



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) Area 2 Meeting Minutes

Face-to-face, 167 Mountain Street, Grimsby, ON
Friday, April 13, 2018
9:00am

Participants:

Jeff McCormick	Rob Grimwood	Rodger Hill
Frank Biancucci	Nick Ruller	Terry Dicks
Dave Upper	Mike Cain	Dave Cunliffe
Jim Boutilier	Bill Thomson	Stephen Miller
Jo Zambito	Greg Hudson	Dan Milovanovic
Phil Ross	Bill Blake	Mike Seth
Brian Kennedy	Dennis Fisher	Geoff Hayman
Adam Eckhart	Bob Lymburner	Brad Bigrigg
Brian Dickson	Jeremy Inglis	Tom Cartwright
Mike Bendia	Jason Gallagher	Richard Boyes

Regrets: Shane Caskenette, Ed Melanson, Gord Stilwell

Guests: Rick Finnemore, OFMEM

Minute Taker: Erin Walsh

1. **Welcome** – Chief Grimwood, PAC 2 Leader, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Introductions** –
 - Haldimand: Jason Gallagher (first PAC area meeting)
 - Wainfleet: Brad Bigrigg, Interim Chief for the Township of Wainfleet
3. **Agenda Additions** – Richard Boyes to provide OAFC update.
4. **Declaration/Deputations** – It was noted that only OAFC members are allowed to participate during PAC update.
5. **OFMEM Update** – (Rick Finnemore)
 - Staffing vacancies:
 - Deputy Fire Marshal – Intended fill date is end of April 2018



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) Area 2 Meeting Minutes

- Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal
- Lyle Quan is now manager of Academic Standards and Evaluation (AS&E)
- Posting of Principle position is complete
- Mike Potvin contract extended until September 2018
- Posting of Chief of Emergency Management – Position closed in Feb, no notice on candidate(s) selection
- OFM looking at the avenue of advisors to be dedicated to every community.
- Grandfathering
 - Persons must have been qualified/met requirements by the original date in order to be eligible for grandfathering this time around.
- The following resources are available online on the OFMEM website:
 - College Calendar
 - Ontario Reg's (*available as of July 31, 2018*)
 - Pub Ed – New Release
- Deadline is April 30, 2018 for Fire Safety Award nominations.
- Mutual Aid Plan
 - Working on finalizing it, with lots of changes implemented.
- Fire Safety Planning Seminars are being offered as webinars.
 - Any seminars opportunities should be brought to OFM.
 - Hosting suggested for GRTC.
- Concerns over Wainfleet
 - The three Coordinators discussed the previous notice sent to OFMEM re: Wainfleet.
 - **Question:** Under the auspice of the Fire Marshal, if something happens when out for liability, is the Fire Marshal "it" as opposed to the coordinators when it comes to dealing with these issues?
 - **Answer:** Clause in mutual aid agreement that written notice must be sent to Fire Marshal, and Coordinators are indemnified under the Act (can negotiate on behalf of their area).
 - There was consensus that the OFMEM needs to step in and mandate a level of compliance and state current level of fire protection.
 - Issue recommended to be taken higher within the OFMEM as nothing is being done.
 - It was discussed that Wainfleet in particular keeps going through the same process and netting the same results.
 - The question of culpability in a scenario when someone dies was discussed. It was noted that the issue is also impacting neighbouring communities/townships under fire protection agreements.



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) Area 2 Meeting Minutes

- It was noted that the lack of movement by OFMEM is causing turmoil and putting municipalities at risk.
- The group noted that the next correspondence sent will go directly to Fire Marshal and provincial government representatives.
- It was discussed that the OFMEM needed to be more firm as fire protection agreements and Mutual Aid agreements are at risk.
- There was a discussion about a meeting with Niagara Chiefs and Mike Potvin being necessary.
- It was decided that these issues need to be discussed at Regional Chiefs meeting, which Haldimand will be added to (April 17, 2018 at noon at 1932 Welland Canal Pkwy).

6. OAFIC Update (Richard Boyes) –

- Richard reviewed the appointment of an Interim Chief in Wainfleet.
 - A member approached OAFIC asking for help with finding a replacement for his role once he left the position.
 - OAFIC, through the Ontario Fire Administration Inc. (OFAI), worked with Wainfleet municipality, which resulted in the temporary appointment of Brad Bigirigg as Interim Fire Chief for Wainfleet Township.
 - **POINT OF CLARIFICATION (May 17, 2018):** OFAI is an asset owned by OAFIC. Although OAFIC owns OFAI, it is operated as a separate entity. OFAI is a legal entity permitted to conduct business in Ontario. There is clear legal separation from the OAFIC to Wainfleet, by operating through OFAI.
 - Brad was previously working as the OAFIC Program Manager.
 - It was confirmed that all of the Interim Fire Chief's expenses are covered by the municipality.
 - OAFIC is managing the issue and hoping for a permanent appointment of Wainfleet Chief in the next 30 days.
 - PAC area members brought forward concerns on this issue.
 - The group believes that the permanent appointment of fire chief in Wainfleet will not happen unless a change is made at municipal level
 - The group felt that contracting interim chiefs puts all chiefs in direct competition with municipalities.



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) Area 2 Meeting Minutes

- There was an observation made that the 2015 overhaul of OAFCh's Constitution only benefitted certain individuals.
- It was noted that OAFCh membership dues are most often paid by the municipality, which begs the questions of who is the true OAFCh member.
 - It was noted that OAFCh members will receive legal assistance in matters brought to the OAFCh by way of providing a lawyer, but the association does not pay for members' legal fees.
- "Alternative Sources of Revenue" in Resolution 15-01, passed by the membership in 2015, was discussed. It states that the OAFCh would only be able to move forward with implementing alternative sources of revenue with the consent of the Board members.
 - PAC members questioned when Board of Directors were made aware of the Resolution.
- The group feels that the OAFCh should have communicated better with its membership on this issue. The group felt local member engagement should have been pursued.
- **Question:** Was the OAFCh made aware of the constructive dismissal claims issued by the former interim Chief of Wainfleet when his resignation was submitted?
 - **Answer:** Richard Boyes said that he was not aware of such claims being made.
- **Question:** What are the expectations of service from Brad Bigrigg as Wainfleet's Interim Fire Chief?
 - **Answer:** He is fulfilling the duties of fire chief as required by the municipality.

7. Discussion on OAFCh/Provincial Items –

- *MCSCS Regulations –*
 - The regulations are still being revised, with the Technical Table meeting next on April 20.
 - Grandfathering under the 2014 experience cut-off mandate is expected to be re-opened to support compliance with the regulations.
- *OAFCh Conference and Trade Show –*
 - Meeting for OAFCh members is being held Friday at 7am.
- *Cannabis Legislation –*



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) Area 2 Meeting Minutes

- Departments are adding to existing policies if not already included.
- There was consensus that departments must be to forward-thinking.
- There were concerns raised around how to get an accurate measure of intoxication. The Police are determining the legal limit.
- *Two Hatter Issue* –
 - Caledon has reportedly budgeted approximately 200K in protection of two-hatters.
 - Anyone aware of two-hatter issue in their department should raise it to the O AFC.
- *O AFC Social Media Resources* –
 - New fact sheet available on the O AFC website.
- *O AFC Solar Training* –
 - Additional courses are available through the O AFC office.
- *Bill 148* –
 - Regulation exemption has not yet been passed regarding three-hour on-call minimums for volunteer firefighters.

8. **Section 21 Committee Update** –

- Chief Grimwood provided an update on behalf of the Section 21 Committee.
 - Guidance notes have been reformatted and will be released shortly on the Ministry of Labour website.
 - O AFC will advise its members when the Guidance Notes are posted.

9. **Correspondence for Discussion and/or Decision** –

- The group proposed that a letter be sent to the O AFC Board over the concerns with the resolution regarding the O AFC revenue generating means, specifically the creation of the OFAI and the use of it to employ contract fire chiefs.
- Chief Grimwood was tasked with drafting the letter on behalf of PAC Area 2.
- Questions to add into the letter include: Are O AFC dues going to an organization that is in direct competition with us? Who is paying for the temporary appointments, municipalities or OFAI? Who is responsible for the legal end of things? Are fire chiefs O AFC members or municipalities?
- Support received for a resolution letter to O AFC and OFMEM regarding the training and certification process, as there are currently no systems in place between the OFMEM and AS&E to access training and certification.

10. **New Business and Local PAC Issues** –

- *Joint Purchasing Opportunities* –



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) Area 2 Meeting Minutes

- Hamilton has a clause which enables others to partake in purchasing. If other departments are interested, they should contact Hamilton.
 - Niagara has a joint purchasing agreement for bunker gear.
 - New NFPA standards that are coming into effect will have a pricing impact on bunker gear.
- *Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid Agreements –*
 - For West Lincoln, Lincoln and Grimsby, it is good timing to bring in Haldimand, and for Hamilton to operate under a provincial model.
 - ACTION: Set up meeting to discuss logistics as to how this may work
 - Questions were raised: How will this integrate with dispatch for Mutual Aid calls? Would it be better to provide Fire protection Agreement or Mutual Aid Agreement?
 - It was noted that specific run cards could help to circumvent issues with Mutual Aid.
- *Emergency Management Programs –*
 - 2017 compliance guide lacks direction, but 2018 guide states the process clearly.
- *Major Purchase or Project Updates –*
 - Hamilton: 10 apparatus being built by KME
 - Brant County: New Tanker purchase
- *Master Fire Plan/Strategic Plan Updates –*
 - Hamilton – 10 yr master fire plan was done in house
 - Brant County – Report to council for 5 year master fire plan
 - St. Catharines – 10 year master fire plan approved by council
- *Staffing Initiatives –*
 - NOTL – Looking for additional training support
 - Brant County – Putting forth for funding for additional positions in 2019
 - Grimsby – Added an additional fourth class firefighter, but will be holding back on one year on wage increase between fourth and third class.
 - Hamilton – Using an 18 month window (probation period) to evaluate and make decision on advancement

11. Round Table Discussion –

- Grimsby: Social media and issue and subsequent suspension when it directly, negatively reflects on department.
- West Lincoln: Deputy Chief McIntyre is still in hospital.
- Haldimand County: Hired a new Training Officer and will be hiring a Fire Prevention Officer.



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) Area 2 Meeting Minutes

- Niagara Falls: External posting for Training Officer just closed. Staffing study for Station 7 waiting to come back.
- St. Catharines: Received eight hire approvals for firefighters. Pilot project for therapy dog in station for PTSD is going very well. K. Smith attending budget standing committee re: EMS on April 16.
- Fort Erie: Investigating the amalgamation of Stations 4 and 6; there is a need for a Fire Prevention Officer.
- Norfolk: Promoted Fire Prevention Officer Scott Pipe to Assistant Deputy Chief.
- Grimsby: Awaiting budget approval to add an additional Fire Prevention Officer.
- Brant County: Budget was approved, including enhanced CEMC and internal staffing.
- Wainfleet: Trying to get back employees who left; two new apparatus purchased (Rescue & Pump); looking for permanent appointment of chief and deputy chief as soon as possible.
- Hamilton: Master plan is complete; currently recruiting 46 volunteers and 26 full-time firefighters, who are going through training; expect to lose 45 full-time firefighters this year; 70 per cent of senior command staff have less than eight years' experience, with years' of experience for caption decreasing from 20 to 12 years.

Rob Grimwood adjourned the meeting at 2:49pm.