

GRAND VALLEY AND DISTRICT FIRE BOARD

June 23, 2016

The Grand Valley and District Fire Board met Thursday, June 23, 2016 at the Grand Valley Fire Hall at 7:15 p.m. for a regular meeting. Board members Don MacIver, Philip Rentsch, Tom Nevills, Jane Aultman and John Ince were present, with Chair John Stirk presiding. Also in attendance were Secretary-Treasurer Susan Stone, Chief Kevin McNeilly, Deputy Chief Mike Agar and Deputy Chief Dave Stevenson.

1. Meeting called to Order.
2. Late Submissions - Nothing at this time.
3. Agenda
 - 3.1 Motion passed to accept agenda as circulated.
4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest with Reasons
 - 4.1 None disclosed at this time. Can be declared at any time during the meeting.
5. Adoption of Minutes - May 16, 2016
 - 5.1 Business arising from the Minutes - none
Motion to adopt minutes as circulated.
6. Delegation
 - 6.1 Tony McKee - McKee Employee Benefit Administration (MEBA)

Mr. McKee addressed the Board, indicating that their company is located in Mississauga, though they are licensed and insure all across Canada, their primary business being employee benefits. They have 15 years experience with volunteer firefighter organizations, predominately based on health care spending accounts or incentive programmes. Township of Lake of Bays in Muskoka use their services. Their incentive programme is used to attract and retain personnel, service credits are given, money paid into a trust account to be used for health and dental, which can be used to top up existing plans or to pay for items not covered by existing plans. They work off a calendar year, and Revenue Canada dictates that any unused credits can be carried forward for one year, but if not used would be forfeited. The Board would need to determine the criteria for earning service credits, noting that Lake of Bays started out at \$500 for everyone, then rules were set out to track staff activities. The claims are paid out by MEBA, who adjudicates the claims, they have electronic filing and direct deposit, would be an introductory letter explaining service credit programme and what and how to claim, and they would create a booklet and simple claim form. A cheque can be issued for the entire amount to MEBA, which would be reconciled annually, and paid back to Board if unused, or there can be a monthly reporting system. There is an 8% administration fee on a claims paid basis. This programme is not group benefit insurance, which they could provide but is extremely expensive. This programme is based on a finite amount of money, credits cannot be traded, should be available to all firefighters, but it would not be mandatory for everyone to join, administration fees are kept separate from what is allotted to the firefighter, the budget is set by the Board and eligibility set by the Board and/or the Chief ie. Years of service, training, attendance at calls etc., can start at anytime though accounting based on calendar year and members can set up account and can see status at anytime.

The possibility of a self administered plan was raised, and issue if only some receiving the benefit that others might want something as well.

The Board thanked Mr. McKee for attending.

7. Unfinished Business.
 - 7.1 Snow Clearing Contract
Secretary Treasurer to prepare tender for Chief's review, and send out to papers asap.

7.2 Fire Works Bylaws

Sample bylaws that were circulated with the agenda were discussed. The Chief advised that his main concern is storage and length of time they are available. It was agreed that a bylaw be drafted to include storage and sales, including time limitations and display restrictions, penalties, licensing and permitting, inspection, and to limit quantities. It was suggested that Amaranth and East Garafraxa get input from the other departments that service them and see if they have bylaws, and to ensure our bylaw does not conflict. Insurance aspect discussed, but will require more direction on this.

7.3 Other - Nothing at this time.

8. Financials

8.1 Bills and Accounts - Motion passed.

8.2 2015/2016 MVA Revenue Summary - Received.

8.3 MTO Applications re: MVA Reports - Application process, which is onerous, discussed.

8.4 Other - Budget Summary provided.

9. Grand Valley Fire Fighters Association Report - Are holding their annual Water Ball events, one in town and one at Rainbow Ridge.

10. New Business

10.1 Fire Calls Summary Report - Nothing at this time.

10.2 Other - Nothing at this time.

11. Added Items ~ per Late Submissions resolution (if any) - Nothing at this time.

12. Fire Chief's Report

12.1 Radio System Upgrade - The Chief discussed the radio communication issues, which are not just the Grand Valley department. There are issues County wide, Orangeville is digital, others are analogue, so other options being explored, such as a repeater that will speak to everyone else, and with programming will communicate with Orangeville too. Has spoken to Steve Murphy about funding from the County, and for County to purchase extra frequencies for better communication throughout the County. The original quote for water tower installation was \$16,000, and this option will be \$3,600 more, but grant can be 50% up to \$10,000, so grant form being submitted.

12.2 Other

12.2.1 Training Building in final stages.

12.2.2 Canada Day in Amaranth - Chief suggested rotating with other fire departments.

12.2.3 Chief McNeilly now the Alternate County Co-Ordinator with the Orangeville Chief.

13. Closed Meeting - Nothing at this time.

14. Confirming Resolution and Adjournment - Resolution passed and next meeting to be Monday, September 19, 2016.

The following resolutions were passed:

MOVED BY T. NEVILLS, SECONDED BY J. AULTMAN

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

MOVED BY J. INCE, SECONDED BY P. RENTSCH

THAT minutes of the May 16, 2016 meeting of the Grand Valley and District Fire Board be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

June 23, 2016

MOVED BY D. MACIVER, SECONDED BY J. AULTMAN

THAT the Bills and Accounts from May 16, 2016 through June 17, 2016 in the amount of \$29,385.49 be approved for payment. **CARRIED.**

MOVED BY T. NEVILLS, SECONDED BY D. MACIVER

THAT all actions of the Board Members and Officers of the Grand Valley & District Fire Board, with respect to every matter addressed and/or adopted by the Board at the June 23, 2016 meeting are hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed;

AND THAT each motion, resolution and other actions taken by the Board Members and/or Officers at the meeting held on June 23, 2016 are hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed. **CARRIED.**

MOVED BY J. AULTMAN, SECONDED BY T. NEVILLS

THAT the Board adjourn to meet again September 19, 2016 at 7:15 p.m. or at the call of the Chairperson. **CARRIED.**



CHAIR



SECRETARY