

Grand Valley & District Fire Board
Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Grand Valley and District Fire Hall
2 Watson Road, Grand Valley

Members Present: Paul Latam, Lorne Dart, Guy Gardhouse, Dave Halls, Fire Chief
Justin Foreman, Helena Snider

Members Absent: Chris Geritts, Chair, Sue Graham

1. Call To Order

Vice-Chair Latam calls meeting to order at 5:35pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: L. Dart
Seconded by: D. Halls

Resolution Number: 2024-09-01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the September 4, 2024, regular meeting agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.a July 2, 2024

Moved by: G. Gardhouse
Seconded by: D. Halls

Resolution Number: 2024-09-02

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the July 2nd, 2024 regular meeting minutes of the Grand Valley & District Fire Board be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Deputations

6. Unfinished Business

6.a Update RFQ for Snow Removal

The secretary/treasurer informed the Board that the Snow Removal RFQ was awarded to Whispering Pines. The contractor has provided their WSIB certificate and insurance certificate.

7. Financials

7.a Accounts Payable - July and August 2024

The Board questioned the truck repair and maintenance GL line, Chief Foreman advised that there have been some issues with the trucks and the cost of repairs have increased.

The Board asked Chief Foreman for an update on the radio tower, Chief Foreman advised that the work is on progress.

Moved by: L. Dart

Seconded by: G. Gardhouse

Resolution Number: 2024-09-03

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bills and accounts for July 2024 in the amount of \$112,762.01 and August 2024 in the amount of \$39,184.66 be approved and paid from the General Account.

CARRIED

7.b Accounts Receivable - July and August 2024

The Board questioned invoices 396 and 397, the secretary/treasurer informed the Board that interest has been added to these invoices. The Board directed staff to send a memorandum to Amaranth Council regarding the two past due invoices.

7.c Response Report - July and August 2024

The Board questioned a few of the calls, we are down in calls compared to last year. The Board questioned if we bill for false alarms, Chief Foreman advised that we do after the 3rd false alarm if the system is not being maintained. The department is looking at ways to educate the community when it comes to fire alarms and CO alarms. Chief Foreman advised the Board that response personnel has increased over the last few calls.

7.d Budget Variance Report

The Board questioned the Training Courses GL line, Chief Foreman advised the Board that the Captains and Lieutenants are required to take courses for their roles.

8. Fire Chief's Report

8.a Recruitment

Chief Foreman provided an update to the Board regarding the new recruits, 15 have been hired, 7 have pre fire service, 8 require full training. Training for the 8 recruits will be roughly \$5000.00 per firefighter. The department will need to purchase PPE for all 15 recruits, the cost is roughly \$3500.00 per firefighter. The training will be done at the fire station, except for a few weekends which will need to be done at the fire college. Chief Foreman asked if DC Charges from the Municipalities can be used to help with some of the cost. Staff was directed to contact the Treasurer from each Municipality regarding the DC charges allocated for the Fire Department.

Moved by: D. Halls

Seconded by: L. Dart

Resolution Number: 2024-09-04

BE IT RESOLVED THAT permission be given to the Fire Chief to proceed with the ordering the PPE for up to 15 firefighters if needed @ \$3500.00 per person and \$5000.00 per person for training.

CARRIED

8.b Fire Master Plan

Chief Foreman updated the Board on the new dates for the Fire Master Plan Presentation. The Board chose November 18th at 7pm. The secretary/Treasurer will email the CAO's from each Municipality with the date of the presentation.

8.c OMERS

The Board had a discussion regarding OMERS and the potential to offer it to the volunteer firefighters. Chief Foreman advised that most of the volunteer firefighters do not have a pension or benefits due to being self employed, this would be an incentive to keep firefighters for a longer period of time. The Board asked that staff work the cost into the 2025 Budget.

Chief Foreman advised that there is nothing in place if a firefighter passes away to assist the family or if a fire displaces a firefighter and their family.

Moved by: L. Dart

Seconded by: D. Halls

Resolution Number: 2024-09-05

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to prepare a benevolent fund policy and present it to the Fire Board for approval.

CARRIED

8.d Edraulics

Chief Foreman informed that Board that the department purchased edraulic tools, which cost roughly \$70,000.00. The Board asked what happened to the old hydraulic extrication tools and Chief Foreman advised that he has a fire college interested in purchasing them. The Board asked about a disposition by-law, the Board does not have one, in the past it was always done through a motion from the Board.

Moved by: G. Gardhouse

Seconded by: L. Dart

Resolution Number: 2024-09-06

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board declares the 2008 Hydraulic Extrication Tools as surplus and to dispose of them at the Chief's discretion, to offset the cost of the new ones.

CARRIED

9. Correspondence

10. New Business

Staff advised the Board that the Firefighter's Appreciation Night is on November 15th, 2024. Invitations will be sent to the Board members.

The Board discussed the court proceedings of K. Mirska and are not content with the outcome. The Board asked staff to contact Dufferin Victim Services regarding the charges laid and what the Board can do regarding the missing charge and restitution.

11. Confirming Resolution

Moved by: L. Dart

Seconded by: D. Halls

Resolution Number: 2024-09-07

BE IT RESOLVED THAT leave be given to confirm the proceedings of the September 4, 2024 Grand Valley & District Fire Board meeting.

CARRIED

12. Adjournment

Moved by: D. Halls

Seconded by: G. Gardhouse

Resolution Number: 2024-09-08

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board adjourn to meet again on October 28, 2024 at 5:30pm.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Chris Gerrits, Chair

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Helena Snider,
Secretary/Treasurer