



MINUTES
for the Village of Lytton
FIRE, ROAD RESCUE, FIRST RESPONDER
STAKEHOLDER MEETING
held in the Council Chambers, 380 Main Street, Lytton, BC
10:00 am, Monday, October 1, 2012

Present were:

Chief Donna Gallinger, Nicomen Indian Band
Jim Brown, Lytton First Nation
Karen Dunstan, Lytton First Nation
Mayor Jessoa Lightfoot
Councillors Denise MacIntyre, Trisha Thorpe and Rob Austen
Blane Wiggins, Super. BC Ambulance service for Paul Vallely
Mike Knauff EMBC
Randy Shaw - EHSC (First Responder)
Jason Phillips, Lytton Fire Chief
Brent McDonald, Mgr. - MOT
Jurgen Lutter, MOT (Bridges)
Bob Howard - VSA Road Maintenance Manager
Scott Rennick and Darryl Adrien - Ministry of Forests, wildfire protection branch
Steve Rice, Area I Director - TNRD
Jason Tomlin and Ron Storie - TNRD Emergency and Community Services
Jay Wessel, RCMP Detachment Commander
Brian Baxter, Baxter Mechanical Contractor
Bob Lafleur, CAO, Village of Lytton

Regrets:

Terry Raymond, representing the Siska Indian Band
Chief James Frank, representing the Kanaka Indian Band

1) CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Lightfoot at 10:15 a.m.

Mayor Lightfoot thanked all for attending and explained the reason for the meeting was to provide Council with all available information and options in determining not the level of service it would like to provide, but the level of service the Village can afford while protecting its liability and obligation to those under contract for fire protection (First Nations).

The Village of Lytton is in the same financial dilemma as most small communities in BC in that the cost of providing regional first responder and road rescue service is taxing the communities ability to maintain equipment and resources. We are looking for alternatives and options that may be available for the recovery of costs incurred.

2) ADDITION OF LATE ITEMS - there were no late items

3) **BUSINESS ITEMS**

(a) **FIRST RESPONDER ISSUES**

- **Agency Agreement** - Randy Shaw reiterated the MOH letter of July 2006 which listed the boundaries but did not respond to the Villages letter of April 2007 confirming the Village will only provide first response within its boundaries. Ultimately Council has the authority and will decide on the level of service and service areas.
- **Delta Echo response** - Randy Shaw confirmed that twisted knees and ambulance assists are not First Responder Calls and that when Fire Department responds with their own vehicles, there is no liability or Work Safe coverage which puts the Village at risk. Kamloops dispatch should be notified to clarify which calls we will respond to. First Nations (Jim Brown) recommended First Responder should be separate as the reserves would be at risk if FD members are too far away. They pay the Village for Fire Protection which puts the obligation on the Village to ensure there is adequate resources and equipment available.
- **First Responder Indemnity** - Randy Shaw verified that Fire Department Members are not indemnified during travel time or if they are injured, and that they would have to rely on ICBC and WCB. A policy is therefore required to ensure private vehicles have adequate insurance, that they obey all road rules, and clarification with Worksafe BC as to protection of members that go out of the service area.
- **First Responder Certification and training** - Village cannot allow untrained or uncertified personnel to attend First Responder calls. They could drive the truck but cannot participate or our liability would be exposed. Certification is for 3 years.
- **Vehicle and Maintenance costs** - Municipalities are responsible for their own resources. There is no assistance available.
- **First Response on First Nations** - a separate meeting is required to discuss and negotiate coverage for other than structural fire protection as per existing agreements. Concerns were expressed again that first responder calls are jeopardizing our ability to provide adequate fire protection to reserve land.

(b) **FORESTRY ISSUES**

- **Grass Fires** - Scott Rennick advised that Forestry provides wildfire protection to all reserves in Canada under agreement. Villages agreements with First Nations covers structural fires only so unless a structure is on fire or is imminent, forestry should respond. The Fire Department should verify with Forestry before they respond.
- **PEP** - If Forestry requests that the FD assist or stand by, a PEP number should be obtained for reimbursement.

(c) **TNRD** (Regional District)

- **TNRD responsibility for First Response** - TNRD provides "emergency" response, not "first response" based on task Numbers (PEP) A bylaw is required for RD to coordinate emergency response however Lytton has opted out of this service.
- **Taxation outside the Village** - The Charter permits the Village to tax outside its boundaries for the provision of a service however in our area, there are very few residents outside our service area other than First Nations and we already have agreements with them. There is therefore no benefit to pursue this option.
- **Alternative models** - TNRD advises there may be grant in aid available for first responder service, and to contact them in this regard.
- **Collaboration with First Nations** - TNRD reiterated that they have no jurisdiction on Reserve other than on Treaty land so they do not provide any emergency service other than 911. The Village has facilitated a "Sub Regional Governance" committee with First Nations and Emergency Preparedness is a priority issue to be discussed.
- **Highway Fires** - Mike Knoff advised that Lytton Fire Rescue should not respond to a Highway fire unless someone is trapped (First Response) and a Task # is issued.

(d) FIRE DEPARTMENT - ROAD RESCUE

- **Who should pay for the service?** - Other than some finger pointing and shrugged shoulders, it became apparent that the Village is on its own as to assistance with First Response and Road Rescue (other than the assistance offered by PEP)
- **Flagging** - A PEP number will NOT be issued for Fire Department Members conducting flagging until highways crews arrive or as otherwise directed. Although not flagging may put an incident site at risk, there is no assistance available and flagging is not a responsibility of the Fire Department, Road Rescue or First Responders.
- **Off Road Response** - unless authorized and requested by PEP, damage or maintenance to apparatus or equipment will not be paid for vehicles taken off road. The Village should have its own policy as to where it will allow its fleet to go. It is also the responsibility of the municipality to ensure any vehicles allowed off of paved roads is insured for that purpose, and is mechanically capable of operating safely.
- **Can/should BCAS pay for First Responder Calls same as PEP?**- no response.

(e) OTHER ISSUES

- **Search and Rescue in Lytton** - Mike Knoff advised that SAR is desperately needed in Lytton however there is simply not enough community interest to start one. Mike offered assistance to help, and advised there is funding available, and that a swift water rescue team would be a priority.
- **Emergency Preparedness in Lytton** - Lytton does not participate in the TNRD Emergency Service Planning or coordination however does not have an emergency coordinator or emergency plan. RD suggested Lytton correspond with the 6 communities that use the RD for coordination and thereafter decide what to do. There is a Council legal obligation so this issue should be addressed sooner than later.

ADJOURNMENT - Mayor Lightfoot thanked all for attending and adjourned the meeting at 1:45