded to paramedics & hospital ER's
- new psychiatric & criminal justice centre is being completed near station. Very large facility & have worked with contractors to have fire separations & fire protection elements labelled in the ceiling spaces above drop ceiling with reference to the drawings
- Council has approved a pump & rescue
- requesting care & maintenance documents or standard for wood axes. Please forward any information available

J. McFarlan – Zorra

- property has been purchased & working on plans for a new station in Thamesford
- a new tanker is scheduled to be purchased for the new station
- also pleased with the implementation of the J.T.A.G. training group

D. Sutton – LaSalle

- completed move into new station
- new 4yr. collective agreement recently ratified
- tenders being issued for new pumper
- requested information regarding any Trench Rescue Ops. Courses or T/T Trench courses being offered
- starting to look for replacement rescue vessel. Any contacts for suitable new or surplus/used utility boats would be appreciated

R. Arnel – Chatham-Kent

- new Fire Chief Ken Steubing has assumed his duties
- on-going truck replacements
- asked for information & assistance in the proper bylaw response on the flying lantern issue
- Rick expressed his thanks to the members for their support of the OAFC executive board and the current initiatives. The board continues to put in many hours and work diligently on our behalf

6. New Business / Resolutions

-D. Crocker suggests a resolution regarding OAFC action on the ban of flying lanterns. R. Arnel advises that a resolution was supported at A.M.E.S. in that regard and a letter has been sent to the Minister responsible.

-There being no further was adjourned at approximately 1400 hrs.

7. Next Meeting

Chief Randy Kalan volunteered to host the spring Zone 1 meeting in Thames Centre.

Date and location to be confirmed