



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs PAC 10A Meeting Minutes

Ear Falls Municipal Office, 2 Willow Crescent, Ear Falls
September 29, 2018
10:00

Participants: Rob Favot, Warren Brinkman, Barry Bennett, Todd Burkart, Rob Berube, Walter Scarrow, Jason Colvin, Thomas Choong, Todd Skene, Todd Montgomery, Kurt Schmidt, Darren Froome, Darryl Desjardins – Co-Chair, Richard Wetelainen - Chair, Cora MacRae – Secretary/Treasurer

Regrets: Tim Beebe (OFC), Craig Marek (Kenora Ambulance Dispatch)

Guests: Jim Desmarais, Ear Falls councilor, Malcolm Robertson, MNRF

Minute Taker: Cora MacRae

1. Welcome - 10:06 meeting called to order by Chair Richard Wetelainen, moment of silence
Greetings on behalf of the Mayor and Council of Ear Falls, Jim Desmarais
 2. Introductions of all present
 3. Agenda Additions – Darryl Desjardins, addition of elections
Accept agenda as presented – Jason Colvin, 2nd Darren Froome
 4. Minutes of previous meeting, October 17, 2017 accepted – Darryl, 2nd Walter
Matters arising from the minutes – Todd Burkart, email is incorrect
 5. Guest – Malcolm Robertson, MNRF: It was a busy fire season, both in the number of fires and the hectares. The current government has frozen all spending. There will be funds available in the future to municipalities for community wild fire protection plans, which does not have to be completed by municipal staff, trained individuals are available to complete this. Fire departments are failing to invoice MNRF for fires attended in the unincorporated areas, these should be sent immediately after responding to a fire. Dave Cleaveley will be retiring in October 2018, there is no plan to replace him, it will be a rotating acting position. It is the hope that whomever is fulfilling the role in the spring 2019 will attend the mutual aid meeting.
- 5.2 OFMEM – no representation or report sent. Cora to request from Larry Lundy
5.3 OFC – email report from Tim Beebe shared through Todd Skene, see attached
5.4 Kenora Ambulance Dispatch – send their regrets, a reminder to all – Advisory committee meeting will be October 29, 2018 at 1200 hours, Kenora Seven Generations



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs PAC 10A Meeting Minutes

6. Unfinished business:
The purchase of public education material;
Darryl displayed the custom books he had designed on behalf of the mutual aid association. 1000 custom adult books were produced, as well as non-custom children's books at a cost of \$2500. Of that cost, MNRF has promised a contribution of \$1500. A discussion regarding the distribution was held, whether they would be kept in the trailer or in central locations such as Dryden and Kenora. It was decided some stock would be kept in the trailer as well as a box in Dryden and Kenora for the area departments.
Outstanding item: the purchase of children's bunker gear to accompany the trailer. Todd Skene will reach out to Transcanada Pipelines to support this venture. It was a unanimous vote to spend up to \$1200 towards this project.
Warren Brinkman suggested the possibility of advertising on behalf of the whole Kenora Mutual Aid Association on the local radio station, throughout the year, not just during fire prevention week. It was the feel that the cost of this would be inhibitive, Warren will approach Q104 for pricing.
7. Financial Statement: currently \$15,682 in the account. Expenditures have been: \$40 – City of Kenora for expense of the trailer, \$2,102.47 costs related to the purchase of Sparky that goes with the trailer
Overdue membership fees: Cora to send another email to depts that have not paid for 2018.
Discussion regarding the use of the trailer, if depts that have not paid should be able to use the trailer, also if the trailer contents have insurance. Cora to investigate this.
8. a) Public education – nothing
b) training – Darryl suggested KDMA support training in the area. Discussion regarding this topic and how it would be approved for a financial contribution while meeting our mandate. Decided if a dept is hosting a training session that is open to the region, they can send a request to the board, it would be a minimal contribution such as a coffee break covered.
c) communications – keep depts updated on training sessions planned via email. There will be some radio outages in the future from Bell, email has been sent from CACC. Some depts areas are still without 911 such as Reddit and Minaki, they have no radio communication with CACC once they have been dispatched.
d) dispute – none
e) equipment – 2019 purchases, no group purchases planned
9. Zone reports: Kenora – in the process of recruiting, plan to hire 8-10 volunteers. Firefighter 1 will be offered again in November. Organizing public education for Fire Prevention Week.
Received new aerial platform in June.
McKenzie-Clearwater – currently setting up 911 for their area.
Longbow Lake – ongoing volunteer recruitment and retention issues. Requested mutual aid from Kenora twice in 2018. Had some significant wildfires that brought in revenue from MNRF.



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs PAC 10A Meeting Minutes

Pellatt – extended a thank you for rescheduling the spring meeting to accommodate the memorial service for long time member, Patricia, she is missed greatly by Pellatt dept. The dept received a ¾ ton truck from TransCanada Pipelines. Had the assistance of MNRF for investigations into wildfires. Retention is an ongoing issue with currently 18 members. 911 addressing is complete, signs are in place and call taking will be activated December 5.

Redditt – Thomas Choong has been appointed as Fire Chief as of July 28, is a newer member to the dept. He is currently learning the steps necessary and has had one meeting with NFPP advisor, Brad Welkyi.

Zone 2, Red Lake – has been busy, had two house fires this spring. They are currently recruiting, a full complement for the dept would be 65, currently under 50. The Madison fire hall is currently temporarily closed due to membership numbers and the truck has been moved. Red lake still has a few trucks that are 30 years old.

Ear Falls – having an average year, mostly highway calls. Recruit/retention is always an issue. Currently planning for Fire Prevention Week. They have applied for a Firesmart clean up grant. Fort Garry firetrucks is currently building them a pumper/tanker.

Zone 3, Dryden – had a very political year, currently using a Work Experience model with 4 contractors that work 4 on, 4 off, 12-hour shifts. The contractors help out where needed; equipment, training, public education. Just completed a demanding recruit class, of the 18 applicants, 11 completed, some are still in the process of completing. Both halls have a complement of 15 members that the recruits will join. In 2018, new bunker gear was purchased as well as SCBA bottles.

Sioux Lookout – currently 24 firefighters with 4 on the waiting list at Hall 1, due to low numbers at Hall 2, Hall 1 is attending those calls as well. There is a new CEMC in Lac Seul, they had a fire on the first nation, but Sioux Lookout did not respond as there is no agreement in place. There was a complaint which went to Fire Marshal, Ross Nichols. Lac Seul now has a trainer in place. Sioux purchased a second hand six seat aerial, new gear last year and looking at a new pumper.

Machin – still has no Chief, two Deputies fulfilling the role as well as an administrative assistant. They are working through Resource One with their team and new recruits, have a core group of 8 dedicated members responding and training. They are trying to organize social events to keep interest in the group, they did a dept survey that touched on equipment, training and social aspect.

Ignace – call volume is average, MTO calls are up to 40, recently hired 2 new recruits and purchased a new recue truck last year.

Wabigoon – Allan is recruiting, currently have 18 members. They are also using Resource One for training. Had a large lodge fire on Thunder Lake that they received assistance from MNRF tankers to contain. The OFMEM completed the simplified risk assessment this year, which is new. Have been told this will determine the needs for equipment in the area. Richard had a meeting with Art Booth, he says they have a plan, but the pressure will be on the depts to get and keep members. The concerns of NFPP have been brought to the attention of OFMEM.



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs PAC 10A Meeting Minutes

10. CAFC/OAFC updates –

- MTO – The no service call issue is surfacing again, particularly in the southern region; along with billing issues. Thames Centre will be bringing this up at AMO. Richard advised the OAFC has sent a letter requesting a meeting with the Minister of Transportation, which has been read by the Chief of Staff. Brad Bigrigg received a call from his contact, Sandra Bailey, regarding the same. It is still an outstanding issue, we continue to push for resolution.

- Bill 148 - Richard advised this is also a topic for the meeting with the Minister of Labour. Departments are still struggling with the three-hour pay when called in. We have received feedback from Hicks Morley and the question is: Do departments have to pay the three hours? There is no clear definitive answer currently, and the OAFC is seeking clarification on this.

- WSIB – Richard advised that we will be looking for a representative from the volunteer side to sit on this working group regarding PTSD. We already have representation from the Large Urban and Urban groups.

Update regarding regulations – a group of Northern CAO's went to AMO meetings asking to have the regulations cancelled and have gained traction, it hasn't happened yet, they are working on some modifications such as an extension of time. There is a meeting scheduled for October 20 with OAFC regarding the regulations. Fire Chiefs need to organize to have continuity of training throughout the depts, but need changes, such as grandfathering and an extension of time. As for the reporting aspect of the regulations, they are working on a template that would unify what is reported by all depts.

11. Firecon – another successful year, new board is: Warren Brinkman, Walter Scarrow, Todd Skene, Tim Irish, Jan Morrison, Josh Colling and John Hay.

12.1 Naloxone kits – fire depts are only carrying these to use on their own members while on duty in the event they are exposed.

12.2 Mandatory certification – covered under PAC update

12.3 PAC Committee zone 10 – it was decided to submit our minutes as PAC mtg with OAFC

12.4 MOL – Discussion regarding high visibility vests being worn by firefighters, as Dryden recently received a warning and has changed their guidelines after reading Section 21, #6-1

12.5 MTO invoicing – covered under PAC update

12.6 DZ licensing – covered under PAC update

13. Next meeting: Saturday, April 27, 2019 to be held Wabigoon.

Todd Skene adjourned the meeting at 1426 hours.

Seconded by: Todd Montgomery