

Rate payers meeting
Eel brook and district fire department
March 28/2019

Minutes

Chief Jonathan LeBlanc Called the meeting to order at 19:00 with a moment of silence for sick and departed, also taking note Skyler Blackie of Truro Fire Department.

Roll Call,

Attendance was taking by sign in sheet.

Approval of the agenda,

Motion by Michael Stewart 2nd by Bryann LeBlanc to approve the agenda Motion Carried

Intent of the meeting,

Rob MacLeod gave an overview of what funds the Fire Department was requesting. The total cost estimate of the project is 2.2million dollars. Funds that the Eel Brook fire department is seeking total \$693,383.04

The current rate levy is 7.5 centa per \$100 of assessment value and that the Eel Brook fire Department is seeking to raise the current rate to 12.5 cents.

Jonathan LeBlanc discussed the age of the departments existing apparatus fleet, and how the age of the fleet could affect the insurance cost associated with holding an old fleet. And that the department would like to be able to pay the new building off within 10 years as to be able to start to look into new apparatus, as the departments newest piece of apparatus would be of 25 years old and the oldest of 43 years old.

Jonathan gave an overview of the construction type the new building would be constructed of. It would be built of ICF construction. (insulated concrete forms) This construction would make the building much more energy efficient and also look to have a life span of 125 year+-.

David Shufelt asked a few questions

1. Why were the minutes of the previous meeting not read?
2. Ask why new the new parcel of land was purchased and not expropriated?

Danny Muise said that expropriation was only an option and that it could send the department in a lengthy legal battle, and time which the department does not have given the state of the current facility.

Jonathan Read the previous minutes at 19:23.

Question and Answer

Q. How confident is the department that it will receive funding from ACOA?

A. The department needs funding in place before it can make application to ACOA.

Q. Asked where did all the numbers come from? (interest rates. Payments. Etc.)

A. Rob works with a financial institution and ran the numbers there for a rough estimate.

Q. What happens if the funding from ACOA does not come through?

A. The project size will decrease, lessening the financial strain on the tax payers.

Q. Why were corporate business not approached for sponsorship?

A. Rob explained you need to have a project under construction before we can approach corporate business for financial sponsorship.

Q. Can the fire Department give a tax receipt if a citizen wishes to give a donation towards the cost of the building?

A. A receipt could be given through the municipality for tax purposes.

Vote

Motion by Jeff Gushue and 2nd by David Shufelt that the Fire levy rate be increased from 7.5cents per \$100 of tax assessment, to 12.5cents for a duration of 5 years.

Vote was carried out by secret ballot. And the votes were counted by Danny Muise and Hubert Surette.

Count,

Yes-35 No-1

Motion carried

Motion to adjournment at 19:57 by Marshall D'Entremont