

**Wednesday, April 4, 2018
Town of Creston Council Chambers
6:30 PM – 8:40 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 – Jim Elford (Town of Creston)
Elected Official – Ron Toyota (Town of Creston)
Elected Official – Tanya Wall (Area B)
Kerry McArthur – Facilitator
Mike Moore - Fire Chief
Marsha Neufeld – Recording Secretary
Ernie Polsom – FireWise Consulting

Regrets:

Elected Official – Larry Binks (Area C)

Gallery:

Elected Official – Adam Casemore (Town of Creston, alternate)
Ron Choquette
Keith Goforth
Bill Hutchinson
Sam Parsons
Jared Riel

Meeting Discussion

Agenda Item: General Business

- Agenda for April 4, 2018 and meeting notes for March 21, 2018 ASC meetings were reviewed. Committee approved Mar. 21 meeting notes.
- Committee requested to have “Parking Lot” items shown as a separate document from the meeting notes until they have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Committee members.

Agenda Item: Presentation: Ernie Polsom, FireWise Consulting

- Ernie presented the Creston Fire Department Interim Measures Report as prepared by FireWise Consulting. The report provides 19 recommendations based on legislation, standards and industry accepted practice in the 4 categories of risk assessment practices, procedural documentation, facilities, and equipment.
- It was noted that the report is meant to be a risk managed approach to dealing with identified issues pertaining to health and safety in the Creston Fire Hall and it is based on a combination of experience, standards, legislation and observations of the current situation in the Fire Hall.
- It was also noted that the report is not an effort to force the ASC into a course of action, nor is it a recommendation on any specific long term solution to address the facility needs of the fire department, nor does it address any operational shortfalls of the current facility beyond those identified health and safety issues.
- Ernie had made this presentation to Mayor and Council as well as the firefighters on April 3 and offered some comments based on questions that were asked at the Council meeting by gallery members. One of these comments were that while firefighters sign up accepting certain employment risks, no one signs up to accept potentially catastrophic health risks that can be prevented and/or managed and it is the responsibility of the employer (Town of Creston) to address these concerns.
- Following his presentation, the observations noted by the ASC were:
 - That there is an immediate urgency to address deficiencies in the existing Fire Hall for the health and safety of Town staff and volunteer firefighters.
 - That the only option taken off the table is status quo.
- General discussion ensued and the following was noted:
 - That the community has failed at supplying a satisfactory facility for our firefighters and there is a need to act quickly.
 - Inaction could eventually result in loss of volunteer firefighters.
 - “The Committee for An Affordable Fire Hall” is not a “no” committee – the emphasis is on “affordable”.
 - The ASC needs to establish trust and commitment to move forward.
 - The ASC should not dwell on the past failed referendum but need to move forward to work towards providing a solution for the Valley’s fire service.
 - The ASC needs to trust the information that is being received and provide recommendations for a solution for an affordable Fire Hall.
 - The recommendations provided in the Interim Measures Report are temporary solutions only.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 11 at 6:30 PM in Town of Creston Council Chambers.
Meeting ended at 8:40 PM.