



Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs

Minutes of the Zone 2 Meeting

Friday, October 4, 2013

Seymour-Hannah Sports & Entertainment Centre

240 St. Paul Street West, St. Catharines

Participants: Paul Boissonneault, Alex Burbidge, Bill Blake, Mike Cain, Larry Coplen, Terry Dicks, Grant Dix, Harry Flagg, Rob Grimwood, Greg Hudson, Larry Jones, Brian Kennedy, Bob Lymburner, Jeff McCormick, Mark Mehlenbacher, Phil Ross, Bill Thomson, Mike Seth, Lee Smith, Rick Smith, Cam Stephenson, Jason Whiteley, Dave Wood, Jo Zambito

Guests: Rick Finnemore & Doug Goodings, OFM
Janos Botschner & Brad Kueneman, Conestoga College

Minute Taker: Joanne Miron

1. Welcome

- Chief Grimwood extended a warm welcome to all members and guests and thanked Chief Mark Mehlenbacher from the St. Catharines Fire Department for hosting.
- Chief Mehlenbacher welcomed everyone and explained the location of the washroom facilities, coffee and treats. Lunch will be provided and served outside the meeting room in the Lookout Lounge.

2. Ontario Fire College Update – Transitioning to NFPA Standards and the Grandfathering Process – Doug Goodings

The grandfathering process was presented to the Fire Marshal on October 1st, 2013. Next it will be presented to the Fire Chiefs, Presidents of the Associations, etc with a communiqué out by October 15th, 2013. A certificate of compliance will be issued with credit for all the training to this point. No one can be grandfathered past a level 2. Fire Prevention Officers will only be grandfathered to level 1. The OFM is currently working on a gap process so FPOs will be eligible to receive their level 2 certification. FPO has been the only real challenge. If not happy with the certification must take the NFPA written test and skills evaluation course as of April 2014. Everyone will find a space where they fit in. All applications for grandfathering must be signed by a Fire Chief or designate and the CAO or designate must sign for the Fire Chief. New FPO process will go from Level 1 to Basic Fire Code, Level 2 to Advance and finally Level 3. Will be offering a course November 18 – 22, 2013 at the Fire College for those who want to become provincially certified evaluators. The

OFM requires a 2 year commitment from the evaluator and a contract will be signed. More courses will be offered in the future to certify additional evaluators. If evaluators are not actively involved with the training at the station level they can complete the skills evaluation within their department. The skills evaluations can be downloaded to study free of charge. The OFM will support/assist/guide and test but they will not endorse the pre-service program. All students coming out of the pre-service course from all 17 community colleges will have to complete a written test and skills evaluation in order to pass. The college program will remain status quo for the September 2014 class as the program has been advertised. However changes will be made in April 2015. Private career colleges are a bit different and will be able to change their programs in April 2014. The update concluded with a question and answer period.

3. Update from the Fire Marshal's Office – Rick Finnemore

- a) Staff Changes
 - A/Deputy – Barney Owens
 - A/ADFM Executive Assistant – Pierre Yelle
 - A/ADFM Fire Protection Services - Art Booth
 - A/OPS Manager NE – SWs PS Monique Belair
- b) OFM/EMO Integration
 - Announced August 15, 2013
 - Relocation of OFM & EMO headquarters to Wilson and Keele Streets in Toronto
 - Sept 11 – 12 OFMEM staff conducted the first joint deploy in support of the community impacted by the flooding in Northern Ontario
 - Shared training to commence
 - Invited to attend the regional meeting with EMO
 - 3 new high level positions discussed – Response, Field Advisory and Prevention & Risk Management
 - Until ready to move, the service directory model stays the same
- c) MFPIS Follow up for 2013
 - 10 of 25 have completed all recommendations
 - From Zone 2 – Brantford, Brant, Pelham, Haldimand County, Norfolk County & Grimsby
- d) Communiqué
 - 2013 -12 Hydrocarbon Refrigerants
 - Kit recharges air conditioning systems
 - Replaces non-flammable gas with flammable
 - If used will void manufacturer's warranty
 - Explosion rate between 2.15% and 9.6%
 - i. OFMEM Concerns:
 - a) Flammable vapours come in contact with ignition sources
 - b) Improper use by untrained individuals
 - c) Missing or illegible labels – not taking appropriate caution
- e) Miscellaneous Area Initiatives
 - Developing an information gathering tool
 - Piloting in several departments in Zone 2
 - Similar to MFPIS process
 - Rick's area news – now at 181 recipients

4. CAFC Update by Paul Boissonneault

- a) Successful conference in Regina
- b) 2014 conference in Ottawa starting on Sunday to coincide with the memorial service for Canadian Fallen Firefighters
- c) 2015 conference to be held in Victoria
- d) Current Executive
 - Steve Gamble, President
 - Rob Simonds, Past President
 - Paul Boissonneault, 1st Vice President
 - Les Karpluk, 2nd Vice President
 - Lee Grant, Treasurer
 - Ken Stuebing, Secretary
 - John de Hooge, IAFC Canadian Division Director
- e) Incorporating the Electrical Safety for First Responder course – looking for models to develop the program
- f) The new executive director John-Paul Cody-Cox has experience and knowledge in business and the not-for-profit sector. A new set of rules have been established for not for profit and changes must be made before the end of 2014. The committee must be reduced to a composition of 7 board members but the CAFC must ensure they are inclusive of all peoples. If the changes are not made by the end of the year, the not-for-profit status is lost.
- g) Reviewing the membership model. Some smaller communities cannot afford the membership so considering granting 1 membership with CAFC.

5. OAFC Board of Directors Update – Mark Mehlenbacher

- a) Held face to face meeting in June, conference calls once per month and October 7 & 8 will be a board meeting
- b) Integrated Risk Management Project
 - Good mathematical tool
- c) NFPA – was already covered by Doug Goodings
- d) Technical Advisory Committee - will get update at Mid Term
- e) Mid Rise Construction
 - Committee has been called
 - Mark will sit on for OAFC
 - OAFC stance – ensure material is safe for both the public and firefighters
- f) LODD – final draft to be reviewed at Mid Term
- g) Algo Centre Mall Collapse –
 - have standing on inquiry,
 - phase 2 ongoing
 - looking at response
 - will get update at Mid Term
- h) Executive Committee
 - Changing – pushing the President and Vice-President into the political process

- i) Occupational Health and Safety Training Workshop –
 - was the first one ever
 - over 140 fire service personnel attended
 - received great feedback
 - plans for 2014 forthcoming
- j) Propane - ongoing
- k) AMES – May 2014 at Toronto Congress Centre
 - Vendors want more opportunity with the Chiefs outside the trade show
 - Will move from the Double Tree to the Crown Plaza
 - Start sooner on the weekend – trying to balance the requirements of the participants
- l) Mid Term – November 20 & 21, 2013 in Niagara Falls
- m) Labour Relations Seminar – January 15 & 16, 2014 at the Hilton, Toronto

6. Conestoga College Pre-Fire Service Program Advisory Committee

Two representatives from Conestoga College discussed the outline of the current program and presented their ideas for changing the course offered at the college with regards to preparing students to enter into fire services. The regulatory regime is shifting and the college is preparing to be more responsive. The college wants to position the fire training program to achieve this goal and produce students with enhanced readiness. The OFM wants to see content in the programming but is silent on what else they want. The community colleges have until September 2015 to be realigned. They asked if their plan made sense to the Fire Chiefs and welcomed all suggestions to ensure they produced students ready to enter into the work force. Much discussion ensued which gave the presenters a clear understanding of what is required from the Fire Chiefs.

7. Mumford and Sons Concert – August 23 & 24, 2013 – Terry Dicks

Terry Dicks gave a power point presentation on the *Gentlemen of the Road Stopover* concert that took place at the Norfolk County fairgrounds. He discussed all aspects of the event from the inception to the planning, organizing, security, accommodation of the large crowds as well as the actual two days of the event. The band loved the area and wanted to be part of the community event. The concert was tremendously successful, well run without issue and the committee received a lot of good feedback.

8. New Business

- 1) One resolution and one issue for discussion was brought forward as follows:

Lee Smith proposed a resolution regarding the use of sirens during an emergency response. The Highway Traffic Act requires that personnel use both lights and sirens when responding to an emergency call. It was noted that firefighters may not necessarily need sirens in some situations during the night. It was suggested that the term “optional” be changed to “discretionary” in the

resolution and that Rob Grimwood and Lee Smith work together on the wording before submitting. The resolution was seconded by Jeff McCormick.

- 2) Mike Seth presented a briefing document submitted to the Six Nations Elected Council regarding the WSIB presumptive legislation. Six Nations submitted their first claim under this legislation only to learn that Six Nations is not covered as they are not considered a municipality as defined under the FPPA. The issue is that Six Nations firefighters are doing the same job as firefighters throughout the province and Six Nations is making similar payments to WSIB as a municipal fire department without receiving the same level of benefits. After some discussion it was decided that Mike Seth will prepare a resolution and email to Rob Grimwood who will then forward to the group for comment.
- 3) Mike Cain and Bill Thomson unfortunately had to leave the meeting but had wanted to discuss:
 - I. MTO recognized authority for driver testing.
 - II. The MOU negotiated by the OAFB and OFM dated November 10, 2000 and whether it should be revisited as some municipalities have concerns of not being paid for response to the King's Highways.
- 4) The Canadian Motor Speedway in Fort Erie is on-site building the parking lot and staging for heavy equipment. Facility will house 65,000 seats. Will be getting some big concerts in the future. Plans for completion are 2016.
- 5) Fort Erie experienced a significant tanker truck rollover. Approximately 40,000 litres of diesel fumes were spilled but they managed to contain about 30,000 litres. The other 10,000 litres were managed with sand. Everything fell into place nicely during this incident. The Chief sent kudos to the roads operations group.
- 6) There was a near miss in Fort Erie between two planes. They managed to maneuver away but if they had connected it would have been a catastrophe.
- 7) Flying lanterns continue to be a great concern. Various Chiefs discussed their experiences in regards to this topic. Mark Mehlenbacher will see if the OAFB board have plans to address this issue and if not Zone 2 members will draft a resolution to present to the OFM to ban the possession and use of flying lanterns.
- 8) Discussed an incident at a tire recycling plant in Brantford. Some firefighters received minor burns while working in some duct work when 75% of the ceiling fell in. The Ministry of Environment was called in by Pollution Control but the Ministry of Labour was also notified but it is not clear by whom. Management has now been called to meet about this incident.
- 9) Designated Officers Association was discussed. A newer organization that represents all emergency services. Jason Whitely will keep everyone updated on training opportunities.

10) Announcements:

- a) Congratulations to Bill Blake on his promotion to Deputy Chief in Lincoln
- 11) Reminder – OAFC Mid Term to be held on November 20 & 21 in Niagara Falls
- 12) The group liked the idea of hosting a golf tournament back to back with the Zone 2 meeting. Will do the same in 2014 but will have the meeting on the Thursday with the tournament on the Friday.
- 13) Require a host for the next meeting. Email Rob Grimwood if interested. Date TBA.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:02 p.m.