

NEW CHESTER FIREHALL PROPOSAL

Central Street

- No longer central to area of responsibility
(Middle River, Little East River, Highway 14, and West Hants borders)
- Narrow roads, traffic congestion, and limited road maintenance in the area
- Majority of calls outside village (motor vehicle accidents)
- Majority of fire personnel live and work outside village.

Selection Process

- March 27, 2019 – proposal to supply and manufacture Tandem Tanker.
- July 10, 2019 – new Tandem Tanker purchase rejected due to high costs.
- August 14, 2019 – approved Terms of Reference for Firehall Building Committee.
- September 11, 2019 – Committee identifies firehall deficiencies;
(no water for training, no training area, limited parking, dangerous intersections)
- October 10, 2019 – Engineering Consultant hired at cost of \$9,000.00.
- November 27, 2019 – Committee reviews 4 locations and one acceptable.
(locations: not for sale, site too small, outside village, filled site)
- February 12, 2020 – Committee membership expands to include firefighters.
- May 13, 2020 - \$15,000.00 consulting fees and studies on proposed firehall.
- June 3, 2020 – McCallum Environmental hired to test land feasibility.
- July 3, 2020 – site watercourse mapping and land survey of site.
- October 21, 2020 – Citizen Voting Member appointed to committee.
- November 10, 2020 – Firehall Committee recommends Property C as location
- January 13, 2021 – Agreement of Purchase and Sale of Property.
- January 21, 2021 – Signed Agreement of Purchase and Sale.

Site Criteria

- Relatively level area for potential loop to give vehicles a drive through access.
- Highway #3 access with good sightlines.
- Water access for fire services.
- Sufficient space to accommodate 100-foot apron.
- Sufficient parking for 50 vehicles.
- Site is within the Village boundary.

Commission Jurisdiction

- Commission sets policies, establishes the budget, passes by-laws, and conducts the government of the village.
- Municipalities and villages continue to be able to provide fire protection themselves or by assisting others to do so. MGA Section 293
- Rural Fire District Act continues to exist, and existing fire protection commissions continued.
- The commission may borrow from a capital reserve fund, by resolution, if the resolution prescribes the terms of repayment, including interest, at a rate not less than the interest rate that the municipality would pay to borrow the funds for a similar term from another source. MGA Section 99(5)

Committee Selection

- August 14, 2019 – Commission Approved
- MOTION #190-83: Commissioner Hatch moved; Commissioner Grant seconded:
The approval of the Terms of Reference for the Firehall Building Committee pending committee review and/or revision suggestions from the committee.
Unanimously Carried
- MOTION #190-84: Commissioner Hatch moved; Commissioner Hiltz seconded:
The approval of the appointments to the Firehall Building Committee:
Commissioners Grant, Commissioner Hatch, and Commissioner Heisler as an alternate member, including Deputy Chief Zinck, Assistant Deputy Chief Conron, a financial advisor and an engineer.
Unanimously Carried

Committee Criteria

- (see attached Terms of Reference)

Committee Recommendation

- A committee meeting was held at 5:00pm November 10th, 2020 to discuss the merits/concerns of three locations for the new firehall. The properties are identified as “Property A” present firehall site; “Property B” location identified for several months; and “Property C” newly identified location. The following motion was approved by the committee:

November 10, 2020 – Commission Approved

- MOTION #20-284: Commissioner Grant moved; Commissioner Hiltz seconded:
That the Chester Village Commission accept the recommendation of the Firehall Building Committee, having discussed the merits of the three properties under consideration at their meeting on November 10th, 2020 as potential sites for a new firehall, that Property C is the first choice;

And Furthermore, that the Village of Chester Commission proceed with reasonable due diligence regarding considerations such as sight lines, zoning, and site plans;
And Furthermore, that negotiations regarding “Property C” commence while pursuing necessary discussions with required parties, including the Municipality of Chester.

Unanimously Carried

Sight Lines

- Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal came to the site to certify access to Hwy #3 from the property which met all the necessary safety criteria.

Hwy #3 and Windsor Road Location

- This location is outside the Village boundary and would require more time to respond to the downtown ‘T’ and the eastern portions of the fire service area.

Sirens

- Sirens will be used by the trucks when physically leaving the hall.
- The need for a siren to alert the community has not yet been determined.

**FIREHALL BUILDING COMMITTEE
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Mandate

A Committee of the Village Commission will investigate and recommend to the Commission plans for the construction of a new fire hall for the Chester Volunteer Fire Department.

Membership

The composition of the committee shall consist of two members of the Commission, two members of the Chester Volunteer Fire Department, one citizen appointed as voting members, and the Chair of the Commission, the Chief of the Fire Department, the Village Clerk/Treasurer as a non-voting member.

The Committee has authority to engage outside advisors from the construction or engineering industry for expert advice on building design and construction.

All members must disclose any actual or potential Conflict of Interest.

Communication

The Committee members will maintain direct, open and frank communications with the Commission, administration, fire volunteers and other levels of government. There will be a public release of documents at an open house to review the proposed plans and the final plans approved by the Village Commission.

Meetings

The Committee is required to meet a minimum of monthly to review progress of the building plans or to provide direction to administration. A record of the meeting (Minutes) must be circulated to the Village Commission to review and approve. Quorum will be determined by attendance of voting members only.

Project Phases

Phase 1: Investigation and planning
Phase 2: Design and Site location

Budget

As the Committee has the authority to engage outside advisors from the engineering or construction industry for expert advice, a maximum budget of \$50,000 from the Building Reserve Fund, shall be made available for such expert advice. Notwithstanding the above, the Committee shall be prudent in their expenditures and endeavour to procure such advice on a *pro bono* basis.

Project Completion

The Committee shall submit a final report including any fire hall specifications and drawings to the Commission no later than one year from the date of their first meeting. The report will include an estimated cost of construction and all sources of funding.

Approved: September 11, 2019

Amended: February 12, 2020

Motion # 19-096

Motion # 20-171