



Corporation of the Municipality of South Huron

**Committee of the Whole**

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 4:00 p.m.  
Hybrid Meeting - South Huron Council Chambers**

Members Present: George Finch, Chair  
Jim Dietrich, Member  
Dianne Faubert, Member  
Marissa Vaughan, Member  
Aaron Neeb, Member  
Barb Willard, Member  
Ted Oke, Member

Staff Present: Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk  
Jeremy Becker, Director of Fire and Community Services  
Scott Currie, Manager of Communications and Strategic Initiatives  
Mike Herbert, Fire Prevention Officer  
Rebekah Msuya-Collison, Director of Legislative Services

1. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Amendments to the Agenda, as Distributed and Approved by Committee

**Motion:** COW#052-2021

**Moved:** A. Neeb

**Seconded:** T. Oke

**That South Huron Committee of the Whole approves the Agenda as presented.**

**Disposition: Carried (7 to 0)**

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None.

## 4. Reports

### 4.1 Fire Services - Discussion and Path Forward

CAO Best noted that Fire Master Plan is a working document and that this is the Committee's first opportunity to hear from Director Becker directly on the plan itself. He added that this is an opportunity for members to provide feedback on the plan. There are multiple lenses to be incorporated into the plan including community safety, capacity to pay and competing priorities.

CAO Best noted that Director Becker will consider the Community Risk Assessment (CRA) when identifying and focusing priorities, as it provides the input into the master fire plan. The CRA will also help inform Council in the development of the Establishing and Regulating By-law. He added that the CRA is to be reviewed annually and that there is information in the draft workplan that will become a final document blueprint and road map for the municipality. It was noted that the initiative will be led by Director Becker working with Council, and others that he deems appropriate, to develop an implementation plan for fire services in South Huron.

#### 4.1.1 Highlights of Fire Master Plan

Director Becker provided an overview of the agenda which included intentions of the draft Fire Master Plan highlights, fire station decision impacts, Community Risk Assessment highlights and recommendations. Director Becker provided a high-level review of the three fire stations and current two station responses and included recommendations and impacts.

#### 4.1.2 Highlights of Community Risk Assessment

Director Becker provided an overview of the risk profiles identified in the Community Risk Assessment and options for treating the risks. He recommended that a Fire Service subcommittee work to assess and identify options on how best to treat each priority risk and resources required.

#### 4.1.3 Immediate Issues, Budget Considerations and Impacts

The Committee discussed different options for station locations and current two station response framework in South Huron. The Committee noted that the ladder truck is in the capital plan and Director Becker noted that one is currently out of service and stations will need to be determined prior to acquiring an

apparatus. The Committee discussed upcoming meetings with the Municipalities of Bluewater and Lambton Shores and that it would be nice to meet prior to any station location decisions.

The Committee noted that the upgrades and repairs costs noted in Master Plan were not included in the 2022 budget. Director Becker recommended status quo for now and to formulate task force to recommend a plan with manageable priorities and needs for the community. The Committee discussed the delays in ordering trucks and Director Becker noted he was advised two years for chassis.

The Committee discussed the Asset Management Plan and opportunities to look at synergy of facilities. The Committee asked if Huron Park was being used in any capacity and Director Becker noted it is currently being used for the storage of apparatus, as the building is heated. The Committee noted that there are implications that could impact next year's budget.

#### 4.1.4 Next Steps

The Committee discussed current response times based on two stations and recommendation from Fire Master Plan in detail.

**Motion:** COW#053-2021

**Moved:** T. Oke

**Seconded:** A. Neeb

**That South Huron Committee of the Whole recommendation to South Huron Council to move towards or permanently close the Huron Park (Fire) Station.**

**Disposition: Carried (7 to 0)**

Director Becker confirmed that there are no implications to the budget for fire services other than what has already been provided to Council. The Committee asked about next steps and CAO Best noted that if Council proceeds with the recommendation, a subsequent report will be provided to Council for any disposition.

**Motion:** COW#054-2021

**Moved:** A. Neeb

**Seconded:** M. Vaughan

**That South Huron Committee of the Whole recommend to South Huron Council that a Fire Service Sub-Committee be established to work with the Fire Chief and that a terms of reference be established to assess and identify options and how best to treat each priority risk and the resources needed and make recommendations.**

**Disposition: Carried (7 to 0)**

5. Adjournment

**Motion:** COW#055-2021

**Moved:** J. Dietrich

**Seconded:** D. Faubert

**That South Huron Committee of the Whole does now adjourn at 5:27 p.m.**

**Disposition: Carried (7 to 0)**

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George Finch, Chair

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Rebekah Msuya-Collison, Clerk