

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2013

Item 36, Report No. 52, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 10, 2013.

36

**DECOMMISSIONING OF VOLUNTEER FIRE STATION 7-4
WARD 1**

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Fire Chief, dated November 26, 2013:

Recommendation

The Fire Chief, in consultation with the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) Senior Command Team, the Interim City Manager, the Director of Legal Services and in accordance with the VFRS Master Fire Plan recommends:

1. That the decommissioning of Fire Station 7-4 become effective December 31, 2013.

Contribution to Sustainability

VFRS is the seventh largest career fire department in the province, with a full-time complement of more than 266 career firefighters, and it also continues to have volunteer firefighters. The City's counter parts, such as Richmond Hill, Markham, Central York, and others, have long since ceased to use volunteers.

Economic Impact

Budget funding associated with operating the building will still be required. There will be nominal savings redeployed to cover additional 2014 fire training costs.

Communications Plan

Individuals affected by the decommissioning of Fire Station 7-4 have been or will be notified of the closure.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is obtain Council approval to decommission Volunteer Fire Station 7-4 effective December 31, 2013 Fire Station 7-9 will respond to all emergency responses within the Kleinburg core.

Background - Analysis and Options

The 10665 Islington Avenue volunteer-based Fire Station 7-4 has been experiencing a decline in the number of available volunteer firefighters. VFRS has noted that there has also been some difficulty in attracting prospective volunteers due to the change of demographics in the community. Today, the City's volunteers consist of Community College graduates seeking to build their resumes while seeking full-time employment. For example, VFRS Station 7-4 had 18 volunteers in early 2013 and currently there are 10, as 8 of those volunteers have successfully been recruited by other fire departments (three volunteers were hired by VFRS).

The volunteers are led by a Captain who has been in the service for more than 40 years and has expressed the desire to retire by the end of this year. There is currently no volunteer member eligible to fill this vacancy. The existing station is too small to house the existing fleet of trucks as well as newer models.

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The Commissioner of Community Services is reviewing potential uses for the building, for example, 2014 winter equipment storage. Over the last number of years there have also been community groups requesting community space in Kleinburg. Staff will continue to review all potential options.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

The above recommendation is consistent with the City's vision to Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health & Wellness and to Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery.

Regional Implications

No Implications

Conclusion

Fire Station 7-9, located at Islington Avenue and Napa Valley Avenue, is capable of maintaining adequate emergency response to the Kleinburg core in the short term. As per the Master Fire Plan, Station 7-4 will be relocated to an alternative location west of Kleinburg in 2016 and will become functional as a full-time station with a complement of full-time firefighting staff. City of Vaughan staff are searching for a more optimal location for Fire Station 7-4 than the current location.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Fire Chief Larry Bentley
Deputy Fire Chief Gary Fraser

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – NOVEMBER 26, 2013

DECOMMISSIONING OF VOLUNTEER FIRE STATION 7-4 WARD 1

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Respectfully submitted,

Fire Chief Larry Bentley