

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIGHORN NO. 8
EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**31 January 2012 – 7:00 P.M.
M.D. OFFICE, EXSHAW**

IN ATTENDANCE:

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| Martin Buckley | Chairman/Recording Secretary |
| Dene Cooper | Reeve |
| Kevin Hebb | Member-at-Large |
| Rick Lyster | District Chief, Exshaw |
| Wayne Dick | Jamieson Road Head Fire Guardian |
| Tom McFadden | Ghost River Fire Dept. – District Fire Chief |

ABSENT:

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| Mike Milne | Member-at-large |
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DELEGATION:

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| Curtis Brochu | Solicitor General's department – AFRRCS (left at 8:30 p.m.) |
| Doug Luzny | Solicitor General's department – AFRRCS (left at 8:30 p.m.) |

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was adopted with the following amendments:

- Business Arising 4(c): Ambulance update (D. Cooper)
- New Business 6(a): Volunteer fire-fighter remuneration(D. Cooper)

2. DELEGATION

Curtis Brochu and Doug Luzny, part of the Alberta First Response Radio Communications System (AFRRCS) operational team from the Solicitor General's department, updated the Committee on the AFRRCS system progress. They noted it was a three year program, with completion anticipated in 2014: the AFRRCS would be compulsory for Provincial departments using radio communications systems; participation/membership in the system would be voluntary, however, for non-Provincial government agencies, such as municipal fire departments. The Province was providing the infrastructure and administering the system: participants (municipalities) would be required to purchase system-compliant radios and, if needed, consoles.

It was indicated the system was being installed/developed in two stages: the M.D. was in the part of the Province that would be in the second stage or season. The system would involve two systems: a 700 MHz UHF frequency for those areas that were capable of receiving that reception,

and a VHF format for other, more difficult to reach areas. It was noted that one radio would be able to receive both frequencies. The radios would have to meet the guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The Solicitor General's office hopes to have standardized pricing in place, by the end of this summer, so budget information will be available to municipalities.

The next step will be to determine if the AFRRCS system is appropriate for the M.D. It was indicated that the Solicitor-General's department has an obligation-free, cost-free assessment process, whereby they will come in, analyze the municipal departments, systems, infrastructure, areas of coverage, etc, and advise as to whether the AFRRCS system is suitable for the municipality.

The Committee discussed AFRRCS further with the Solicitor-General's representatives, asking a number of questions. It was requested that information on the process be forwarded to the M.D., so that the Committee can decide whether or not to complete the assessment.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 9 Nov 11 meeting

The minutes of the 9 Nov 11 EMS Committee meeting were adopted with the following amendments:

- page 2, under 4(a), Exshaw District: Change opening sentence to read "Exshaw was heading towards another record year: there has been.....";
- page 4, under 5(c), change "Dyck" to "Dick".

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) The proposed Limitations to the Provisions of Emergency Services policy was reviewed and discussed. The following amendments were noted:

- first page, specific references to equipment still needs to be deleted;
- second page, under Policy, change to read "1. The M.D. recognizes that....suppression of fires and other Fire Protection responses.";
- third page, switch sections 3 and 4 (make section #3 the new #4, and section #4 the new #3);
- third page, change section 3 to read "Where the discretion allowed by Sections 1 and 2 of this Policy is exercised by the Fire.....";
- Schedule "A", note under Benchlands, Harvie Heights, and Lac Des Arcs, "Lack of a municipal water system and hydrants in the residential area".

There was agreement the draft policy, with the above-noted amendments, can be taken to Council for consideration.

b) The draft Hazardous Materials at Highway Incidents policy #ES-17 was reviewed, and discussed at length; M. Buckley indicated a draft version of this Policy had been given to the Regional Director of Alberta Transportation, advising that the M.D. was processing this policy for consideration of formal adoption, and requesting any comments on the draft policy, from Transportation, be forwarded to the C.A.O.

After lengthy consideration, the Committee had only one suggestion: in the second paragraph under Policy, first page, the wording “ and any other roads controlled by the Provincial government” should be added after the reference to numbered highways.

It was indicated that this policy would be brought back to the Committee for further consideration, at a future meeting, once information had been received from Transportation and other bodies.

c) The C.A.O. indicated he had no update from Alberta Health Services, following the M.D.’s 1 Dec 11 meeting with the Director of Emergency Medical Services, Suburban/Rural Operations. He indicated he would contact the Director for an update.

5. UPDATE FROM DISTRICTS AND DIRECTOR

a) Exshaw District

Exshaw district could report the following Year 2011 stats:

- 299 calls received by the Duty Officers
- 218 actual responses made to calls
- 178 of these calls were in Exshaw; 24 in Ghost; 11 in Jamieson Road
- 52% of calls were motor vehicle accidents
- 20% were actual fires
- 19% of calls were of a medical nature
- 8% were classified as “other”.

With respect to the PSC, there had not been a rural liaison for some time, but it appears there is now an assigned person: Dustin Beck. He had called the Exshaw Chief, wanting to discuss medical calls.

The C.A.O. and Exshaw Chief had met with the Lac Des Arcs Community Association Board of Directors, regarding a permanent fire water supply in Lac Des Arcs (the LDACA was seeking a permanent cistern in the community, similar to that found in Dead Man’s Flats). No decision nor response to the meeting had been received.

The Exshaw water tanker now has the fold-out water tanks mounted on the truck, and there is a new ultra-high pressure pump on the other Exshaw truck, that the fire-fighters are extremely happy with.

b) Ghost District

Nothing to report.

c) Jamieson Road District

Nothing to report.

d) C.A.O. re Canmore agreement

M. Buckley indicated that the two municipalities’ representatives had met and discussed the cost figures: as agreed to at the negotiations’ table, no reporting would be done, to the

respective communities/Councils, until the negotiating team had a recommendation on an agreement. It was indicated that discussions were going well, and that the next meeting was coming up in the very near future.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) D. Cooper indicated a need to consider revisions to the remuneration payable to volunteer fire-fighters: it was indicated the current rate (\$14.13/hr.) had not changed for a few years. It was noted that changes would be considered during 2013 budget deliberations.

6. INFORMATION

There were no items of information on the agenda.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date will be at the call of the chair, either in early March, or early May.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

CHAIRMAN / SECRETARY