

MINUTES

LAND AMBULANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

to the

Joint Services Committee of Leeds and Grenville

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

9:00 a.m.

Council Chambers

**Counties Administration Building
25 Central Avenue West, Brockville**

The Land Ambulance Sub-Committee met on March 3 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers, 25 Central Avenue West, Brockville, Ontario.

Members Present: Ron Holman, Bill Gooch, Larry Dishaw, Bill Thake, John Conley, Doug Struthers, , Mel Campbell, Frank Kinsella, Members of Counties Council
Dave Henderson, City of Brockville
Jim Garrah, Town of Gananoque
Suzanne Dodge, Town of Prescott,

Staff Present: Steven Silver, CAO
Deputy Chief Chris Lloyd EMS Division
Nigel White, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer
Lesley Todd, Accounting Services Manager/Deputy Treasurer
Lisa Severson, CAO Support (Recording Secretary)

1.0 Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Conely called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and extended regrets on behalf of Chief Chevrier who is on vacation. Deputy Chief Lloyd will be the staff assigned to the meeting.

2.0 Review and Approval of Minutes – February 3, 2009

Motion

Moved by Mr. Garrah and seconded by Mr. Dishaw

THAT the minutes of the Land Ambulance Sub-Committee meeting held on February 3, 2009 be approved as distributed. Carried.

3.0 Unfinished Business – No Report

4.0 Correspondence, Communications and Petitions

4.0.1 Newspaper Article – Caledon Enterprise – Province and Region to Tackle EMS Problems Separately, and Together (13-Feb-09) – Information Piece

The article, the Province and Region to Tackle EMS Problems Separately, and Together which appeared in the Caledon Enterprise (13-Feb-09) provided an overview of the study currently being undertaken in the Peel region around dispatch requirements and what is required to improve the system. The article was distributed as an information item.

5.0 Staff Reports

5.0.1 Monthly Call Report – November and December 2008, January and February 2009 - C. Lloyd - (not available at time of posting)

Deputy Chief Lloyd reported that there are still technical issues with retrieving data from the provincial system. He has been in consultation with the province and they have assured him the province has identified the problem and it should be rectified within a few weeks. Deputy Chief Lloyd was able to provide the call data for 2007 and 2008. The call volume in 2007 was 15004 and in 2008 it had increased to 15837. One reason for the increase in call volume is related to the reinstatement of standbys in the system. Once the data is received from the province members will be forwarded a full report.

5.0.2 Fire First Response – December 2008, January and February 2009 C. Lloyd - (not available at time of posting)

Deputy Chief Lloyd stated that the Fire First Response information will be forwarded to the members when all of the accurate data is received.

5.0.3 Color Scheme Change Report – C. Jones

In response to the question asking if the province has in place a standard colour scheme for ambulances similar to the OPP, Deputy Chief Lloyd responded that since the devolution of EMS to the municipalities the only criteria set by the province in regards to ambulance graphics is the requirement that the words ambulance and paramedic be posted on the vehicle and that the reflective striping be certain dimensions. Colour is at the discretion of the municipality and many municipalities have chosen to adopt their colours in the striping packages on their vehicles. The proposal before the members would be to have the Counties' colours of gold and blue incorporated into the striping on any new vehicles purchased by the Counties. All striping is completed by the manufacturer and is expected to last the life of the vehicle (approximately 5 years). The paramedic staff in the field have been canvassed in regards to having vehicles with two different colour packages in service and they do not seem to see a problem with it. At the present time there are private services that are using the red and blue colour scheme similar to the Counties which could result in negative feedback from the community. The cost to retrofit existing vehicles would be approximately \$4600 per vehicle with the addition of the new striping package and the chevrons on the back of the vehicle.

Motion

Moved by Mr. Pickard and seconded by Mr. Campbell

THAT the Land Ambulance Sub-Committee recommends to the Joint Services Committee to give authority to the Emergency Medical Services Division to alter the striping on their vehicles to make them more readily identifiable by using the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville color scheme; and

THAT the Land Ambulance Sub-Committee recommends to the Joint Services Committee to give authority to the Emergency Medical Services Division for the addition of chevrons to the rear of their vehicles which will make the vehicle more visible in the event of an emergency situation: and

THAT all changes in the colour scheme and the addition of chevrons will only be made to new vehicles. Carried.

5.0.4 2009 EMS Draft 2 Budget

Motion

Moved by Mr. Struthers and seconded by Mr. Thake

THAT the Land Ambulance Sub-Committee received the second draft of the EMS in principal. Carried.

Deputy Chief Lloyd reported that the adjustments to the EMS budget requested at the February 3, 2009 meeting have been made with a decrease of \$170,000 to the overall EMS budget. \$130,000 was removed from the Capital Reserves and the addition \$40,000.00 was recognized in savings in fuel costs.

Clarification was requested on the summary of changes of the budget documents on the last page which were distributed by Mr. White in regards to the increase of \$ 3 million dollars over last year. Mr. White stated that this figure encompasses an approximate 5% increase over last year. Mr. White is to report back to members on the question raised around revenue other than recover portion of the budget from \$37,702 to \$5,500 with a variance of \$22,702 as he did not have the information readily available at the time of the question. Mr. White also explained the increase of \$75,000 for charge backs relates mainly to the building addition at 25 Central Avenue and the allotment by all departments to share in the cost of these renovations based on their share of the occupied square footage in the building.

6.0 New Business – No Report

7.0 Other Business

Mr. Conley provided the members with a brief update on his tour of the EMS stations which he completed with Chief Chevrier (document available upon request). As a result of this tour Mr. Conley felt that extra resources, when available should be funneled into

Capital Planning for the repair and/or possible construction of new bases. The Elgin Station is in dire need of repairs. The EMS base in Gananoque was constructed based on the provincial standards set prior to devolution. The specs incorporated specific dimension for crew quarters, office space, garage space, storage space etc. Utilizing these standards has provided an excellent template for a base in which to run an operation. This model should be reviewed and considered if and when any new construction is complete.

8.0 In-Camera – No Report

9.0 Next Meeting

April 7, 2009

10.0 Adjournment

Motion

Moved by Mr. Struthers and seconded by Mr. Thake

THAT the Land Ambulance Sub-Committee adjourn its proceedings until the next regular meeting scheduled on April 7, 2009. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.