



## **C.1 The Blue Mountains Fire Department Quarterly Report – January - March 2011 and Recruitment Information Package**

Chief Doherty then reviewed the Report, beginning with 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Highlights.

Ron noted there were no structural fire responses during this quarter. Ron then noted as part of the recruitment drive it was proposed to increase the firefighter complement to 24 for both Halls, adding 11 applications had been received to date, 4 for Hall 1 and 7 for Hall 2.

Ron then noted a Recruitment Information Package had been prepared and would be reviewed later in the meeting.

Ron then reviewed the Vehicle Replacement Program, noting it was proposed to tender for a 3,000 gallon pumper tanker and a pick-up truck in the second quarter.

Ron then reviewed the volunteer firefighter years of service, noting Hall 1 had 10 firefighters with more than 5 years, Hall 2 with 8 having more than 5 years.

Ron then reviewed Fire Prevention efforts, adding 21 False Alarm By-law letters had been issued.

Ron then noted the Smoke Alarm Program would be rolled out in the second quarter, with rental condominiums to be the target group as a result of revolving occupancy and a greater chance for tampering to occur.

Ron then reported on the 10 in 10 response times, noting apparatus can be fully staffed in 6 minutes, leaving a 4 minute travel time which equates to 3.75 kilometres, adding any further will exceed 10 minutes.

Ron then reviewed Training statistics and topics, noting many Ontario Fire College courses are now offered as in-house training.

Ron then reviewed training and response percentages, with Hall 1 having 11 firefighters with over 50% response, Hall 2 having 5 over 50%.

Ron then noted the Crisis Software is in operation and performing well.

Councillor Halos then questioned the response percentages, Ron noting it depends on work responsibilities, place of residence, etc. Ron noted the Provincial average for volunteer response is 50% and it is expected that a 75% training percentage will be achieved. Ron further noted if the percentages become lower than expected, a letter will be issued noting the concerns, as training and response is vital in maintaining professional standards. Ron clarified

that with the Full Time Training Officer position, alternative training times or dates can be offered as needed.

Councillor Martin then attended the meeting.

Joe then questioned if all 11 applicants would be appointed as firefighters, Ron clarifying the 11 applications had been received and would be further reviewed and initial training offered and final acceptance then considered.

Joe then noted there were zero responses to structural fires during the first quarter and questioned how often a pumper truck would be used over a year, noting the proposed replacement truck.

Ron then clarified the pumper truck at Hall 1 has been replaced by a pumper tanker and the proposed pumper tanker truck would replace two older tanker trucks at Hall 2. Ron noted a pumper truck might be called out four times per year but a combination pumper tanker would be used much more.

Councillor Ardiel then questioned if the proposed truck was bigger than the current trucks, Ron replying yes, it would feature a 3,000 gallon tank versus 1,500 and could also pump from hydrants.

Gail then questioned if firefighter applicants are brought in ahead of time for orientation, Ron replying that is part of the recruitment process.

Joe then questioned for example in the Blue Mountain Village would firefighters use hydrants or water from a pumper tanker, Ron replying a pumper truck would be connected to hydrants with water then pumped through various hose locations, the tanker used primarily in areas outside the hydrant area.

Chair Gamble then stated that capital purchases through development charges (dc) are of concern to Council, as dc revenue is not coming in as was budgeted for and we may have to cut back on capital purchases, noting Fire Services was deficient by \$400,000 in dc revenue at the beginning of 2011.

Bob then noted we have only collected \$10,600 in Fire dc's to date in 2011 and we will have to look at ways to finance such capital purchases. Bob further noted in 2011 there are Fire expenditures in the amount of \$670,000 proposed from dc revenue and he has concerns about being able to pay from dc revenue.

Rob Cummings then noted that dc's will be discussed later in the meeting, with dc revenue definitely down from 2010.

Bob then noted Fire Services could review what is being considered for purchase and consider what could be deferred in order to assist Council in not moving toward a significant financial deficit.





Rob then noted \$165,000 in dc's had been collected in May so the revenue may be coming back, adding the 2011 forecast had been reduced by \$330,000. Rob further noted there was a spike in dc payments at the end of 2010 to avoid cost indexing on January 1.

Rob then noted Landfill fees were lagging as well with tonnage decreased.

Councillor Halos then questioned difference between Year to Date, Budget and Forecast, Rob replying Year to Date is actual, Budget is what is approved for 2011 and Forecast is an update expectation based on trends noted to date.

Rob then noted Building Permit revenue was \$31,894 in May, compared to \$17,253 in 2010. Rob further noted there was usually a jump from April to May, with no change in forecast until the end of June.

Rob then noted interest income remains steady as rates remain low, with another month perhaps showing trends.

Rob then noted OPP hours were trending below contract levels, with a credit back to the Town in January of the following year.

Rob then noted three capital projects have been added to the Report for tracking purposes but for which there have not yet been any expenditures

Joe then questioned if the Town has ever had a situation where 10% of projected dc revenue has been collected over 50% of the year, Rob replying he is not worried yet, by mid-July there more accurate trends will show. Rob further noted the dc revenue stream is connected to the Building Permit issue.

The Committee then dealt with the following Recommendation:

Moved by: Gail Ardiel

Seconded by: Joe Halos

THAT Council receive the Monthly Flash Report – May 2011, for information purposes, unanimously Carried.

### **C.6 Labour Force Development Strategy, CEDC.11.13 (Addition to Agenda)**

Lisa then reviewed the Report, noting a Labour Force Study was being conducted in South Georgian Bay, led by the Town of Collingwood with funding from the Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board.

Lisa noted the survey will be launched July 4 in the South Georgian Bay municipalities with results available by fall of 2011.

Councillor Ardiel then questioned how employers would be made aware of the survey so they could complete it, Lisa replying all regional Economic







organization are in place for the event. Shawn further noted the Town has not been as involved this year in the volunteer organization.

Shawn then noted all neighbouring municipalities are in support and no road construction will be taking place on the race routes during the event.

Bob then asked who the Town contacts were, Shawn replying Peter McGee and himself.

Bob then asked the Committee for their thoughts on the request.

Michael then noted Don Braden of the Village Association was in attendance to provide any additional information the Committee might wish, with the Chair's permission.

Gail then questioned if any of the other involved municipalities were contribution financially., the Committee concurring to hear Don speak.

Don then noted the subject correspondence was provided as further information following a previous appearance before Council, where the matter was referred to Committee.

Don noted in 2010, 10 Legacy groups in the community received \$5,000 from the event.

Don then noted financial contributions will be discussed with other area municipalities, adding he sincerely believes the event supports and promotes tourism in the area and provides additional revenue for businesses and other industries.

Don then noted the Centurion is one of the key events for the Village and it helps to keep the area vibrant and promotes healthy, active community.

Joe then noted previous Council discussion included seeing what the people in the community receive from the event and the correspondence includes such references.

Joe then noted the problem is that money is short with the 2011 Budget already having been approved and the Grants and Donation Program already considered, Don replying he fully understood.

Michael then noted the Village and Blue Mountain have probably already invested more than \$20,000, Don replying approximately \$100,000.

Michael then noted the Centurion event could be a catalyst for other events and the Legacy aspect is important in the community. Michael further noted whatever Council does will be a signal to the community and if there is funding in the

Economic Development budget it might be utilized. Michael further noted he is not ready to back away from supporting the event and it will ultimately have to go back to Council for consideration.

Gail then questioned if other municipalities would financially supporting the event as it is an economic driver for the region, not just The Blue Mountains, adding there is only \$11,000 remaining in the Economic Development budget.

Gail noted the Town is in a difficult spot at the moment but she would like to see other municipalities contributing.

Don then stated they have to speak to the other municipalities and they will certainly be engaged through volunteers.

Bob then noted that from the Committee, firstly we should investigate funding from the Council grants budget and secondly, investigate funding in the Economic Development budget, Rob noting something could be prepared for the June 27 Council meeting.

Michael then noted he could support that further consideration of the Centurion Cycling Race be referred to Council and in the interim that the Director of Financial and Information Services investigate possible sources of funding for the event, the Committee concurring.

**D.6 Rural Ontario Medical Program, 2011 Welcome Social (Addition to Agenda)**

Michael then noted the group is very important to the region and the Rural Ontario Medical Program has had great success in attracting resident doctors to the area and he believes it is important to support this group.

Chair Gamble then asked the amount requested, Michael replying \$400.

Joe then noted the number one recruitment tool for doctors is other doctors and the Town should support them.

Gail then questioned if the event was held in 2010, Michael replying they did not have any residents in 2010.

Gail then noted the Social will introduce the new residents to the area doctors.

Bob then noted funding could come from the Council grants budget.

The Committee then dealt with the following Recommendation:

Moved by: Michael Martin

Seconded by:

Gail Ardiel

