

**Wednesday, May 16, 2018
Town of Creston Council Chambers
6:30 p.m. – 7:40 p.m. Meeting Notes**

Attendees:

Councillor Jim Elford, Town of Creston
Wendell Marshall
Gertie Brown
Harry Haberstock
Olivia Kettle
Don Cherkas
Tony Mulder
Ryan Tucker
Larry Hogan

James McLeod
Brandon Vigne
Kerry McArthur – Facilitator
Mike Moore - Fire Chief
Stacey Hadley – Recording Secretary
Marsha Neufeld, Executive Assistant
Ernie Polsom – FireWise Consulting

Regrets:

Director Larry Binks, Electoral Area C
Director Tanya Wall, Electoral Area B
Councillor Adam Casemore, Town Creston
Randall Fabbro

Gallery:

Deni Dawson
Chris Dooley
Ellen Tzakis

Marg Meyer
Keith Goforth
Sam Parsons

Agenda

Moved by Tony Mulder, seconded by Wendell Marshall that the agenda be adopted.
MOTION CARRIED

Minutes

Moved by Gertie Brown, seconded by Jim Elford that the Minutes of May 9th, 2018 be adopted.
MOTION CARRIED

Decision Making Process - Consensus

E. Polsom provided an update reiterating that the purpose of the Community Fire Hall Advisory Select Committee (ASC) is to evaluate information and to make a series of recommendations to Council regarding a long-term solution for a Fire Hall; and further,

that a consensus model of decision making will be utilized by the Committee to establish general agreement or a majority vote not necessarily unanimity.

E. Polsom also advised that recommendations are to be established and forwarded to Council by the end of June 2018 to enable a referendum in October, 2018.

Siting Discussion

Discussion was held regarding siting options, the geotechnical reports specific to Site #1 and #2, geothermal construction, the availability of the Committee for an Affordable Fire Hall to present prior to the scheduled June 6th date and it was suggested by a member of the Committee to table a site selection until the discussion of potential cost implications to the commercial tax base is addressed with respect to site selections.

Moved by Tony Mulder, seconded by Gertie Brown that the Community Fire Hall Advisory Select Committee recommended site #2, being the Cook Street site for a new Fire Hall to Council.

MOTION CARRIED (TWO OPPOSED)

Affordability

Discussion was held regarding the meaning of "Affordability" and potential financial impacts to low income families and senior citizens from a potential tax increase with respect to construction of a new Fire Hall.

Discussion was then held regarding the referendum process and it was noted that the Town of Creston's debt limit is established by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and that Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1861 for the previous borrowing referendum was within those limits.

A member of the Committee noted that senior citizens have the option to access the Seniors Tax Deferral Program to assist with annual tax payments.

Discussion was also held regarding available funding opportunities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Energy Grant, and it was noted that energy efficient modelling (which is part of the previous Architects fees) is required to provide FCM with the information for granting; and further, that funding may only be applied for following a successful referendum and once detailed drawings have been established.

Discussion was also held regarding alternate options for Committee transparency and consensus was established regarding an appropriate level of transparency being achieved and relevant information being made available to the public based on the following:

- ✓ agenda packages and materials are available on the Town of Creston website;
- ✓ ASC Meeting Minutes following adoption are available on the Town of Creston website;
- ✓ an upcoming open house will be scheduled to receive public input on ASC decision making;
- ✓ an upcoming delegation will be made from the Committee for an Affordable Fire Hall to receive information and feedback for consideration
- ✓ questions or submissions can be made to the ASC through the facilitator; and,
- ✓ the option of attending ASC Meetings as a member of the gallery.

Moved by Larry Hogan, seconded by Harry Haberstock that the following principles be adopted:

- ✓ Budget certainty (for the building of the new Fire Hall) will be achieved through rigorous planning and project management;
- ✓ A building will be based on current Creston Fire Rescue service levels and needs, not based upon wants and likes; and,
- ✓ An evaluation exploring all possible alternate funding sources, grants and opportunities to reduce the burden on taxpayers.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 23rd, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in Town of Creston Council Chambers.

Adjournment

Moved by Wendell Marshall, seconded by Don Cherkas that the meeting adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED