

Policy: Fire Protection Policy

Date Originally Approved: April 27, 1993

Motion: “That on recommendation of Council Committee the Policy Statement re Fire Protection attached to these minutes as Appendix A be adopted, subject to adoption by the Colchester Firefighters Association and the County’s individual fire brigades and commissions.” Motion carried

Date Amended: August 26, 1993

Motion: “That on recommendation of Council Committee the Policy re Fire Protection as presented at the August 12, 1993 Council Committee meeting and on file in the Clerk's Office be approved.” Motion carried

Date Amended: June 24, 1999

Motion: “That the policy statement regarding Fire Protection as presented at the June 10, 1999, Council Committee meeting, be approved.” Motion carried.

This Policy is current as of: June 24, 1999

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF COLCHESTER

POLICY STATEMENT RE FIRE PROTECTION

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this policy is to clearly establish the key features of the relationship between the Municipality and the volunteer fire brigades and to establish a means of consultation between the two parties on matters of concern or matters which affect the provision of fire service in the County of Colchester.

PRINCIPALS SUPPORTING POLICY

1. The Municipality recognizes and commends the extensive volunteer effort that is put forward by volunteer firefighters in the County. In many of the small communities throughout the Municipality the volunteer brigades not only provide an essential service but also are a key component of the community's spirit.
2.
 - a) The Municipality recognizes and endorses the concept that the County's Volunteer Fire Brigades are operated by their respective communities.
 - b) The Municipality reinforces the fact that they do not want to become involved with day to day operations of the fire service.
3. The Municipality will require fire brigades to co-operate in the sharing of knowledge and expertise to assist with effective and efficient operation of the fire brigades.
4.
 - a) The Municipality recognizes the Colchester Firefighters Association (C.F.F.A.) as the official spokesperson for fire service in the Municipality.
 - b) The C.F.F.A. recognizes and accepts that of necessity individual Brigades/Commissions will have dealings with the Municipality directly in addressing certain provisions of this policy.
5. Nothing in this policy is meant to detract or alter the terms and conditions of the Municipal Government Act or any other Provincial Legislation as it applies to fire service. In the case of conflict between the terms of this policy and any Provincial Legislation the latter will prevail.

TERMS OF POLICY

1.
 - a) The Municipality will designate a staff person to act as a liaison between the Municipality and the C.F.F.A.
 - b) The Municipality will designate Executive Committee to act as a liaison between Council and the C.F.F.A.

- c) The Executive Committee may meet with representatives of the C.F.F.A. when it deems necessary or advisable.
 - d) All proposed amendments to this policy or any other matters coming before Municipality that deal with fire service will be discussed with the C.F.F.A. prior to their being considered by County Council.
- 2. The C.F.F.A. will ensure that all fire brigades operating within the Municipality are consulted on matters related to fire service that are or may be coming before County Council.
- 3.
 - a) The Municipality will continue to levy area rates for fire protection as approved by the Municipal Council, or a Commission in accordance with Statutory Process.
 - b) Any Brigade/Commission wishing to recommend or make a change in their area rate in any given year shall give notice in writing to the Municipal Clerk on or before April 1 of any given year.
 - c) A ratepayers meeting may be called by the area councillor or the authority having jurisdiction to discuss any proposed changes in a fire rate.
- 4. The Municipality will continue to make quarterly payments to each Fire Brigade/Commission on or about the first day of each of the months of April, July, October and January of each fiscal year. The quarterly payments will take into account all estimated amounts due to the Brigades/Commissions in respect of Area Rates less any charges or reductions stipulated in this policy.
- 5.
 - a) The Municipality will retain two (2) percent of all fire protection area rates to cover the reductions incurred as a result of adjustments to accounts and uncollected taxes.
 - b) The two (2) percent reduction will be recovered by way of a deduction from area rates levied with the net amount being paid to the respective fire services.
- 6.
 - a) The Municipality will continue to assist Fire Brigades/Commissions in obtaining financing for capital expenditures.
 - b) Subject to satisfying itself that the terms and conditions of a proposed loan are reasonable under the circumstances, the Municipality will provide the lender with a “letter of intent” stating that the Municipality will continue to levy area rates on behalf of the Brigade/Commission (borrower) in amounts sufficient to retire a loan of the stated amount over a stated period of time.
 - c) Where a particular lending institution is not satisfied with the letter of intent the Municipality will consider guaranteeing the loan.
 - d) The Brigade/Commission will supply the Municipality with whatever information may

be deemed necessary in order to assess the reasonableness of the proposed undertaking.

7. a) On or before April 1 of each year every Brigade/Commission shall supply the Municipality with one copy of their most recent annual financial statements together with one copy of their current operating budget.
b) Any Brigade/Commission failing to file the required financial data by April 1 shall have future quarterly installments from the Municipality withheld until such time as the information is filed.
8. The Municipality will supply, on request, a copy of the assessment roll(s) to Brigades/Commissions in early February for the purposes of area rate identification and verification. Any errors or omissions must be brought to the attention of the Municipal Clerk no later than April.
9. The Municipality will continue to fund the operating and capital costs of a central dispatch facility for fire services out of general revenues of the Municipality.
10. The Municipality will pay the radio license fees for minimum equipment standards recommended by the Emergency Measurers Organization. Any license fees over this amount will be deducted from the area rate payments given to the respective Brigade/Commission.
11. a) All expenditures that are for the benefit of an individual Brigade/Commission will be paid for through the revenues accruing to the respective Brigade/Commission.
b) From time to time the Municipality will consider requests for funding of fire services expenditures which can be shown to be of benefit to all or a significant portion of the Brigades/Commissions in the County.
12. The Fire Brigades/Commissions agree that all individuals appointed to the position of Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief should have a minimum Level One Certification from the Nova Scotia Firefighters School and at least five year active experience as a firefighter.

Originally Approved: April 27, 1993

Date Amended: August 26, 1993

Date Amended: June 24, 1999