

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018  
Town of Creston Council Chambers  
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

## **MEETING NOTES**

### **Attendees:**

Gertie Brown  
Don Cherkas  
Randall Fabbro  
Harry Haberstock  
Larry Hogan  
Olivia Kettle  
Wendell Marshall  
James McLeod  
Tony Mulder  
Ryan Tucker  
Brandon Vigne  
Elected Official – Jen Comer (Area C)  
Elected Official – Jim Elford (Town of Creston)  
Elected Official – Ron Toyota (Town of Creston)  
Elected Official – Tanya Wall (Area B)

Bob Turley – FireWise Consulting  
Ernie Polsom – FireWise Consulting  
Kerry McArthur – Facilitator  
Marsha Neufeld – Recording Secretary

### **Gallery:**

Ross Beddoes (Director of Municipal Services)  
Adam Casemore (Elected Official – Alternate)  
Steffan Klassen (Director of Finance and Corporate Services)  
Mike Moore (Fire Chief)  
Jared Riel (Assistant Fire Chief)  
Lou Varela (Town Manager)

### **Meeting Discussion**

Agenda Item: Issues Discussion

- Round table discussion asking Committee members what they identified to be their “top issue” as it relates to the process to date. The main issues identified were:
  - Recent referendum divided our community negatively. Need to get our community back on track and move forward. There was a lot of misinformation.
  - Make sure that everyone is informed and aware about what is happening with this process.

- Ensure that the new Fire Hall gives firefighters the tools that they need to do their jobs effectively, that everything in the Fire Hall serves a purpose and is a benefit to the firefighters.
  - Misinformation. Good information and clear information was not brought out soon enough to make an informed decision [to vote in referendum]. Would like to see the Fire Hall become the command centre for emergencies (I.E. Search and Rescue).
  - Could not find information about the process including what areas are covered, what we have now, and what the deficiencies are. Large information gap in the community as a result.
  - How do we bring a community back together knowing that we absolutely need fire protection and our fire department? This can be a catalyst for our community – to come together to meet this essential need.
  - Price point of \$6.1 million and Johnson Davidson Architecture proposal – how did Town arrive at this cost? The effect on property taxes in Creston and [the lack of] an affordable “Plan B” alternative were also major issues.
  - If our firefighters are not safe, our community is not safe. Consolidated emergency services should be discussed as well as the fact that the community is not fully aware of what the issues/concerns are.
  - Health and safety issues – especially the ability to properly decontaminate so that firefighters are not bringing toxins home to our families or exposing others to them.
  - Communication and leadership. ASC was created to lead this issue and communicate out to the community in advance of the next referendum.
  - A Fire Hall to serve our community for now and for decades to come. Need to work on where we can improve communications.
  - From a Regional District perspective – fiscally responsible investment, tax payer inclusion, service collaboration (supporting all firefighters in this community – not just the Town of Creston, but the entire valley).
  - Public response during the referendum and misunderstanding. Need to work on community understanding and communication for key stakeholders.
  - Our firefighters are our most important asset.
- Consensus that the common themes identified during discussion were:
    - ✓ Communication
    - ✓ Trust
    - ✓ Baseline Knowledge
    - ✓ Rationale of Space and Cost
    - ✓ Availability of Information
  - Staff directed to provide complete information regarding the voter turnout for the December 9, 2017 referendum for borrowing.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 14 at 6:30 PM in Town of Creston Council Chambers.

**Meeting ended at 7:30 PM.**